

SUMMARY

Social profile

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA

As occurs in many other cities, the population of Barcelona is distributed throughout a number of districts with clearly differing historic, cultural and economic conditions. If we analyse the city as a whole, we will not be able to detect situations of need, underdevelopment, poverty, etc. The eternal northsouth, centreoutsides, eastwest, dialectic, as a constant expression of social inequalities, also exists in Barcelona. This study attempts to identify the social imbalances which exist between individuals living in different areas of the city, imbalances regarding different spheres of social reality. In this 13 indicators have been used and 38 historic quarters of the city analysed.

Lastly, and with the aim of creating an instrument for decisiontaking, planning, programming and intervention regarding social welfare, an index of social inequalities is drawn up, gathering together and synthesising information on health, work and education. The results are expressed as a scale of ratios, allowing the identification of imbalances and estimation of their importance.

Radiography

LIVING CONDITIONS AND VALUES AMONG THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF BARCELONA

This identikit picture of the young people of Barcelona is the result of analysis of a survey carried out for Barcelona City Council by ICB, SA in late 1992. As part of the survey, 1,200 young people aged between 15 and 25 living in Barcelona were interviewed in order to form a picture of the daily life of young people and to analyse their attitudes to their social environment.

The results highlight the main characteristics of this generation, one which grew up in democracy, which has seen important political and social changes and has lived through the phase of economic expansion in Spain and the subsequent recession. Young people today enjoy more and better possibilities for personal and social development but encounter many difficulties in finding employment which can give them economic independence.

It is observed that young people point to studies as the best means of attaining social and professional integration, that the family, their friends and their emotional relationships are the most important thing to them and, above all, that they are open to the reality surrounding them and that social problems concern them. Young people are realistic and pragmatic regarding their future, progressive as regards socially approved values (human rights,

the protection of the environment, equality of opportunities for men and women) and tolerant over aspects of privacy and individual freedom. In spite of their social concerns, they are not interested in politics and are critical of the formal aspects of political activity.

The report points out a number of factors which help explain the heterogeneous nature which characterises young people: their age, which gives them a different standpoint, differences between the sexes, particularly as regards employment conditions, and socioeconomic, cultural and ideological characteristics, explaining the diversity of attitudes and values found.

Dossier

HEALTH IN BARCELONA

One of the principal activities of Barcelona City Council's Public Health Department is to broaden knowledge of and keep an active watch over the illnesses and phenomena affecting the health of citizens. Each year, a report on the state of health of the city is published, and this article, based on the 1992 report, summarises and synthesises the main indicators of general and child death rates, life expectancy and potential years of life lost. It also describes the recent evolution of health problems such as AIDS, drug dependency and accidents. The article concludes with a comparison of mortality indicators, health care resources and the socioeconomic situation in the different districts of the city.

INEQUALITIES IN DEATH RATES IN THE DISTRICTS OF BARCELONA AND RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

For some years, the Municipal Institute of Health has been studying mortality in the city of Barcelona, with the aim of describing the inequalities observed in the distribution of death rates in the different districts of the city over the period 1983-89 and the relationship of this with certain socioeconomic indicators corresponding to the different territories. The districts where mortality is highest, life expectancy shortest and where, therefore, conditions are worst, are those of Montjuïc, the four quarters of Ciutat Vella (Barceloneta, Parc, Gòtic and Raval), Ciutat Meridiana, Bon Pastor, Vallvidrera and Poble Sec.

Linking death rates to socioeconomic indicators in the districts shows that where unemployment and illiteracy are highest, and where vehicles are oldest, mortality is also higher and life expectancy lower. On the other hand, districts with higher standards of living and purchasing power (greater use of the telephone, more powerful vehicles, higher land and building value) death rates are lower and life expectancy higher.

This data confirms the idea that in districts lessfavoured socioeconomically, there is higher mortality and lower life expectancy, exactly the opposite of the situation in the more favoured districts.

HEALTH AT WORK IN BARCELONA

Risks to health in the workplace change as work itself evolves. The automation of dangerous processes and the substitution of substances, materials and technologies have notably improved conditions and the environment at work, but can also bring into existence new, previously unknown risks. As regards pollution of the working environment, current concerns centre on exposure to multiple chemical agents in low concentrations, but there is still largescale exposure to more classical sources of risk to health (noise, and so on). Moreover, concern over the psychosocial risks related to the organisation of work continues to grow.

In order to analyse the evolution of problems of health at work both new and old, this article analyses data gathered from a variety of sources.

Risks to health perceived by workers were studied in 1990 by using the Delphi method with 273 union delegates from the eleven most important economic sectors of the city of Barcelona.

