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Artículos científicos

Democracia y cultura política en México: la opinión de los jóvenes con base en la ENCUCI, 2020

***Democracy and political culture in Mexico: the opinión of young people,
based on the ENCUCI, 2020***

***Democracia e cultura política no México: opinião de jovens com base na
ENCUCI, 2020***

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Resumen

Esta investigación tiene como objetivo conocer la cultura política y las prácticas ciudadanas de tres grupos etarios: a) 15 a 24 años, b) 25 a 34 años, y c) 45 a 54 años, que fueron seleccionados de la Encuesta Nacional de Cultura Cívica (ENCUCI) realizada en 2020. Para alcanzar esta meta, se diseñó una investigación no experimental, de corte transversal. Los resultados generaron un índice de satisfacción democrática que muestra los siguientes hallazgos: a mayor edad de los jóvenes y adultos participantes, disminuye la satisfacción de los ciudadanos por la democracia y se incrementa la preocupación por los temas prioritarios para el país. Estos datos sirven como base para elaborar propuestas que permitan construir políticas públicas e involucrar más a los jóvenes en los procesos de participación y prácticas cívicas que contribuyan a mejorar la calidad de la democracia en México.

Palabras clave: democracia, cultura política, jóvenes, prácticas ciudadanas.



Abstract

This research aims to know the political culture and citizen practices of 3 age groups: a) 15 to 24 years, b) 25 to 34 years, and; c) 45 to 54 years old who were selected from the National Survey of Civic Culture (ENCUCI) carried out in 2020. To achieve this goal, the research design is non-experimental, cross-sectional, results derived from a Political satisfaction Index that shows the following findings: the older young people and adults elected, the citizen's satisfaction with democracy decreases and concern about the issues on the country's agenda increases. These results contribute to the realization of proposals that allow the construction of public policies and the involvement of young people in the processes of participation and civic practices that contribute to improving the quality of democracy in Mexico.

Keywords: *Democracy, political culture, youth, citizen practices.*

Resumo

Esta pesquisa visa conhecer a cultura política e as práticas cidadãs de 3 faixas etárias: a) 15 a 24 anos, b) 25 a 34 anos, e; c) 45 a 54 anos selecionados a partir da Pesquisa Nacional de Cultura Cívica (ENCUCI) realizada em 2020. Para atingir esse objetivo, o desenho da pesquisa é não experimental, transversal, cujos resultados derivam de um Índice de Satisfação Política que apresenta as seguintes constatações: quanto mais velhos os jovens e adultos eleitos, diminui a satisfação do cidadão com a democracia e aumenta a preocupação com os temas da agenda do país. Esses resultados contribuem para a realização de propostas que permitem a construção de políticas públicas e o envolvimento dos jovens nos processos de participação e práticas cívicas que contribuem para melhorar a qualidade da democracia no México.

Palavras-chave: Democracia, cultura política, juventude, práticas cidadãs.

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Introduction

To understand young people's perception of democracy and their appreciation of the political system, it is necessary to evaluate their context, which is conditioned by the generation to which they belong, as well as their level of academic training. In fact, according to the latest report on Latin American democracies published in 2022, Latin America finds itself at a crossroads because discontent, apathy and disinterest in democracy is increasing (Democracy Index [DI], 2022).

Now, in this work the definition of *political culture* established by Almond and Verba (2001) has been taken as a reference, who from the functionalist perspective consider that it encompasses “a set of specifically political orientations, positions related to the political system and its elements.” (p. 178). In this regard, it is important to highlight that these orientations are not limited only to political aspects, but can also be cognitive, affective, evaluative and even symbolic in nature. This implies that these orientations can be manifested through the opinions that people have about various events.

Regarding the evaluation of political culture, this implies the identification of key elements, such as values, traditions, habits and perceptions related to politics and its various facets (political parties, institutions, forms of participation, electoral systems, among others). . This means that each generation is influenced by its own context, which affects the information they possess and their commitment to democratic institutions, which varies according to each generational cohort (Ohme, 2022). Therefore, age segmentation and differentiation between generations can help to better understand the opinions, commitment and expectations of young people, elements on which political culture is built.

Authors such as Eufrazio (2017) maintain that political culture transcends superficial concepts, since it involves power relations and a system of symbols and meanings that acquire importance in society. In other words, it is not limited only to concepts or symbolic elements, but also encompasses a set of practices, ideologies and everyday behaviors that sometimes go unnoticed. Consequently, political culture is performative, changing and takes various forms over time. On the other hand, civic culture—related to political values—has experienced significant transformations due to the influence of new technologies and media. Therefore, the political culture of young people today cannot be directly compared to that of two decades ago, as the context and available resources have evolved considerably.

Therefore, this cross-sectional study aims to compare the different generations in order to obtain a more precise understanding of their perspectives, ideologies and public

opinions, since it has been observed in various studies that although young people often show a high degree of apathy and disinterest in politics, they have a genuine concern for the events that affect the country (Echeverría, 2011).

