

Suárez, Susana

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Reconfiguration of space and human and territorial development in the Metropolitan Region of León Guanajuato

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Reconfiguration of space and human and territorial development in the metropolitan region of León Guanajuato.

Susana Suarez Paniagua¹

Currently urban and rural spaces are experiencing deep transformations in its use, appropriation, in their economic activities, in the deployment of others, in their culture, in short, in its socio-territorial organization, all as a result of the spatial expansion of the capital. You notice that important processes of industrialization and urbanization are taking place in rural areas, also shown that significant changes are happening in urban spaces, their services, financial, recreational activities, are being significantly and is gradually changing its centrality in the system of social space. In addition, the interactions between the rural spaces, are intensified and emerging a new rural-urban relationship.

However, this does not mean that all spaces acquire the same configuration, rather have a variety of expressions and inequality in terms of development, on the one hand because its creation is the result of the interaction that occurs between the global capitalist dynamics and conditions and responses of local actors, and on the other because the relocation of productive and financial capital has deepened the already present economic disparities between the territories and inside of them, bringing as a result the benefit of some and negatively affect others.

These economic, social and cultural transformations and their impact on the reorganization of the urban and rural spaces, lead us to ask ourselves the question: would affect how these changes in the in the actual capacity of the people who inhabit these spaces to take decisions and actions, in their real opportunities to develop fully, to bring the life who want to keep? What constitutes human development agreement to Amartya Sen. (2000)

Also lead us to ask the question how affect the possibility of articulation of the territories, on the feasibility of construction of an entity social, economic, political and culturally integrated, in which prevails the equity, solidarity, social justice, social belonging and attachment, which pursues the territorial development, according to Rafael Echeverr . (2002: 1)

¹ Professor-researcher at the School National of Higher Studies, Unit Leon of the National University Autonomous of Mexico

The purpose of this paper is to initiate an analysis on the reconfiguration of the region Metropolitan of Leon, Guanajuato that allows us to reflection on the impact of its reconfiguration in human development and territorial of this area, in order to begin to find answers to our questions.

1.- Globalization and new socio-spatial organization

In recent decades the economies and societies of all countries are experienced profound changes caused by globalization, i.e. the expansion of capital around the globe. Certainly, the development of capitalism has acquired a global dimension, generating a growing integration of economies and societies around the world.

The global dimension that has reached this stage of capitalism is due to the elimination of restrictions on the mobility of capital, the mobility of the factors of production, which involves flows of capital, goods, technologies, people, and especially the expansion of markets.

It is clear that transnational reorganization of production and the globalization of markets has resulted processes of relocation of economic activity which, in turn, have an impact on the formation and reorganization of assisting areas in the world.

In this economic restructuring, the territories have great importance, since large corporations are looking for those sites that offer greater advantages (cheaper workforce, natural resources, great connectivity, tax facilities) to place their branches, and thereby obtain higher profits. So, that industrial relocation, with its various operations (production, transport, administrative, financial) cause major changes in the economic structures of those places where they settle.

In addition to industrial relocation, the opening of markets, the reduction of the role of the State in the economies, labor markets, the accumulated capital, all this raises in the territories, in their productive, financial and technological structures, in its market and consumption patterns, in their social and territorial organization and definitely in the structural conditions of life of their populations and modifications in their cultural patterns.

But, obviously the territories do not undergo the same transformations and do not achieve the same rhythms of economic growth or social development; otherwise changes have been diverse and have been exacerbated socio-economic gaps between them both inside each of them.

Some social scientists like Sakia Sassen and David Harvey claim that globalization is creating its own space: the global space. According to the first author, this is a fragmented social space and territorially, since on the one hand it is producing concentration of productive, commercial, financial activities in the so-called global cities, and on the other, is causing the dispersion of production activities in different parts of the world, by inserting some localities in the global economic dynamic, but at the same time putting others to the development of the productive development and business, and hence deepening their poverty and their disadvantage. (Sassen, 2006 and Harvey, 2001)

There is no doubt, that an important process that is occurring is the transnational mobility of capital (including the national capital mobility) because it allows companies to raise their competitiveness, so that the relocation of industries in different places in the world has made possible the emergence of new areas of production that incorporate millions of workers men, women and children in such circumstances that favors in an exceptional way obtaining the profits of the companies.

This process has resulted in a spatial and territorial fragmentation and permanently we have the formation of new nodes of development or regions; the expansion or the decline of others, which has important implications both at local and regional levels. In regards to the human and cultural development, this has meant changes in the schemes of thought and behavior of social groups, product of the encounter between those typical of traditional society and those of modern culture.

We can even say that there are numerous regions excluded, since they do not possess the comparative and competitive advantages that demand capital, by what are out of the productive dynamics. Moreover, regions inside hierarchies are established and are left outside areas, sectors and specific actors, creating greater economic and social inequalities.

Also, how it notes it Sassen "... the overall process radically transforms the social structures of cities, altering the social organization of work, the distribution of income and the structure of consumption, all of which creates new patterns of urban-social inequality." (2006:XIV). Urban

spaces are actually exhibiting a social fragmentation and territorial dispersion, which can be seen in residential areas inhabited by people with higher incomes and marginalized areas that are excluded from the economic development and social welfare.

Indeed, the cities are transforming, generating a new partner organization space, since the model of concentrated city which existed, now is a model of diffuse city, dispersed and fragmented territories, their areas of influence have spread even at times to be a metropolis or megalopolis. (Zárate, M. And Rubio M.T.s/f,:152)

And while cities are still characterized by the agglomeration of population and the concentration of productive activities, nowadays especially centralized financial, commercial activities and services, however this does not mean that all the cities are being developed in the same manner and to the same degree, on the one hand, there are what Sassen called global cities characterized by: seat in them of leading industries, financial and services specialized for companies, being the main sites of production, including the production of innovations; and moreover co-exist cities where there is a lower concentration of activities, offering of financial services, in addition with lower development and increased social inequality and territorial fragmentation, since each city or urban system has factors and conditions, with different social contexts, that interact with globalization. (2006: 7)

This means that the globalization process is actually giving rise to a huge variety of cities that present different forms of social and spatial organization, as well as inequalities between them and the interior of the same.

But globalization is not only transforming the cities, but also significantly rural areas, altering its character, which years ago was primarily defined by its productive specialization, the development of primary activities and certain social organization and way of life, as rural areas are now also industrial production and even development of trade and tourism sites.

In fact, field ceased to be a space dedicated mainly to agricultural activities and is now a multifunctional space, i.e., in which various (industrial) production activities, develops commercial, residential, etc., a space in constant transformation and which combine agricultural and urban land uses.

This modification of the rural areas are perceived immediately in its landscapes and its own inhabitants, today in many of them we can see not only land cultivation, but also beside these, agro-industries, factories, wineries, residential areas, shops, roads; In short a true mosaic of elements with various inhabitants, who dress and live very similarly to the way in which urban dwellers do.

It is clear that the differences between countryside and city that exist before disappearing, as Arias points out "... economic transitions, associated with the global dynamics, residential and cultural changes have modified in emphatic way systems and traditional functional assignments (from the countryside and the city)." (Arias, in Ávila: 140)

In addition, rural areas have considerably increased their productive, commercial, financial, interrelationships of services and cultural urban spaces, moreover, have expanded its linkages with the other spaces not only close, but also in many cases distant, which altogether has generated greater diversity and complexity of the rural reality.

A rural reality that reveals the globalization process underway, namely the transnational reorganization of production, the mobility of capital, the expansion of markets, the spread of Western culture, and the interaction of this process with conditions and local rural stakeholders. A rural reality different from the past, but not necessarily with further development.