Health as perceived by the workers and prevalent chronic disorders were analysed from the 1986 Barcelona Health Survey.

Data obtained from the health services were also used, in the form of 90,000 medical discharges from three Barcelona hospitals issued over the period of one year, and certificates of illness issued by general practitioners.

Finally, a study was made of mortality due to accidents at work, both traumatic and nontraumatic over the 1988-1990 period, along with information obtained from a study carried out of emergency cases in hospitals in order to quantify accidents at work.

AIDS IN BARCELONA. PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

The appearance of AIDS has brought about a change in the constant tendency to improve on the part health in the city of Barcelona. AIDS is not just another illness, but is endemic, an infection which can be prevented and which for the moment no other palliative treatment exists. Its characteristics make AIDS a challenge to the health care system and to society as a whole. The data gathered through constant monitoring of the illness make its gravity clear and indicate its effects on certain sectors of society. Up to late1993, 3,369 cases of AIDS had been detected in Barcelona, 2,375 of them residents of the city, and 61% had died. New cases of AIDS increased spectacularly between 1984 (7 cases) and 1990 (427 cases), with a tendency to stabilise in recent years, whilst mortality

has increased. In Barcelona, the largest group infected with the immune deficiency virus are persons who take drugs intravenously, who make up 51% of the total. At present, it also affects men (83%) more than women (17%).

The article describes as the main objectives in the fight against AIDS the greater availability of information and the prevention and control of AIDS in the city, whilst also maintaining an active response and solidarity. The article also establishes a number of priorities for action on the part of municipal public services.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMMES, PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

The article cites the main publications issued in recent years by the Municipal of Health of Barcelona City Council, grouped by line of research. The Institute is not, in principle, a research agency, though it does carry out research activities and has also introduced numerous innovations in the field of public health. The research lines into which the publications are grouped are as follows: development of mortality indicators, development of the information system on drug addiction, health survey of Barcelona, indicators of health for small areas, perinatal mortality, congenital defects, other transmittable illnesses, monitoring and control of tuberculosis, monitoring of AIDS, immigration, road accidents and other external causes, health in the workplace, vaccination, EC initiatives, primary health care initiatives, promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools, diet and tooth decay amongst school-children, mutual aid and self-health care.

Monographs

WOMEN AND USE OF TIME IN BARCELONA

The integration of women into employment and the social changes occurring in this area have a very direct effect on the organisation of private life, where women continue to carry out most of the reproductive work, so that it is common to find women with two full-time jobs. Projects for changing times in other countries, particularly Italy, are aimed changing or reorganising the timetables of a city so as to make it easier to redistribute housework and to make carrying out such work more compatible with holding down a productive job. This study takes one of the most popular districts of Barcelona Sants, to analyse the opening times of shops and services and, qualitatively, the organisation of time by its inhabitants and the extent to which this supply and demand coincide.

SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS AMONG THE POPULATION OF THE CASC ANTIC DISTRICT OF BARCELONA

The Social Services Centre of Barcelona's Casc Antic quarter carried out research into the more or less formal relations established among the inhabitants of this, one of the most degraded districts of the city, in an attempt to solve the problems they face.

The study sprang from the realisation that many people using public services also received assistance both from individuals (local inhabitants and tradespeople) and civic and social organisations. The aim was to gather information on the resources of the community in solving its own problems, to find out in what form this social assistance was provided and how it was distributed amongst the inhabitants of the district and to analyse the function of the social organisations in order to enable the Social Services Centre to reinforce the work of these aid networks.

The study shows not only the extent of the social and economic need of the local inhabitants, but also the high degree of solidarity and mutual assistance which exists among them. Many of those interviewed (39.8%) revealed that they had experienced difficult times, many (42%) knew persons who had experienced difficult times, and more than half declared that they had helped needy people in their district. The help provided is usually material, but emotional support, orientation and information is also given. The study describes the profile of persons who spontaneously give help, among whom middle-aged women are prominent. The importance of the civic and social organisations and associations of the quarter is also made clear.

ON IMMIGRATION: FOREIGNERS AND NATURALISED CITIZENS OF BARCELONA

This monograph, produced by the Statistics Department of Barcelona City Council, makes a first analysis of the makeup and situation of foreigners living in the city and registered as such. For the purposes of the study, the concept of foreigner includes residents born outside Spain, independently of whether they hold Spanish nationality or another, and residents born in Spain but with another nationality, a group which makes up no more than 3.2% of the population of the city. As the study involves only registered citizens, those foreigners whose papers are not in order are not considered under the study, making impossible an overall analysis of the phenomenon of immigration.