In this sense, Pérez *et al* . (2017) argue that information and communication technologies (ICT) and mobile applications are giving rise to new socialization processes among young people. These authors recognize that virtual networks have become a space where young people not only connect and communicate with each other, but also build their identity, adopt values and practice sociocultural norms. This type of interaction between young people and new communication technologies has contributed to an increase in participation in social movements, since social networks are generating social capital (López and Castillo, 2020).

Furthermore, Estrada *et al* . (2022) recognize the existence of a crisis in the institutions and in the democratic model of the majority of governments in Latin America. An example of this is the growing discontent of citizens towards the political class, as well as a decrease in their participation in elections and an increase in political mobilization and protest processes.

Abitbol (2019) also refers to this citizen discontent and suggests that social protests are the product of mistrust and social problems that have worsened in recent years. For example, the demonstrations in Colombia in 2021 reflected citizen indignation due to the increase in the cost of living, while the “yellow vest” movement in France in 2018 evidenced discontent towards the government of President Emmanuel Macron, a situation that has resurfaced in 2023 due to changes in the pension system that aim to increase the retirement age.

This unilateral measure has sparked a debate about the nature of democracy, which demands greater citizen participation to influence issues that affect the majority. A similar scenario was experienced in Peru in early 2023 due to protests in response to the self-coup of President Pedro Castillo, which ultimately resulted in his dismissal and arrest.

These movements demand a strengthening of the political, social and human rights inherent to democracy , and reveal the structural vulnerability related to the lack of services, discriminatory policies, inequality and inability of the State to protect interests against the organized crime that affects to all of Latin America. According to Billion and Ventura (2020), what is worrying is the radicalization of ideas, polarization, the authoritarian actions of

leaders to counteract mobilization, as well as the imposition of young people's ideas through social networks.

Indeed, we live in an era in which political communication has undergone significant changes, which has allowed young people to actively participate in the formation of the agenda and promote public policies, debates and discussions on issues that concern them. However, Billion and Ventura (2020) argue that we are immersed in a paradox, where, on the one hand, there has been greater openness to citizen participation and protest mobilization in the search for agreements, but, on the other hand, Politicians are losing effectiveness in their relationship with society.

For this reason, this research work focuses on this problem. To this end, the document is structured as follows: the first section analyzes the crisis of representation and democratic vulnerability, a result of the disinterest of both young people and adults in political affairs. The second section presents a theoretical debate on the causes and consequences of the democratic model in Mexico with the aim of understanding the situation in that country. Next, in the third section, empirical evidence from the data collected in a survey conducted in 2020 is presented, followed by an analysis of the results. Finally, the findings are discussed and solutions are proposed to promote social influence and improve citizen participation in the formulation of the government agenda.

Now, social media platforms – in particular Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and WhatsApp – have multiplied interactions between movements and their members, hence the elimination of intermediaries in all territories and levels of society (local , national and global). This has connected previously unknown individuals, but committed and organized based on their values, demands and resistances.

Welp and Zaremberg (2020) recognize that—in the face of young people's dissatisfaction with politics, dedemocratization, and the crisis of representation—new ways to influence the political agenda are emerging. On the one hand, new participatory ecologies are developing that seek to establish counterweights, promote transparency and exercise surveillance over politicians. This involves more than simply voting in elections; It is about influencing various processes and decision-making that impact citizens. The possibility of using direct democracy mechanisms to revive young people's interest in politics is even raised , given that this group tends to show a high degree of disinterest. However, it is interesting to note that the most dissatisfied group is not made up of young people, but of

adults aged 40 to 50, who lived under the Welfare State model and now perceive a diminished role of the State and less participation. in solving problems.

In this sense, the Center for the Future of Democracy (CFD) (2020) maintains that there is a lack of studies that address young people's attitudes and commitment towards democracy. This topic has generated a wide debate that requires further research, including a more detailed analysis of the different age groups within the young population.

Therefore, an analysis was carried out based on the data provided by the National Civic Culture Survey (ENCUCI) in 2020 with the purpose of determining how different age groups are transforming the relationship between the rulers and the governed.

Methodology

To find out the opinion of young people on the issues on the national agenda, the National Civic Culture Survey (ENCUCI) was used, which was carried out in 2020 (and its results were published in 2021) by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Inegi) in collaboration with the National Electoral Institute (INE). This survey was applied to the population aged 15 years or older who resides in private homes in Mexico. The sampling covered 6 regions and considered a national level disaggregation of homes located in urban and rural areas (ENCUCI, 2020).

In terms of methodology, the survey was applied to a total of 25,113 homes, of which 18,380 were urban homes and 6,733 rural homes, distributed in the 32 entities of the Mexican Republic. The questionnaire consisted of 110 questions divided into 10 sections. The first three sections addressed the characteristics of the dwellings, the selected households, and the sociodemographic characteristics of the household residents. The last focused on sociodemographic details of the informants, including their religion, self-ascription to an indigenous population group, self-ascription as Afro-Mexican, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation (INE, 2022).