In fact, we have rural areas also presenting a socio-territorial fragmentation, since on the one hand there are rural areas that are articulated to major productive and commercial global networks, areas in industrial relocation and urbanization processes that are occurring or where they develop agricultural activities related to agro-industrial markets or export-oriented production, and on the other hand there are rural areas contingent on the development of those regions fully articulated the global economic dynamic, i.e. areas of poverty and exclusion.

Rural fragmentation which depends among other factors the degree and form of their links or proximity with the city and the processes and activities that also relate to them. (Ramírez, in Avila, 62-63)

Undoubtedly the process of globalization is affecting cities and the countryside, it becoming more complex relationship between the rural and the urban, it has been observed that urban centers

integrate rural areas form not centripetal, centrifugal, and varied modes: as contact, border areas, of overlap, or articulation of processes, as stated in Ramirez. (2003: 54-57)

The functional and physical integration being the cities of much of rural spaces returns complex definition of these spaces precisely as "rural", since industrial activities, urban lifestyles and patterns of consumption of the city, are scattered in these areas and coexist with agricultural activities and cultural traditional peasant societies.

This diffusion of the city (diffuse), i.e., its expansion in contiguous geographical areas has led to define these areas in various ways, some authors speak of suburbanization processes, others of rururbanization, and some more of Peri-urbanization, understanding by the latter to those areas in transition between the city and the countryside, in which in consequence urban and agricultural activities that compete for the same land use mix. (Entrena, 2005)

The integration of rural areas for the cities made increasingly vague physical and social boundaries between the rural and the urban. Today more and more rural and urban spaces are interconnected.

It is important to mention that the metropolis that have formed as a result of a process of absorption of the hinterland (i.e. the territory of influence that has a city) through the central city, territory that can go from their immediate environment to encompass an entire region, or even up to the country or around the world, depending on whether a national or international metropolis. (Zarate, M. And Rubio M.T.,: 152) are also undergoing a restructuring, which consists in passing of a metropolis a scattered, concentrated in three ways, according to Barrios, namely: "(...the deterioration and loss of importance of the historic Centre as a result of an accelerated expansion of the urban environment... b) the emergence of sub-center's in areas of more recent occupation "What is now known under the name of "new centralities"; (y c) the uncontrolled expansion of residential areas and other applications to the Metropolitan periphery. " (Districts, 2000: 39). Restructuring is leading to metropolis equally fragmented social and territorially, little articulated urban systems.

We then attended a series of significant and highly dynamic that affect urban spaces, in rural and in their interactions and transformations that have concrete inside spatial, economic, social, cultural and political implications, such as the upward opening and expansion of markets, the

redistribution of the work and the location of the capital in territories with greater capacity to attract or generate business initiatives.

It should be noted that the principle of integration into the global process is also challenged to starting from numerous regions excluded evidence. Marginalization and exclusion faced by millions of human beings around the world obeys the logic of capital: not part of the global economic network, because they are established in areas that lack of comparative and competitive advantages that are useful for the capital. In addition, it is important to consider that the exclusion is not only between Nations and regions, but that the same inside, establishes hierarchies, which leave out spaces, sectors and specific actors, creating greater economic and social inequalities.

In the case of Latin America, we have that since the 1980s; they began to implement structural adjustment policies. The adoption of the neoliberal economic model as a result of financial and economic crises, coupled with global processes described, was the beginning of a series of economic, political and social restructuring. In the case of developing countries this has included rural and metropolitan areas, under the idea of incentives for the process of "industrialization", as we'll see in the case of the region of Silao in Guanajuato.

The expansion of social and economic inequality between countries, regions, towns and individuals around the world, has been rigged elaborations of theoretical –methodological approaches to propose exchange alternatives and focusing on the analysis of the human and territorial development. Proposals that speak of development lies not only in the economic growth that is both human development, understood as the expansion of freedoms of all human beings, as territorial, and social development understood as the achievement of a just society, and cohesive social and territorially.

Without a doubt, economic, social and cultural transformations come by globalization have deepened the inequality and social disparities and are impacting on the reorganization of the urban and rural spaces, and this has had effects on residents opportunities to develop life wishing to carry, which according to Amartya Sen, constitutes human development.

Also all these social and territorial changes are having repercussions on the possibility of constructing institutions socially, economically, politically and culturally integrated, purposes established by the approach to territorial development.

Below we present a preview of the analysis of what is happening in the metropolitan area of León, Guanajuato, Mexico.

2.-Reconfiguration in the metropolitan area of León, Guanajuato, Mexico: inequality and differentiation.

The State of Guanajuato is one of the 31 States that make up the Mexican Republic, is located in the Centre West of Mexico region, bordered on the West by the State of Jalisco, to the North by the State of San Luis Potosí, to the East by the State of Querétaro, and to the South with the State of Michoacán. Possesses a territorial extension of 30,628.17 km² (1.6% of the national territory) and a population of 5,486,372 inhabitants in 2010.

It currently ranks as the sixth most populated entity at the national level and the seventh national economy.



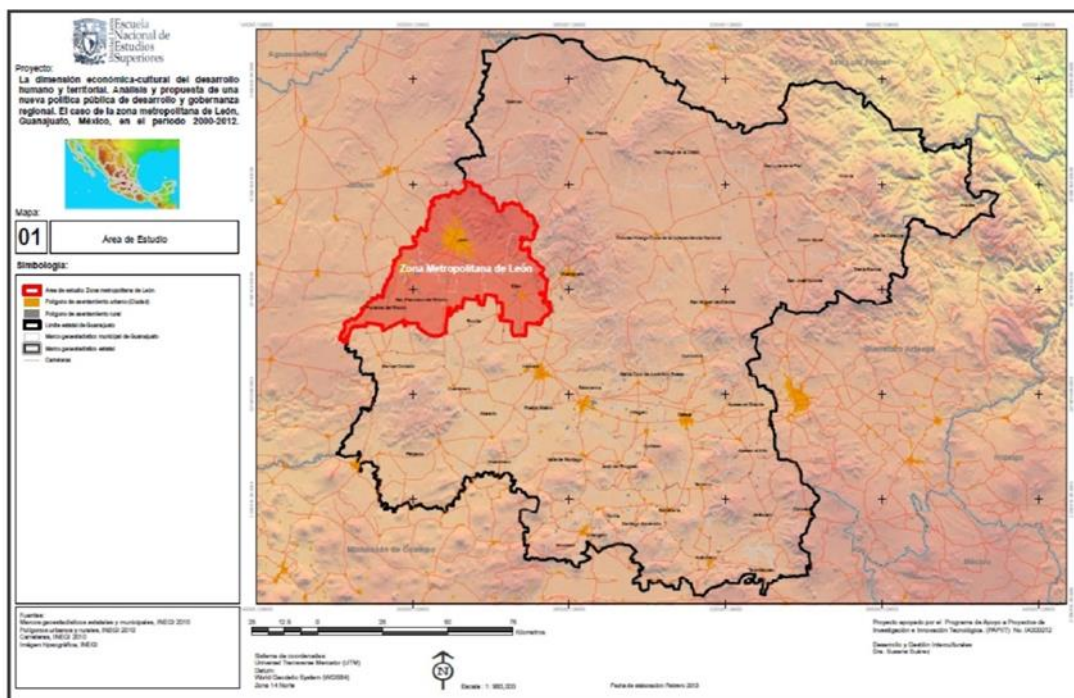
This State is suffering alterations in its spatial pattern of economic activity, and therefore in its dimensions social and economic consequence of globalizing dynamics. For many years its social and economic dynamics was resting in the agricultural sector, a sector which has been dropping in recent decades.