The source of statistical information used was the 1991 Register of inhabitants of Barcelona, from which statistical analysis was made of the variables of place of birth and nationality, which were then related to the variables of sex, age, level of education and district of residence so as to arrive at a characteristic profile of each of the different groups analysed.

The study analyses, firstly, the sociodemographic characteristic of all foreigners and their distribution throughout the city. Next, data referring to residents with foreign nationality is analysed and, finally, indepth analysis is made of the characteristics of the most numerous groups of foreigners, according to place of origin by country and continent.

The group studied comes, basically, and in equal proportions, from Europe and America, specifically EC countries and Latin America, with the largest numbers coming from France and Argentina. Morocco occupies third place, accounting for 72% of all foreigners from Africa and among whose number there are a large number of naturalised citizens. The rest come from other European countries and Latin America and other countries among which the Philippines occupies a leading position.

INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PERSONS INTO EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The Municipal Institute for the Disabled of Barcelona City Council commissioned a study of the attitude of private enterprises regarding the hiring of persons with disabilities with the object, on the one hand, of detecting the degree of acceptance and nondiscrimination of companies and, on the other of describing the situation of disabled persons working for private enterprises.

The study was based on the completion of questionnaires and observation sheet at 734 companies. Analysis of the results obtained reveals that only 20.4% employ persons with some kind of disability, that 50.4% have not considered the possibility and that 19.8% have considered it but have not yet put it into practice. The posts held by disabled workers are mostly in administration and production. Companies report that their experience in integrating disabled persons into employment is highly positive and that they are satisfied with the productivity and social adaptation of such workers.

The study also detected the existence of architectural barriers both as regards accessibility from outside and internal mobility, which obstacles the full integration of disabled workers.

EVOLUTION OF THE MINIMUM REINTEGRATION WAGE IN BARCELONA

The Minimum Reintegration Wage, one of the most important instruments in the fight against poverty, was created in Catalonia in 1990. This programme has the mission of helping those without sufficient means to satisfy the basic needs of life in our society, and combines economic support with training, education and psychosocial assistance. The present article presents the results of the first few years' operation of this social service in the city of Barcelona, where from 1990 to late 1993 2,571 cases were opened. The article analyses the characteristics of applicants for assistance under the program-

me, family structure, level of studies, age and social and employment characteristics.

POVERTY IN BARCELONA

This study of poverty in Barcelona is the result of analysis of the data from the 848 questionnaires completed in the city of Barcelona out of the 3.000 administered over the period 1988-1989 in order to draw up the Map of Poverty in Catalonia in a project cofinanced by the Social Welfare Department of the Generalitat of Catalonia and the European Community as part of the EC programmes combatting poverty.

The report shows that average family income in the city of Barcelona (190.698 pesetas per month) is higher than that of Catalonia as a whole (168.458 pesetas per month) and the neighbouring cities. It also highlights the unequal distribution of income within the city itself, with 10% of families accounting for just 2.14% of total income, with average income of 41.621 pesetas per month, whilst the bestoff 10% of families account for 25.71%, with average monthly income of 495.041 pesetas.

The study describes the state of extreme necessity in which 9.6% of families in Barcelona live, with incomes below the poverty line. The characteristics of these families are described as regards the age, employment situation and level of education of the heads of family. Many of these are revealed to be unemployed or working in unskilled jobs, though there is also shown to be a significantly large group of elderly, retired persons.

References

GREEN BOOK ON EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY

The European Commission, through the Directorate General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, has drawn up a Green Book with the aim of stimulating debate on the role of social policy in the European Union after the Maastricht Treaty. This article summarises the main issues discussed in the Green Book, beginning with an analysis of the progress made by the European Community in terms of legislation, funding and transnational cooperation. The second part of the book deals with the principal challenges facing us in the future, of which some of the most important are rising unemployment, demographic change and the ageing of the population, increasing social marginalisation and poverty, and the inadequacy of public funds to meet new demands, particularly in the field of health care. The third section of the Green Book contains suggestions for successfully meeting this challenge, with proposals for improving the employment situation, investment in human resources, promotion of social dialogue, etc. At

the end of the book are 65 questions on the issues discussed in it, designed to foment and direct debate.

STUDIES ON YOUTH

A selection of monographic studies and magazine articles published during the course of 1993, all with the common theme of the young. The bibliography includes both theoretical works and others concerned with the health, work, education, social services and leisure of young people.

The experiences in youth matters of various cities or areas, especially in Europe, are also listed. The following databases were used to compile this bibliography: Acompline/Urbanline, Books in Print, Eric, Sociological Abstracts and ISBN. For Spain, besides ISBN, the catalogues of various libraries were also consulted.