To carry out a comparative policy analysis, a statistical analysis of the results of the ENCUCI (2020) was carried out, for which the population was divided into age groups according to their ages. This allowed us to know the differences in the public opinion of young people in the age range of 15 to 54 years, grouped into four categories that cover a period of 9 years each. These categories were based on the life stages defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) (2015), that is, a) 15 to 24 years (*centennials* , generation Z or adolescents), b) 25 to 34 years (*millennials* or young adults), c) 35 to 44 years old (adults)

and d) 45 to 54 years old (generation This approach allowed us to observe how different generations experienced different historical and social events, such as the transition of the hegemonic party and the last period of the Welfare State (in the case of generation They were in high school and college during that time.

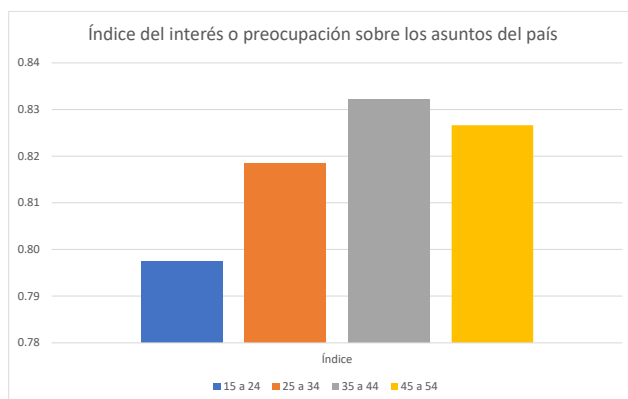
In summary, an attempt was made to understand the opinions and political culture of these age groups in relation to democracy, as well as to explore other variables that can help identify their interests, ideals and the various ways in which their citizen empowerment, their sense of of social belonging and cultural consumption.

Table 1. Index of interest or concern at the national level

| Age | A lot | Something | Bit | Nothing | Index |
|----------|-------|-----------|------|---------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.46 | 0.34 | 0.16 | 0.004 | 0.80 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.53 | 0.30 | 0.13 | 0.04 | 0.82 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.58 | 0.26 | 0.13 | 0.04 | 0.83 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.59 | 0.24 | 0.11 | 0.06 | 0.83 |

Source: self made

Figure 1. Index of interest or concern at the national level



Source: self made

As can be seen in Table 1, the age group least interested in the issues on the national agenda is those between 15 and 24 years old. It is important to note that the four age ranges show a relatively small variability in the results, with the lowest interest (a little less than 0.80) in the case of people aged 15 to 24, and the highest (a little more 0.83) in the 35 to 44 age group. In this regard, it is worth highlighting that beyond the challenges related to the institutional design that shapes a democratic system, the latter cannot function adequately

and effectively if it does not have an interested, participatory citizenry capable of fully exercising their rights. (INE, 2020).

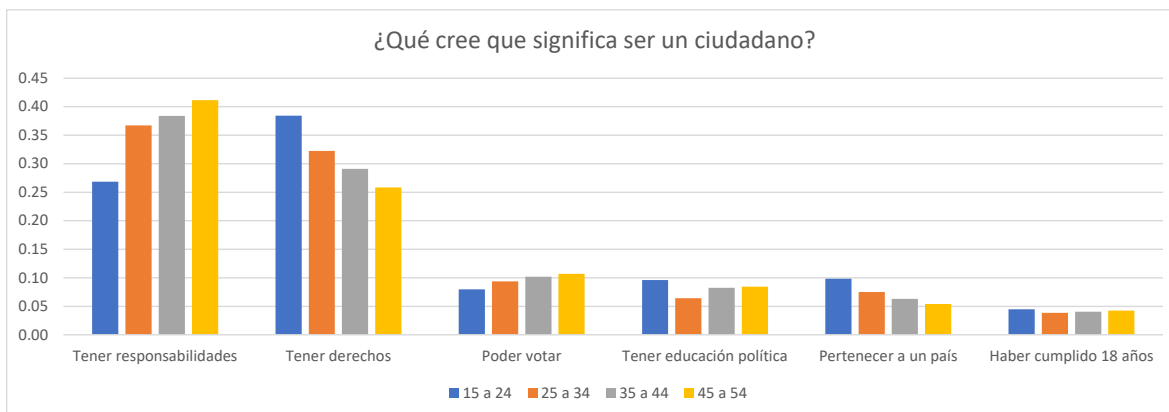
Furthermore, if the ENCUCI (2020) data is analyzed, it can be identified which problems citizens consider most urgent, that is, corruption occupies first place (55%), followed by poverty (53%). , insecurity, crime and unemployment (50%) and, finally, poor government performance (25%).