An industrial corridor in the municipalities of Celaya, Salamanca, Irapuato, Silao and León, which has resulted in the consolidation of a system of cities that work of structured and dynamic way acting as poles of attraction of investment, has been deployed.

Also in recent years have been formed some metropolitan areas, among them, the most important the so-called metropolitan area of León, meaning that "... the set of two or more municipalities where lies a city of 50,000 or more inhabitants, whose urban area, functions and activities beyond the limit of the municipality that originally contained it, incorporating as part of itself or its area of direct influence to neighboring municipalities predominantly urban, with which it maintains a high degree of socio-economic integration; This definition includes in addition to those municipalities that by their characteristics are relevant for urban planning and policy." (INEGI, 2004: 17)

Indeed it has integrated Metropolitan of Leon, made up of four municipalities: Leon, Purísima del Rincón and San Francisco de el Rincón and Silao, located in the West of the State of Guanajuato and holds an average area of 3,087.00 km2.

Metropolitan area of Leon, Guanajuato



This area occupies the position number seven among the 55 metropolitan areas that have been formed in Mexico, recognized by the National Institute of Geography, Statistics and Informatics.

The criteria used for the delimitation of the metropolitan areas in Mexico are basically economic and social relations between the municipalities of the conurbation, such as those related to economic activity, Inter City trips or the distance between the central city and the outlying municipalities.

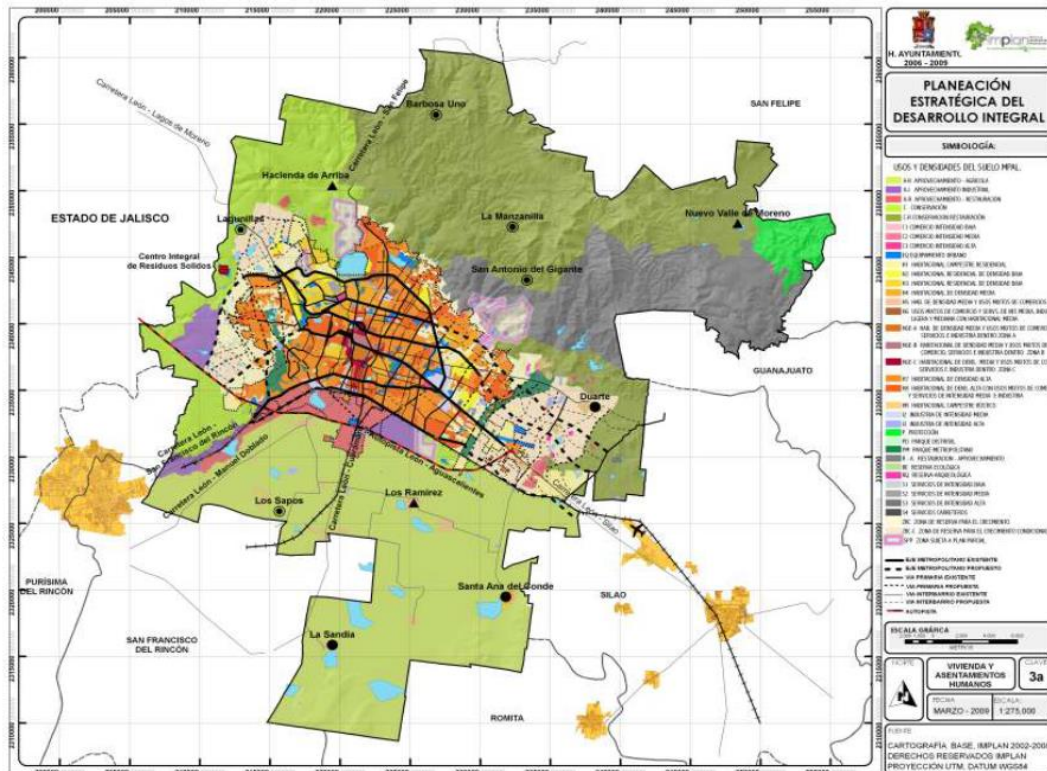
This area is certainly the biggest demographic and urban conglomerate of the entity and presents an economic-functional specialization, as well as the physical expansion of some municipalities over others, going beyond municipal boundaries. It is important to note that the four municipalities are heterogeneous in terms of area and population each of them has different characteristics.

To understand the importance of this area, it is necessary to place it in the State context, which is part, know the changes experienced over the years, to find the factors that have led to that today has a strategic situation, which is experiencing rapid transformations, reshaping it and with certain conditions that favor or not to human and territorial development.

One of the major phenomena that has had this area, its population growth, in 2000 had a population of 1,414,196 inhabitants, for 2005 was 1,584, 337 and for 2010 already had a population of 1,791,869 inhabitants. (INEGI, censuses of population and housing, 2000, 2010 and census of population and housing 2005), that it has become one of the areas most populated state and centrality in the region (composed of the States of Michoacán, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, Colima and Guanajuato) Center West of Mexico where 9 out of 10 people living in urban locations.

In this area, the municipality that has had a greater population growth and economic dynamism (up to at least a few years ago) was that of Leon, their city has expanded significantly, a land area that was in the Decade of the fifties of the 20th century, slightly more than 180 hectares, for the Decade of the eighties as occupying an area of more than 4 thousand hectares for the years ninety grows to 19 thousand hectares and the year 2005 already stretched to 21, 824 hectares and continues to expand. (Pote, 2005)

Level of housing and settlements human 2005



Source: Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial and ecological, 2005, Instituto Municipal de León, Gto.

The rate of population density that has is 1,175.92 inhabitants per square kilometer, and its urban population reaches the 93.11% of its total population. The municipality of León has 603 locations, of which 11 are urban and 592 rural, in the latter had 98,910 inhabitants, according to the Census of population and housing of 2010 (INEGI)^[2]

Territorial and social fragmentation taking place in the city of León is clearly observed in different types of construction of housing and development of commercial activities and entertainment that have been made in recent years. In the North are doing developments rooms under a scheme of subdivisions with access control, Unraveling the plot of the traditional central city, as that area in Northeast are being built developments rooms for the medium and high income population, but requiring public spaces and facilities, that have been abandoned spaces, by presenting also a disarticulation; on the other hand, in the West zone are developing housing complexes for housing of social character (for low-income population) that do not have public spaces for social

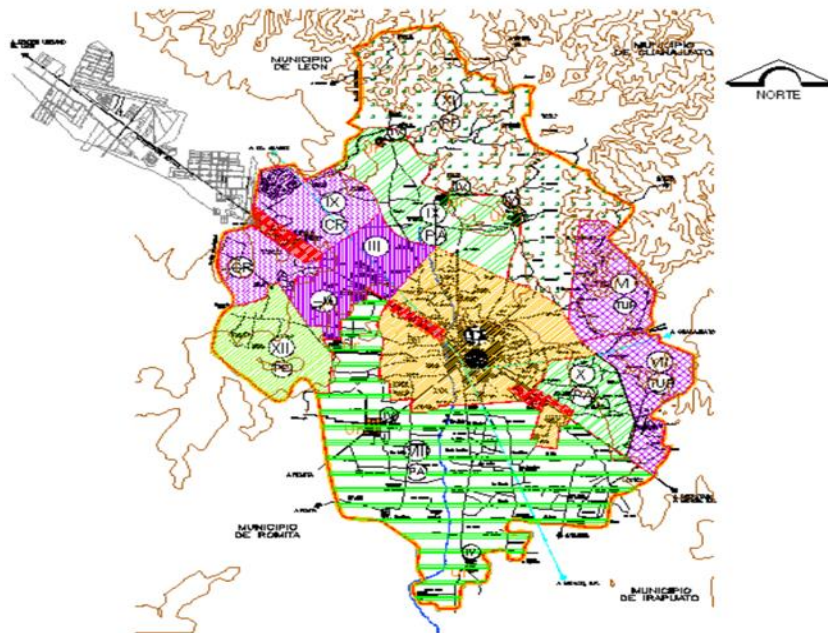
coexistence. In addition, settlements in those who live marginalized population arose. (Pote, 2005: 51)

In the case of the municipality of Silao, it is also experiencing rapid urban and demographic growth, its land area is of 531.41 km², has a population of 173,024 inhabitants, and with 400 localities, of which nine are urban and 391 are rural, but 60% of the total population is concentrated in urban areas.

The population increase has been due in large measure to this place has become a place where transnational capital, is moving from 15 years ago, particularly with the relocation of manufacturers of automobiles and auto parts, and thus with the establishment of industrial parks. This industrial growth has resulted in the arrival of migrants, who are employed by the companies.

At the same time population growth has brought with it the expansion of the urban area with the construction of subdivisions (closed housing complexes) regular and irregular, as well as with the establishment of industrial parks.

Map of the City of Silao



Taken from the Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial del Municipio de Silao, Gto 1999

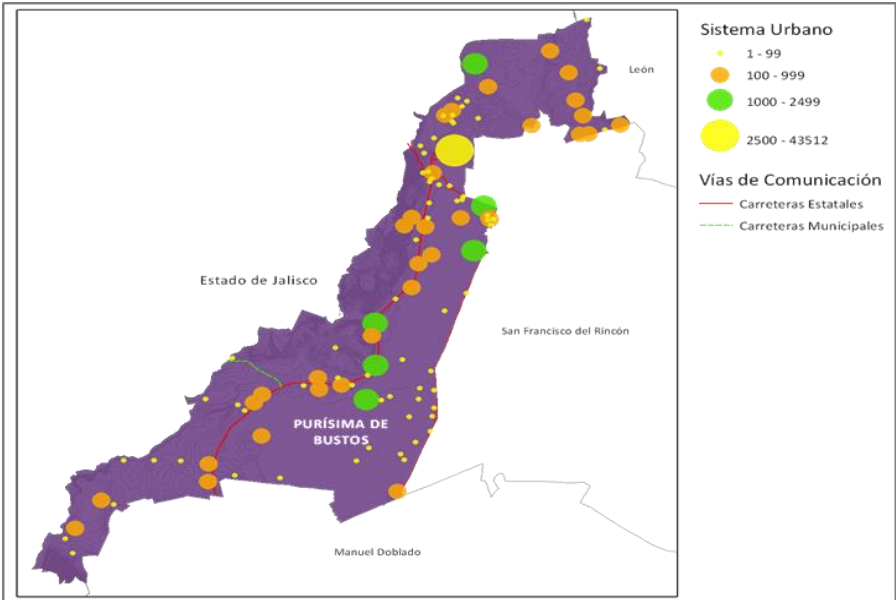
They are producing major changes in the use of the soil, forming a land market, controlled by several agents and real estate companies' in places where the industrial and urban development is being conducted.

A dynamic of urban expansion is occurring in the rural communities to the municipal seat, which performed some works of road infrastructure and some services have been introduced, and even housing complexes of social type, that is, for people with low income have been building.

For its part the Township of Purísima del Rincón has had a population growth significantly, in the period 2005-2010 its growth rate was 4.2%, being higher than the growth rate which presents the State of Guanajuato in total. This municipality has a territorial extension of 290.6 km², its municipal seat has a land area of 288.44 km² (drinking water system, sewer and sanitation of the municipality of Purísima del Rincón)

Purísima has an urban locality which 43,512 people live and 106 rural localities which 25,383 people live. This Township has undergone a significant process of urbanization, so we find that currently there are 28 regular subdivisions, 22 irregular subdivisions and 13 subdivisions pending, which tells us the intense demand for housing of urban character in the municipality. (Data from the Office of urban development of the municipality, 2010)

Purísima del Rincón. Urban and rural localities, 2010 -2012



Source: Information on the basis of the INEGI. Taken from the program of Government
City of Purísima del Rincón, Gto. 2012-15 Synthesis.

It should be noted that despite this urbanization process, an extensive area of the municipality is (61% of the total area) agricultural land use and agricultural activity continues to be important, sorghum, maize and potato, and on a smaller scale crops predominate, wheat, alfalfa and some fruit trees.

In what refers to the municipality of San Francisco del Rincón, it has a land area of 517.70 km² and not have had significant demographic growth. He has 194 locations, of which one is an urban locality and the remaining are rural, its urban center concentrates to 62.6% of the total population.

However, has also had an urban expansion, have been building residential subdivisions, housing and infrastructure, it is also undergoing a process of conurbation with the municipality of Purísima in the corner and the municipality of Leon, in fact, due to its proximity with the municipalities of Purísima del Rincón and the municipality of Leon, comes as part of a functional unit.

In general can be said that the metropolitan area of Leon, has been integrating and developing by the expansion of the cities (mainly municipal capitals) municipalities that form it, in a pattern of diffuse conurbation, i.e., that the city is expanding but in a dispersed way, different constructions and types of use (residential, commercial, Office areas, industries, schools are separate and there is social segregation, although everything is connected through roads. (Wheel: 2009)

Associated with urban processes, the metropolitan area of Leon, also is undergoing changes in its productive structure, mainly processes of productive reconversion and relocation of production activities by both transnational companies such as national party are taking place. It is important to mention the economy of the metropolitan area of León from the middle of the 20th century was based mainly on the development of the sector footwear, in the production of hats, in agricultural production, agro-industrial production, in the textile industry and clothing, and in industries such as chemical and metalworking. Currently the development of the trade in services,

the metalworking industry, for the industry of auto parts, transportation, business tourism, and the footwear industry itself, the basis of its economy.

Notably, the development of an automotive cluster, which since the nineties of the 20th century began to unfold mainly in the municipalities of Silao and León, which has become the main economic activity of the municipality of Silao, and cluster which is one of the main Government attractions of investment policy.

Indeed, in 1994 a truck of the Transnational Corporation General Motors (GM) Assembly company, settles in the municipality of Silao and immediately after they began to settle also in this territory different companies of auto parts, many of them subsidiaries of the GM and most of them suppliers of inputs for the own GM.

The most relevant, is that with the installation of the GM in Silao, actually what happens is that this company to deploy a new form of flexible production organization produced the spatial practice of globalization and the spread of economic life to relocate their productive capital to Silao and the concentration of economic and commercial activity in the same territory of this municipality.

This spatial concentration of automotive production converted to Silao in a particular site of production and export, a clear example of the spatial dispersion of economic activity worldwide which is happening in our day.

Note that the capital in search of favorable conditions to carry out their capital accumulation. Silao found in the following scenarios: a) good geographical location, b) optimal access infrastructure, c) international airport, d) interior port under construction, e) means of communication, f) good weather, g) pacific social space, h) cheap labor and reduction of tariffs.

It is for this reason that several companies, including Pirelli, Volkswagen, Mazda and other are also setting up, in addition, four industrial parks have been built: Fipasi, Las Colinas, Nesin and Fé.

In the case of the municipality of León, its economy was reoriented, since living based on the footwear industry now it relies more on services, industry construction, plastic containers, metal products, automotive supply, business tourism and the health care. Although this does not mean that the footwear industry has left, continues to be important, as well as chemical industry remains significant, but they have lost weight, against further development that have been the

sector services and the opening of markets with the introduction to the national market of shoes made in China.