Table 2. The meaning of being a citizen

| Age | Have responsibilities | have rights | Being able to vote | Political education | Belong to a country | Have turned 18 years old |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.27 | 0.38 | 0.08 | 0.10 | 0.10 | 0.04 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.37 | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.06 | 0.08 | 0.04 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.38 | 0.29 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.06 | 0.04 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.41 | 0.26 | 0.11 | 0.08 | 0.05 | 0.04 |
| Index | 0.36 | 0.31 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.07 | 0.04 |

Source: self made

Figure 2. The meaning of being a citizen



Source: self made

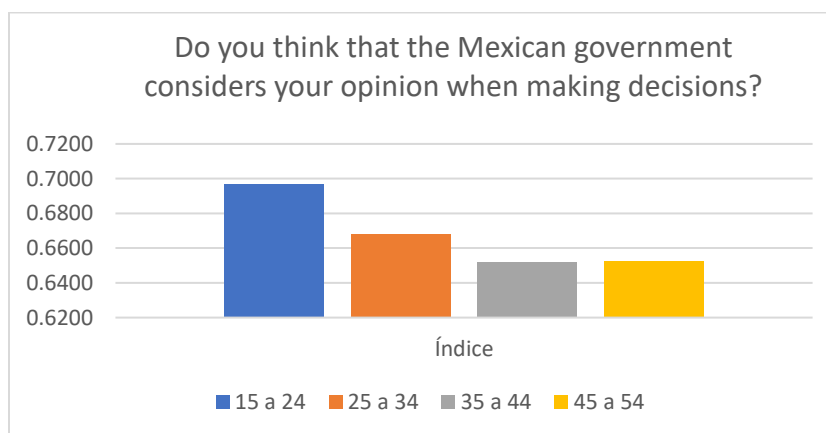
As can be seen in Table 2, the majority of citizens surveyed associate the concept of citizenship with a) having responsibilities and b) having rights. However, the group of 15 to 24 years old has, on the one hand, less identification with this concept, although, on the other hand, it is the one that considers that it has greater citizen rights. While the 45 to 54 year old group associates citizenship with having rights, but to a lesser extent. The index is 0.26, while for the 15 to 24 year old group it is 0.38.

Table 3. Opinion on the impact on decision making

| Age | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Index |
|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.36 | 0.33 | 0.17 | 0.13 | 0.6967 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.36 | 0.30 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.6679 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.37 | 0.29 | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.6520 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 0.14 | 0.19 | 0.6526 |

Source: self made

Figure 3. Opinion on the impact on decision making



Source: self made

Table 3 shows that older citizens, especially those aged 35 to 44 and 45 to 54, have a less favorable opinion compared to other population groups. In fact, the age group of 15 to 24 years considers that their opinion is taken more into account by the Government. This finding suggests that citizen consultations are having a significant impact on public perception, and that the decision-making dynamics in the Government of Mexico have experienced changes under the administration of the National Regeneration Movement party (Morena), as they have been carried out various consultations on projects such as the

continuity of the New Mexico International Airport (NAIM), the construction of the Maya train and the Dos Bocas refinery, among others.

At a macro level, to analyze the responses of all age groups surveyed, a rating scale has been used for the questions. This scale assigns a value of 1 for “strongly agree”, 0.75 for “somewhat agree”, 0.5 for “somewhat disagree” and 0 for “strongly disagree”, which allowed all questions to be qualified with a numerical value. Although it is important to mention that this score could vary according to the proportions assigned to each response, in this case the results remained consistent with the analysis presented in the previous figures. According to this scale, the data reveals that the youngest citizens have a score of 70, while those aged 35 to 44 and 45 to 54 obtain very close scores, with scores of 67 and 65 respectively. In short, young people believe to a greater extent that their opinion is taken into account by the Government.

Table 4. Interest in participating in politics

| Age | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Index |
|----------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.28 | 0.46 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.703 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.32 | 0.42 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.710 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.29 | 0.40 | 0.18 | 0.12 | 0.680 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.30 | 0.39 | 0.16 | 0.13 | 0.671 |

Source: self made

Figure 4. Interest in participating in politics



Source: self made

Table 4 was constructed with the results of the following statement: “I consider that I have the knowledge and skills to participate in political activities, such as voting, attending demonstrations or protests, running for public office, participating in a political party.” The

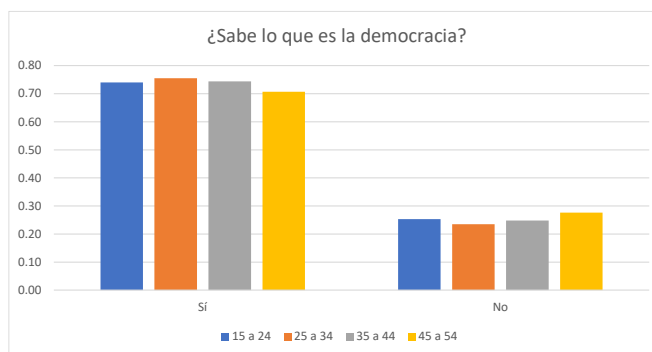
ENCUCI data show that the age group between 45 and 54 years old is the one that perceives they have the least knowledge to get involved in politics.