As regards to the municipality of San Francisco del Rincón, its economy has also undergone changes, agricultural activity has fallen and its manufacturing industry hats that had been historically the most important since the time colony, has lost relevance (although the municipality continues to occupy the first national producer of hats), and footwear (especially for tennis) is now the main. In addition, for several years the business has gained increasing importance, mainly trade to the retail.

And in regards to the municipality of Purísima del Rincón, itself well in this Township agricultural activity continues to be very important, the industry has developed, mainly the leather industry and textiles, followed by the paper and paper products. Is important to mention that tennis shoe manufacturing has become a heavy burden on the productive activity of this municipality.

In general, we find that in the municipalities that are part of the metropolitan area, it has been losing weight the agricultural activity that defined them, with the exception of the municipality of León, since long time ago already had an urban-industrial character, and that has been happening a process of specialization economic with the relocation of industries and the increase in the services sector and trade.

Is clearly observed that along with this relocation of industries (mainly in rural areas), economic specialization, and diversification of the regional economy (industrial, agricultural, commercial activity, services), are occurring socio-spatial changes, in effect, we find that are being built or improving road infrastructure, extending the services of water, energy, increasing transport services, as well as housing construction (usually subdivisions for a population of high and middle income, as social interest) not only in urban areas but also in rural areas, changing the land use (formerly earmarked for agricultural activity, now not only for housing or trade, but also for the establishment of industries and industrial parks), changing employment, by which we can say, that is a diffuse urbanization process occurring.

So, what is happening is a reconfiguration of the urban and rural areas in this region, which now shows a pattern of coexistence of spatial concentration and dispersion of economic life, i.e. of fragmentation socio-spatial at all of its territories on the one hand areas where economic activity is concentrated, services, dwellings and on the other hand areas where agricultural activities or

land is almost developed in abandonment, few dwellings and services, but with intense interaction, with flows of people, goods and money.

But the question does this reconfiguration that has meant for people to inhabit the metropolitan area of Leon? Has it expanded its opportunities to fully develop? Impact you have to achieve a jointed territory and an equitable and integrated social entity? Here are some answers to these questions.

3. Impacts on human and territorial development

To analyze the impacts of the reconfiguration of the León metropolitan area caused by the spatial expansion of the capital, it is first necessary to establish what is the parameter which we are going to assess the social and territorial effects of this process, we chose for this purpose the approaches of human development and of the territorial, so here are some basic postulates of both approaches that allow us to perform the analysis.

With regard to human development, its author, Amartya Sen, establishes that "*...the development is to be seen as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people should enjoy, which means that it is necessary to remove the main sources of oppression, such as poverty, limited economic opportunities, systematic social deprivation, the abandonment of public facilities, as well as intolerance or repressive State actions.*" (2000: 3).

The axis of the proposal of Sen is people's freedom to act. This includes both the ability to take decisions and actions, as real opportunities people have to exercise it, i.e. the real possibilities that have to deploy it according to their social and personal circumstances, which is illustrated by pointing out that you a lack of freedom may originate from not having opportunities to enjoy good health, either of not be able to exercise their right to vote (idem:17). Such freedom is based on *the expansion of the capabilities of people to lead the kind of life they value and that have reason for rating* (Sen, 2000: 87) [\[3\]](#).

The paradigm of human development establishes that freedom is not only the end of development, but also their primary means to achieve it, and emphasizes different instrumental freedoms, i.e., those considered as means to achieve it: 1) political freedoms (considered the most important); (2) economic facilities; (3) social opportunities; (4) transparency guarantees; and, 5)

protective security. They all contribute to the overall capacity of a person to live more freely and are complementary.

With regard to territorial development, this part of the concept of space as a result of the historical-social processes and simultaneously to support the construction of society itself, which leads to recognize the territorial dimension of the economic, social, political, and cultural phenomena that build spaces, and also to the understanding of the territory as an integrated whole, such as an area that contains multiple dimensions: economic, sociocultural, environmental (management and natural resource management); and the institutional politician, giving as a result a conception of the multidimensional and multisectorial territory.

Based on this conception of territory, territorial development approach postulates that the territory is the Centre and subject of development action, what supposed to propose and carry out policies and strategies that provide for the transformation of the forms of use and exploitation of this, as well as modify social relationships that occur in it, in order to achieve a society in which its territory is articulated in which there is formed by space, resources, society and institutions, with the ultimate purpose of having an integrated community in which prevail, equity, solidarity, social justice, membership and assignment. (Echeverri, 2002:1).

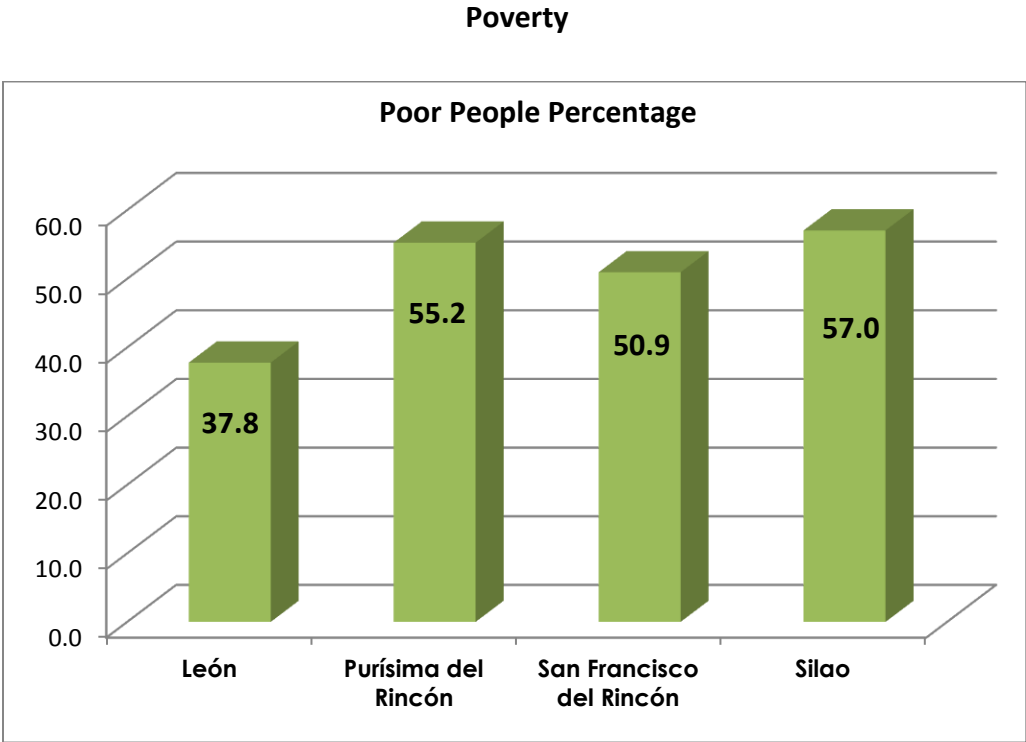
Taking into account these principles of human and territorial development approaches, we find that the social and territorial reality of the metropolitan area of León is as follows:

If Leon Metropolitan contributes significantly to the product internal gross of the State of Guanajuato (with 336,114 million pesos in 2011) and has a domestic product Per Capita of 185,514 pesos and an investment of 100,580 million pesos (IMCO, 2010), and its economically active population has a weight that is relevant, since it stands at 54.1%, presents serious problems in terms of occupation, in all municipalities there has been an increase in the percentage of unemployed population, in 2000 and in 2010 were registered following increases in the numbers of those years: lion of 1.05% to 4.35%, Purísima del Rincón of 0.57% a1.66%, San Francisco de el Rincón 0.61% 2.4% and 0.93 Silao 5.98% %.