In this sense, authoritarian practices and political culture can be taken as a reference in the context of a hegemonic party, as Hernández (2008) points out: “Mexican political culture has not managed to be democratic and – for this reason – practices continue to prevail. authoritarian such as corporatism or clientelism, or both” (p. 262). This study, carried out 15 years ago, reveals a process of poor knowledge about political practices, especially in the older population.

On the other hand, young people between 25 and 34 years old, who have experienced electoral alternation and enjoyed the benefits of democracy, show a greater degree of confidence in their political abilities and in the broad opportunities for participation, such as what happened in the budget participatory, which was implemented for the first time in Mexico City in 2020. From this, 3.25% of the total budget of the 16 municipalities was allocated for this purpose, a figure that increased to 4% in 2023. This mechanism allows citizens to influence the execution of public works and is supported by law, including supervision mechanisms through works observers and the social comptroller.

Regarding age groups, young people show greater agreement with the statement of having political skills, especially those between 20 and 29 years old, with 30% agreeing. In contrast, only 23% of people aged 60 or older share this perception. In the regional analysis, the response “strongly agree” is higher in the north and center of the country than in other regions (INE, 2020).

Figure 5. Knowledge about democracy



Source: self made

As can be seen in Figure 5, there is no significant difference between the four chosen age groups. However, it should be noted that the group of people born in the 1970s—who

are now between 45 and 54 years old—lived a time marked by the historic movement of October 2, 1968. During much of their lives, in Mexico had a political system dominated by a hegemonic party, so they did not experience political alternation until 2000, when Vicente Fox Quesada won the presidency of the Mexican Republic. This could suggest that this group has less knowledge about democracy compared to other groups, as reflected by ENCUCI (2020).

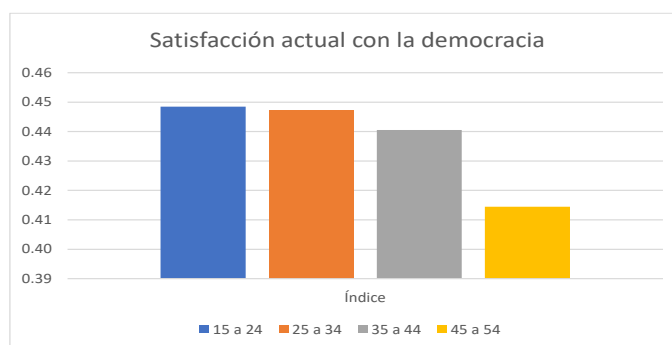
Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the majority of citizens (78%) do not participate in any association, as shown in the Country Report (INE, 2022). These data are consistent with the fact that 77% of people do not identify with any political party, and a similar number (76%) do not receive any type of aid from the Government (INE, 2022).

Table 5. Satisfaction with democracy

| Age | Very satisfied | somewhat satisfied | Not very satisfied | Not satisfied at all | White | Index |
|----------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.05 | 0.37 | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.26 | 0.45 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.08 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.10 | 0.24 | 0.45 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.10 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.44 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.11 | 0.27 | 0.19 | 0.12 | 0.29 | 0.41 |

Source: self made

Figure 6. Current satisfaction with democracy



Source: self made

Table 5 shows the results of the question “How satisfied are you with the democracy we have in Mexico today?” In this regard, it is worth noting that, despite the apparent apathy and disinterest of young people in political participation and political parties, they are not the

ones who are most dissatisfied with democracy - as revealed by the ENCUCI (2020) -, since the 45 to 54 age group is the least satisfied in the entire country.

At the national level, data indicate that Mexico experienced 63% support for the democratic regime in 2002, when the first presidential alternation occurred. Although this figure decreased to 38% in 2018, in 2020 it rose five percentage points to stand at 43% (INE, 2020). These numbers reflect a problem that mainly affects adolescents and young people. According to the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund in Mexico) report, in 2020, there were 39.9 million people in the age range of 12 to 29 years in Mexico, with an average age of 28.5 years, which indicates a high percentage of young people in the total population.

However, it is estimated that 46.1% of young people in Mexico lived in poverty by 2020 (UNFPA, 2021). Furthermore, at the national level, only 33% of young people between 18 and 29 years old reported having confidence in police forces, a figure that coincides with the trend of distrust towards institutions according to the Latinobarómetro (UNFPA, 2021). This dissatisfaction with democracy is correlated with the perception that authorities do not respect the law, a reality perceived by 66% of citizens over 15 years of age at the national level (INE, 2022).

In general, the surveys reflect a low rating of the political and democratic system in Mexico, where only 36% of the population declares themselves satisfied (somewhat or completely) with its functioning. In comparison, countries such as Germany (51%), Argentina (50%) and Chile (49%) show higher levels of satisfaction, while Colombia (27%) and Brazil (13%) have less favorable opinions (INE, 2022).

Analysis of results

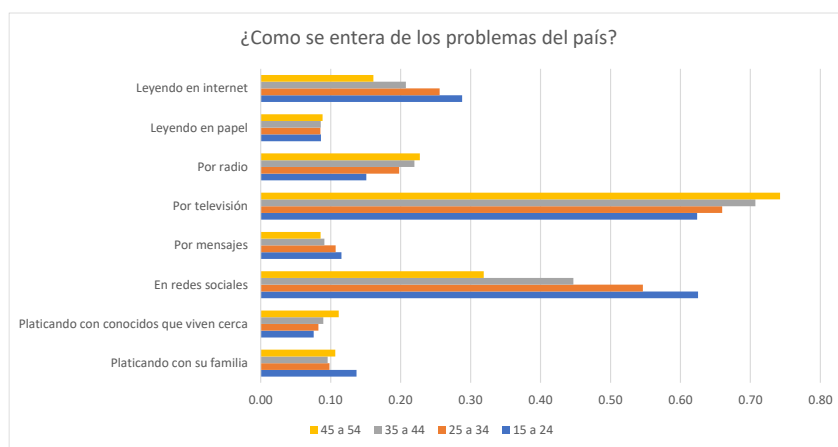
With the objective of analyzing political culture, an index was created using analysis variables related to democracy and political culture, selected from several ENCUCI questions at the national level. This methodology seeks to provide a simple and objective measurement of the results, so a numerical value has been assigned to the possible responses on a scale from 0 to 1, as follows: a) Very satisfied: 1; b) Somewhat satisfied: 0.75; c) Little satisfied: 0.5; d) Not at all satisfied, and e) Blank: 0. This numerical assignment condenses a large amount of data and offers a specific perspective on people's opinion regarding the country's regime.

Table 6. How do you find out about the country's problems?

| Age | Talking with his family | Chatting with acquaintances who live nearby | In social networks | By messages | By television | by radio | reading on paper | reading on the internet | Index |
|----------|-------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.14 | 0.08 | 0.63 | 0.12 | 0.62 | 0.15 | 0.09 | 0.29 | 2.10 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.55 | 0.11 | 0.66 | 0.20 | 0.09 | 0.26 | 2.03 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.45 | 0.09 | 0.71 | 0.22 | 0.09 | 0.21 | 1.94 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.32 | 0.09 | 0.74 | 0.23 | 0.09 | 0.16 | 1.84 |

Source: self made

Figure 7. How do you find out about the country's problems?



Source: self made

Table 6—which reflects what was collected around the question “How do they find out about problems?”—shows significant differences between age groups determined by their context. That is, the 15 to 24 year old group tends to obtain information mainly through

social networks, while the 45 to 54 year old group prefers television as a source of information.

These findings are relevant for the design of intervention strategies and projects, since they demonstrate that differences in age and context affect the way in which they are reported. For example, those who listen to news on the radio the most are the 45 to 54 year old group, who are accustomed to traditional media.

However, social networks have a strong reach for the transmission of information and even for political campaigns. For example, in Monterrey, during the 2021 elections, the candidate of the Citizen Movement Party managed to position himself due to his strong participation on social networks. The same thing happened with the congresswoman of the Democratic Party, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, in the United States, who managed to use her Twitter and Instagram accounts to bring the message to more voters.

Now, considering all the Mexicans surveyed, it is observed that the majority of citizens are informed about events in the country mainly through two media: television (74%) and social networks (45%). Other information channels include the internet (22%) and cell phones (10%), which represent the expanding digital world, as well as radio (22%), newspapers and paper magazines (10%) (INE, 2022).

The results fit a common pattern in statistics known as the Gaussian bell curve, which shows growth from a low point to a peak, followed by a decline. In this case, the results indicate that people aged 15 to 24 have a score of 63, which reflects a positive perception of democracy compared to other non-democratic regimes.

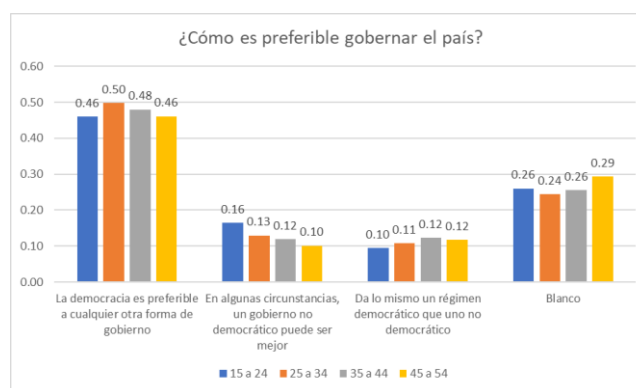
The peak is reached in the 25-34 age group, where preference for the democratic regime is highest. From this age group onwards, acceptance begins to gradually decrease, with scores of 65, 63 and 60 in the 35 to 44 year old and 45 to 54 year old groups, respectively. Therefore, it can be concluded that the strongest support for the democratic regime, instead, is found in the age group of 25 to 34 years.