Interesting to note that the municipality of Silao is the highest percentage of unemployed population, being the territory where some years ago comes moving transnational capital of the automotive branch.

Now however, although the percentage of the population that gets more than twice the minimum wage is relatively high (67.73% in Leon, 67.58% in Purísima del Rincón, 66.23% in San Francisco de el Rincón and 50.75% in Silao), in general it can be said that the population has little revenue, since a minimum wage amounts to the amount of \$61.38 pesos a day. There are sectors of the population who have wealth, in such a way that the population is much divided economically and socially. 2010 Housing and population census (INEGI)

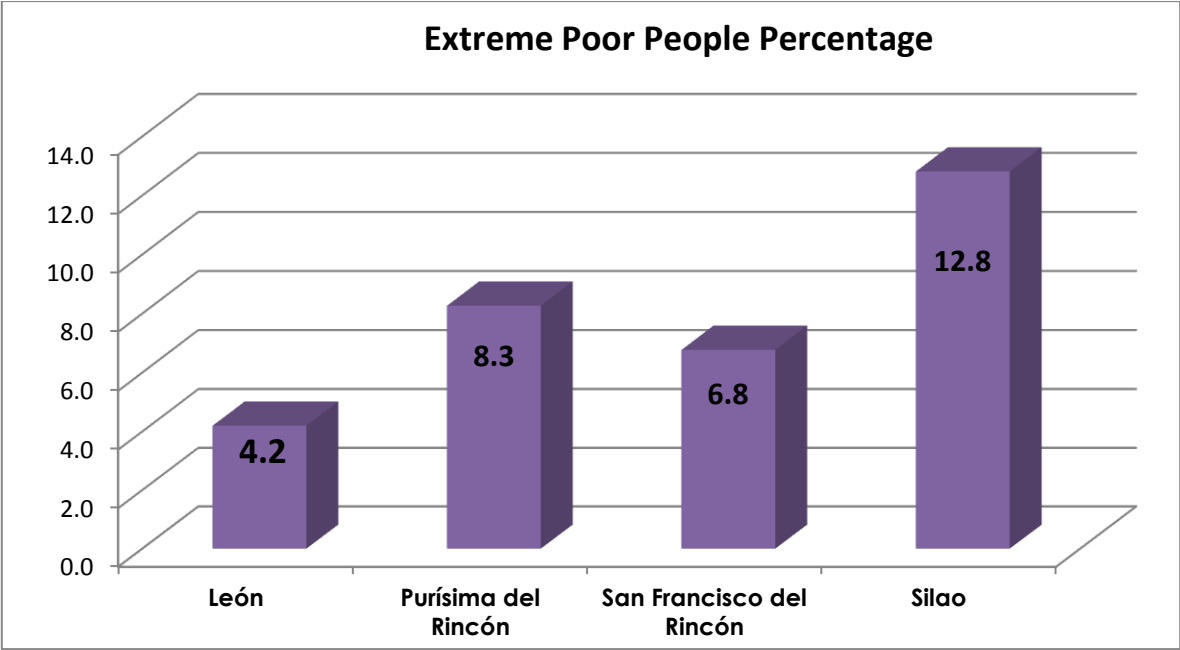
There is no doubt that the relevant social problem in the metropolitan area of León, the situation of poverty of a large segment of its population, understanding poverty population in this condition to have at least one social deficiency (educational backwardness, access to health services, access to social security, quality and the living spaces, basic housing services and access to food) is, ^[4] which means that even when there is an important economic dynamics in its territory, the distribution of wealth is inequitable, there is concentration of capital in few hands and at the same time shortcomings of different kinds by large groups of the population, as you can see in the following graph.



Source: estimates of the CONEVAL based on MCS-ENIGH 2010 and the sample census of Population and housing 2010.

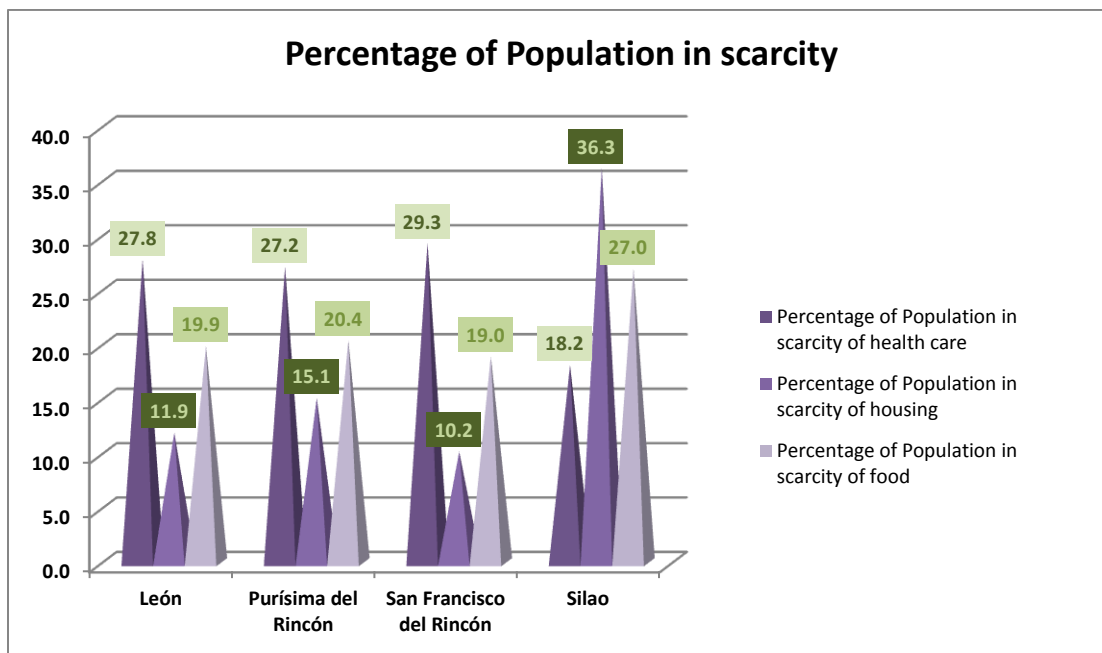
Now, in terms of the population that is living in extreme poverty (regarded as one which has three or more of six social deprivation and is below the minimum welfare), although the percentage is lower is significant, and is again observed that the municipality of Silao recorded the highest percentage which shows that the living conditions of the population not necessarily by relocating the transnational capital on its territory by the same token, soar.

Extreme poverty



Source: estimates of the CONEVAL based on MCS-ENIG population and housing 2010.

Yes, we analyze the situation of poverty of the population according to the type of deficiency that we have, it is telling that the highest percentages are by lack of access to health services, followed by lack access to food, i.e., lacking two essential conditions for good health, and you want to perform the important sectors of the population in all municipalities.