Table 7. Preference to govern the country

| Age | Democracy is preferable to any other form of government | In some circumstances, a nondemocratic government may be better | A democratic regime does not matter or a non-democratic one. | White | Index |
|----------|---|---|--|-------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.46 | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.26 | 0.63 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.50 | 0.13 | 0.11 | 0.24 | 0.65 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.48 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.26 | 0.63 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.46 | 0.10 | 0.12 | 0.29 | 0.60 |

Source: self made

Figure 8. Preference to govern the country



Source: self made

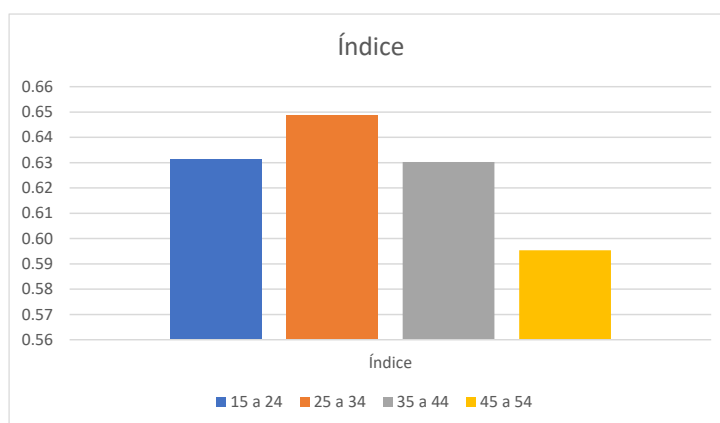
Table 7 shows that the group most sensitive to democracy are *millennials*, that is, those who are between 25 and 34 years old. Interestingly, the group of young adolescents aged 15 to 24, in contrast to other age groups, stated that in “some circumstances a non-democratic government can be better.” This could be understood as a symptom of discontent produced by the economic crisis and the urgent need to obtain employment and better living conditions.



In the Survey of Social Mobility of Young People in the Metropolitan Area of 2017 (EMOVI, 2017), it is highlighted that young people between 15 and 24 years old have difficulties entering the labor market, they have few social expectations and few opportunities, which contributes to his apathy and disinterest in politics.

To consolidate all the analysis variables, a Democratic Satisfaction Index (DSI) was developed using data from the ENCUCI (2020) and assigning values to the responses. This method seeks to directly and simply measure the results obtained, for which numerical values were assigned in a range from 0 to 1, as follows: very satisfied: 1; somewhat satisfied: .75; little satisfied: .5; not satisfied and blank answers: 0.

Figure 9. Democratic Satisfaction Index (DSI)



Source: self made

Based on the ISD, the age group with the highest score can be indicated: it corresponds to the ages of 25 to 34 years. These individuals have already completed their university education and are in the most productive stage of their lives, full of expectations and, at the same time, facing various problems. Therefore, they are more motivated to support a democratic system that addresses their concerns and needs.

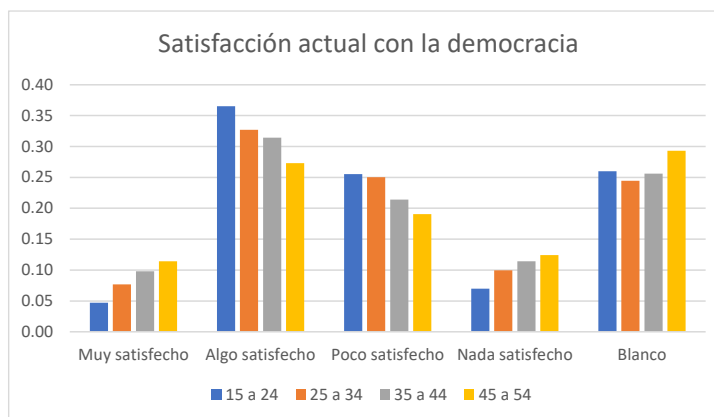
On the other hand, the groups of 15 to 24 years and 35 to 44 years have similar scores in this indicator, although they contrast with adults between 45 and 54 years of age, who show less interest in a diet. democratic.

Table 8. Satisfaction with democracy

| Age | Very satisfied | somewhat satisfied | Not very satisfied | Not satisfied at all | White | Index |
|----------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| 15 to 24 | 0.05 | 0.37 | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.26 | 0.448 |
| 25 to 34 | 0.08 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.10 | 0.24 | 0.447 |
| 35 to 44 | 0.10 | 0.31 | 0.21 | 0.11 | 0.26 | 0.441 |
| 45 to 54 | 0.11 | 0.27 | 0.19 | 0.12 | 0.29 | 0.414 |

Source: self made

Figure 10. Satisfaction with democracy



Source: self made

In general terms, it can be noted that as the age of citizens increases, their satisfaction with democracy seems to decrease. This could be due to the fact that younger groups experience greater participation in social networks, as illustrated in table 8 and figure 10, where it can be seen that individuals between 15 and 24 years old actively participate in platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for information.