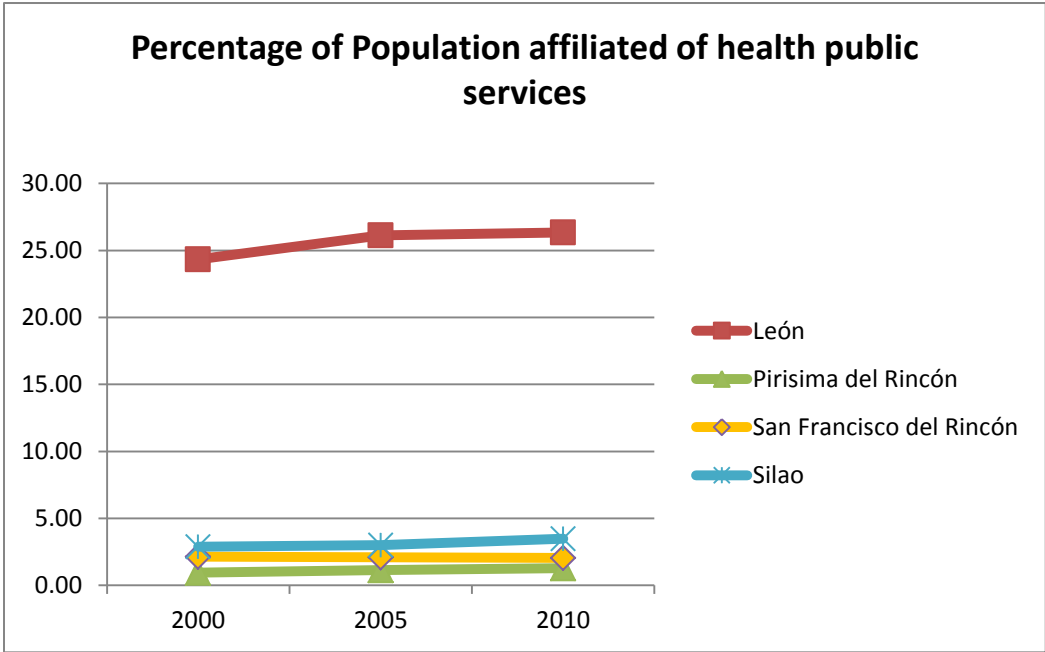
Source: estimates of the CONEVAL based on MCS-ENIGH 2008 and 2010.

On the other hand, in terms of health services which are part of social security that the State must provide to its citizens, in the case of Mexico are in charge of different institutions: the Ministry of health empowered to cater to the public sector, the Mexican of the Social Security Institute commissioned to provide health services to employees in the private sector, the Institute of security and social services of the workers of the State responsible for addressing the health of employees of the State, the Secretary of national defense and Mexican Petroleum Industry, which have their own health systems, and from the 2004 creates the Popular Insurance, as decentralize from the Ministry of health responsible for providing health services to the population that is not affiliated to the health services provided by other institutions.

As we know, health services are fundamental so that human beings can enjoy good health and thereby develop all its capabilities, so the lack of them implies that people cannot enjoy a healthy lifestyle, cannot lead a life with welfare and limiting their possibilities for the development of a full life. The right to health is essential, so that an important indicator to measure whether the population has health services, is the percentage of population without title to these services.

In the metropolitan area of Leon we find that percentages relatively low population are IMSS users, i.e., that they have access to health services by the State, and that it is mainly the

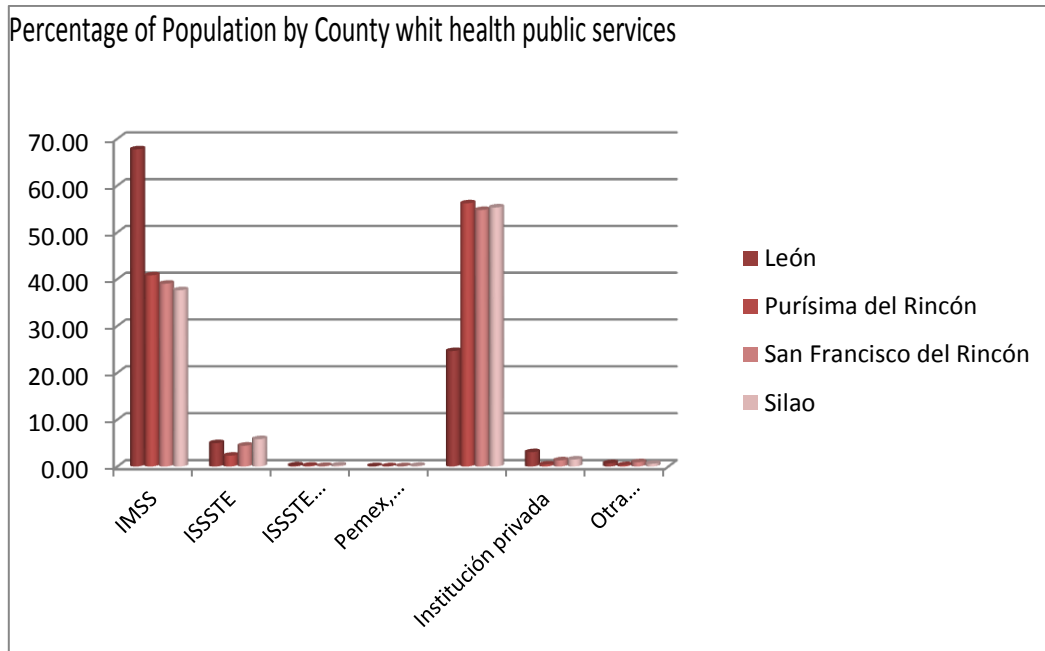
population of the municipality of León which has more access to these services, while the populations of the other municipalities, are very down as shown in the following graphic.



Source: National Institute of Geography, Statistics and Informatics, Census 2010

In fact the Popular Insurance is very important for the Mexican population, because it is aimed at a broad sector of the population that lacks social security in terms of health, according to official figures, in October 2010 the program had more than 41 million of Mexican affiliates.

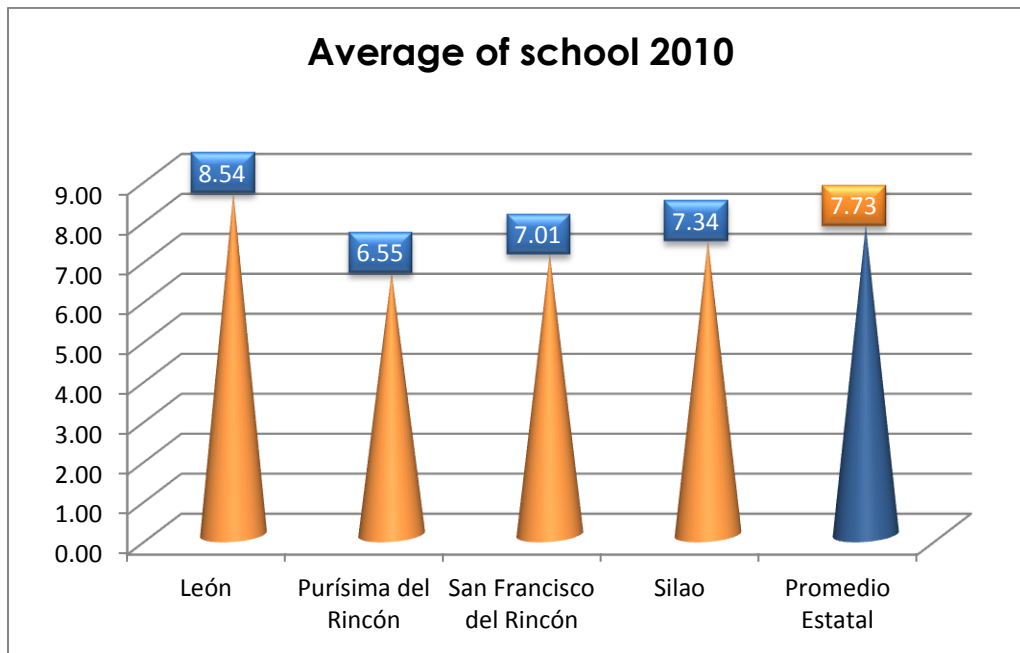
In the case of the Metropolitan Area of Leon, you can see that the Mexican Institute of Social Security is that primarily provides health services to the population in the municipality of Leon, while in other municipalities a high percentage of the population access to services through Popular Insurance, i.e., that they are not affiliated with other institutions. On the other hand, private health services are also concentrated in the municipality of León and the population with the highest income is that can access them.



Source: National Institute of Geography, Statistics and Informatics, Census 2010

So, the right to health not yet the entire population inhabiting the area enjoys it, and this is a serious constraint on so that they can develop fully and enjoy life who want to keep. It is also clear, that the services provided by the State are not distributed equitably among the municipalities and inside them, in a series of interviews conducted as part of field work that we have done, in several rural localities, people said that they urgently needed health clinics that can provide better care.

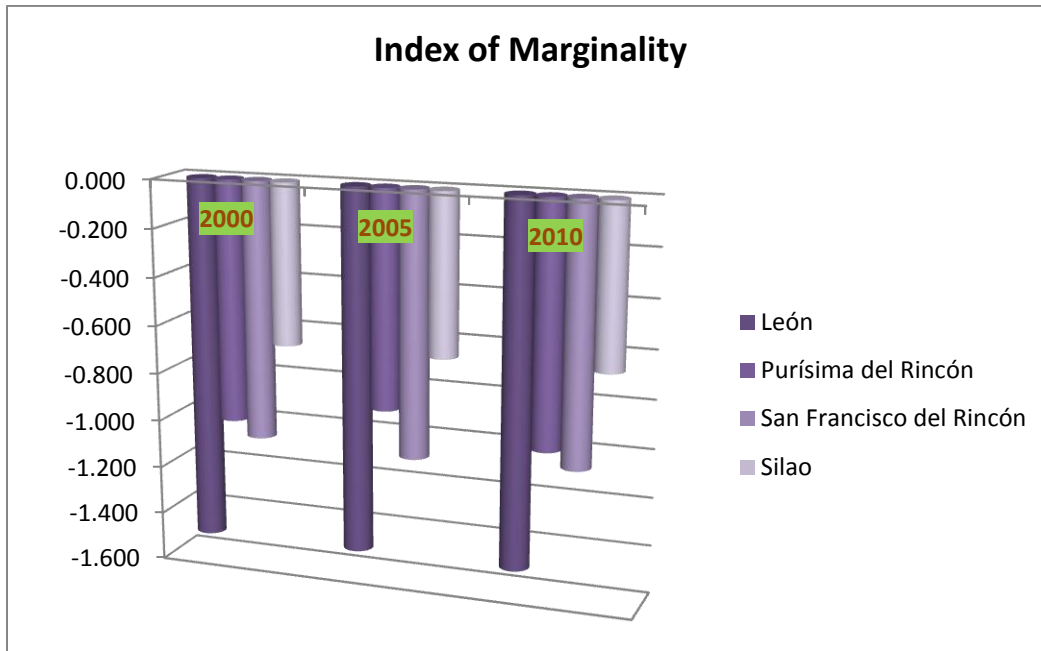
Regarding education, which is a relevant factor for the formation of the person and to the development and growth of a society, so it is considered a fundamental service that all Government should seek for its population, we find that the average schooling of the population, ^[5] in the case of the State of Guanajuato just reaches the 7.73 years of schooling which can be considered low, and regards Leon Metropolitan average is located around the State, including the municipality of Leon, with 8.54 years. As you can see in the following graphic, the few years that the majority of the population of the area courses in school, which indicates that the people do not have many opportunities of access to secondary education and higher education. And this is a serious restrictive access to better jobs and higher wages.



Source: National Institute of Geography, Statistics and Informatics, Census 2010

In addition, the people to be able to develop properly requires having various conditions such as health, education and sufficient income to cover all your needs and achieve your goals, but must also have decent housing, i.e. which has all the services of drainage, electricity, piped water, with floor, without overcrowding. To measure if the population counts with these conditions, the rate of urban marginalization (IMU), which measures the deprivation that suffers from the population as a result of the lack of access to education, health, the residence in inadequate housing and lack of basic goods was prepared.

We can then see that shows differences between their municipalities in the metropolitan area of León, León municipality more developed economically presents a very low degree of marginalization, while other municipalities have a degree of marginalization lowest, but that over 10 years it has not changed, i.e., that there has been improvements in the living conditions of the population of these municipalities.



Source: Estimates of the CONAPO II census of population and housing 2005, and survey-based National occupation and employment (ENOE) 2005, 4th quarter, INEGI, Census of population and housing 2000 and 2010

Conclusions

To analyze the social and economic changes and their impact on the spatial configuration in the metropolitan area of Leon, Guanajuato that it is occurring a pattern of diffuse conurbation, in reality a fragmented physical space, where on the one hand there are cities, notably the city of León, as center of the region, with certain services we have seen, infrastructure, residential developments, etc. And on the other hand a large number of rural localities, scattered with few services, infrastructure, etc. and even inside them, again a separation between areas that have services, residential developments, quality infrastructure, and poor areas, which have minor services, or lower quality.

A fragmented space, in which rural areas are losing its rural character, due to the decline of agricultural activity and the fact that increasingly are being integrated into the global economic dynamics with the introduction of industries in positions of lower-rated but also national and

transnational character which embody certain amount of people in the industrial work, and with very low incomes which means that actually its integration not been implicated improvements in the quality of people's lives. In addition, there is a differentiation in levels of integration of these rural areas, some are more included than others, such as the cities of Silao where an automotive car cluster has developed while others only have settled on them shoe factories.

While the process of globalization is favoring a certain industrial and urban development generated to some extent positive impacts in the territories of the metropolitan area of León, with the creation of jobs and an economic impact, the truth is that the negative effects are unquestionable social and territorial fragmentation is evident, i.e., the deepening of the social and economic inequalities between territories is clear, as in the inside of them, as well as between different social groups that inhabit them.

As we have seen, the differences between the real opportunities that the inhabitants of the various municipalities have to fully develop are very marked for, the municipality of Leon, that for several years it has become the regional center is so far offering greater opportunities to its population, while in the other municipalities, there are few social opportunities even in the municipality of Silao, who has been chosen by transnational companies of the automotive industry to relocate their companies and who surprisingly recorded the highest levels of poverty.

In conclusion we can say that social and territorial transformations favored by globalization in the metropolitan region of Leon, Guanajuato have not influenced the expansion of people's actual abilities to make decisions and actions that lead them to develop fully, in other words, the reconfiguration of this area by the development of the capitalist economy on a global scale it has not led to human development. Similarly, it can be said that globalization and the actions of local stakeholders not has resulted the articulation of the Territories not far the construction of a socially, economically and politically integrated entity, if not that on the contrary, there is a territorial cohesion (although there are a large number of interactions between the municipalities), nor a social cohesion that is, not is has built a regional community that acts with principles of cooperation and communication, all indicating that he is not conducive to territorial development.

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^[2]By locality refers to the place occupied with one or more inhabited, and in accordance with the amount of population, dwellings are divided into urban (over 2 500 inhabitants) and rural (less than 2 500 inhabitants)

^[3]This concept of development is very important in the distinction that is made between performances and capacities, as these are the first conditions, status or activities that a person can have or do, while the latter are the combination of these States and activities used to achieve doing and being what the person values,

^[4]We take the definitions of poverty Coneval

^[5]It means average grade of schooling, the average number of school degrees approved by the population of 15 years and more. Secretariat of public education.