These results agree with the findings of the Latinobarómetro for the year 2020, which indicates that only 34% of the population feels very or fairly satisfied (Lugo, *et al.* 2022). Additionally, this aligns with the results of the National Survey of Government Quality and Impact (ENCIG) (2019), which reveals that only 40.5% of people trust their state

government. This distrust in democracy can be attributed, among other factors, to the widespread perception of corruption and the ineffectiveness of the government in addressing pressing public problems such as insecurity and inequality (Viejo y Hierro, February 16, 2022). Therefore, this study provides valuable information on these findings.

Discussion

This research focused, first of all, on dividing the results of the National Civic Culture Survey (ENCUCI) (2020) into age groups, an approach that, until now, has not been documented in academic literature. For this, the participants were categorized into three age groups: a) 15 to 24 years, b) 25 to 34 years, and c) 45 to 54 years, which made it possible to identify distinctive patterns related to age. One of the most notable findings of this analysis is that as age increases, satisfaction with democracy tends to decrease.

In fact, Figure 9 clearly illustrates this finding, which highlights that the 25- to 34-year-old group has greater satisfaction with democracy compared to the 45- to 54-year-old group, which shows the lowest satisfaction of all age groups. . It is interesting to note that, when faced with the choice between a democratic government and a non-democratic one, older adults aged 45 to 54 show significant concern about maintaining the former. This can be explained in part by the historical context in which they lived and which they did not want to repeat.

This coincides with the research of Lugo *et al* . (2022), who carried out an ordinal logistic regression to evaluate satisfaction with the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the Fourth Transformation. The results revealed that only 34% of respondents feel very satisfied with the government, reflecting democratic disenchantment and unmet expectations on the part of the population. Furthermore, they pointed out that “the perception of the functioning of democracy was weak: 83.6% thought they were not at all or very little satisfied” (Lugo *et. al* , 2022, p. 80).

For his part, Carrera (2021), in his work on trust in democratic institutions, reveals, based on data from the ENCUCI (2020), a worrying situation regarding the population's trust in these institutions, since political parties Politicians obtain only 22.9% of trust, the federal government 52.5%, and the INE 59.6%. In other mumps, a marked disaffection and unfavorable public opinion towards institutions is evident.

In short, this research work offers a significant contribution to the field of public opinion surveys, because although there is some previous research, these have not explicitly

addressed age separation, which, from our perspective, adds a distinctive value to studies on political culture and democracy.

Conclusive points

Based on the analysis presented on political culture and electoral preferences, it can be stated that there are significant differences in civic engagement and the perception of democracy in relation to age. This highlights the importance of not generalizing the views of young people, as age plays a crucial role in how they perceive democratic institutions. Therefore, it is essential to carry out more detailed research that takes into account age segmentation, as this allows us to better understand the perspectives of different generations in relation to their context.

This work is even more relevant in the current era, where the cultural, social and political habits of young generations are changing rapidly, driven largely by technological advances. In fact, it is clear that their electoral preferences are being influenced by the most popular social networks (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok) used by political parties, which, in parallel, has encouraged the participation of young people. An example of this is the next presidential elections in Mexico in 2024, where it can be seen that the candidates are taking advantage of social networks to reach a broader young audience. However, it is also very important to highlight that this type of political activities does not attract as much adults over 40 years of age, who, according to the analysis carried out, show greater disillusionment with respect to democracy.

Derived from the above, we can highlight three contributions to the analysis of public opinion of young people, which can serve as a basis for reflection and the formulation of public policies and compensatory measures for these age groups studied:

1. The population in the 18 to 45 age group expresses low satisfaction with democracy and the performance of its representatives in the government and institutions. However, upon further analysis, it is revealed that the group aged 45 to 54 is the one that experiences the least satisfaction, as indicated by the Democratic Satisfaction Index (DSI).
2. Citizens belonging to the age group of 18 to 25 years consider that they have limited influence in decision-making, as well as few opportunities and possibilities to progress in life. Therefore, it is necessary to promote programs aimed at employment

and education, and promote a greater political culture within this segment of the population.

3. It is important to recognize that there are significant differences between the various age groups, which suggests that differentiated approaches must be adopted to foster greater participation and political culture according to the different stages of life. For example, while it is true that young people have more information, they are also exposed to fake news, misinformation, and an overabundance of information online, which is why it is crucial to promote critical thinking.

In conclusion, differences have been identified in the perceptions of the different groups identified in this work, which is accentuated in older people. Therefore, as happened with women, the implementation of age quotas for young people in the different political parties could be considered, which would serve to reduce the existing gap between politicians.

Future lines of research

The authors of this work consider that it is necessary to carry out a thorough analysis of young people in their different age groups, since, as has been demonstrated, there are notable differences in terms of the perception of democracy. In fact, it is necessary to understand that age is a variable that must be considered in studies of political culture and public opinion.

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