

SUMMARY

SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA, 1996

This work aims to reveal social imbalances existing between the individuals living in the different territories of the city, imbalances referring to different spheres of social reality. To this end, 13 indicators have been used and an analysis is made of the 38 statistical zones into which the city of Barcelona is divided.

With the intention of creating a useful instrument for decision-making; planning, programming and intervention in Social Welfare matters, a synthetic index of social inequalities has been constructed which gathers and synthesises information referring to health, work and education. The results are expressed on an interval scale, which makes it possible to reveal imbalances and know their magnitude.

In the magazine *Barcelona Sociedad* number 2, there appeared an article entitled *Social Inequalities in the City of Barcelona*. The data which appeared at that moment referred to the year 1991. The present work is a replica of that study, and now the data refers to the year 1996, which enables us to observe the evolution of the indicators studied at that time.

THE MEASUREMENTS OF POVERTY IN BARCELONA

The study presented here aims to gather together and bring into contact the principal works which have recently analysed poverty in Barcelona, attempting to determine the main reasons for their different conclusions. In order to attain this objective, in the first place a brief definition is given of the term 'poverty' and it is related with the terms 'exclusion' and 'inequality', which, although referring to different realities, present, as we will see, broad areas of contact. In the second place, a commentary is made on the principal studies which have analysed the problems of poverty in the Barcelona area in order, in the third place, to acknowledge the lack of coherence of the results and to analyse the reasons which could explain them, which in our opinion are centred on the decisions referring to the method used to calculate different magnitudes, also an object of analysis. The results, for three different sources in the period 1985-1991, are between 9.6% and 17.9% of the households of Barcelona.

In the Conclusions section it is acknowledged that, while the study on poverty appears to be an objective that has been attained reasonably satisfactorily, the measurement of economic inequalities, and especially the identification of exclusion, are objectives which have still not been fully achieved in the Barcelona area, and emphasis is placed on the importance of the study of the proximity of these realities in order to gain adequate knowledge of them. Commenting on certain possible indicators may facilitate the task of identifying tendencies in the behaviour of inequalities, poverty and exclusion.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND MINIMUM INCOMES

This article presents some of the results of the ESPO study (Evaluation of Social Policy at the Local Urban Level: Income Support for the Able Bodied), performed with the collaboration of the 4th European Programme of Combat against Exclusion. The study analysed the minimum incomes of insertion in 14 European cities. The work presented here gives the data of these programmes in six European cities (Barcelona, Bremen, Göteborg, Lisbon, Milan and St. Etienne), with special emphasis on the differences regarding the amounts and duration of the subsidies, the age of the beneficiaries and the family structure. In general lines, and in spite of the different coverages of the programmes according to countries, significant differences are observed between the countries of the South and North of Europe, relating to the greater ease of access to the benefits and to the number of single-parent families making use of them (in the cities of the North), while in the cities of the South the coverage periods are longer.

THE HEALTH OF THE MARGINAL AND/OR VULNERABLE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF BARCELONA

The objective of the article is the description of the socio-demographic characteristics, the state of health and the use of services of the marginal and/or vulnerable population of Barcelona on the basis of a survey performed in 1997. Within the said sector of population, the following collectives were studied: single women with family burdens and socio-economic situation, prostitutes and transvestites working in the street, immigrants from developing countries and drug dependants.

The methodology of the study centres on the identification of the areas of the city inhabited by the members of the collectives studied and the performance of 2 or 3 interviews per area.

The principal conclusions of the article are: 1) the marginal and/or vulnerable population of Barcelona live in precarious conditions, in terms of both economic incomes and working and living conditions; 2) this population presents a perceived state of health and a higher number of disorders than the population of Barcelona in general; 3) the consumption of drugs (legal or otherwise) is high, particularly in the collectives of prostitutes/transvestites and in the drug dependants; 4) the marginal population makes frequent use of the social and health services.

THE HEALTH OF THE HOMELESS POPULATION IN THE CITY OF BARCELONA

The general objective of the study is to obtain better knowledge of the state of health of the homeless population of the city of Barcelona on the basis

of the description of its principal epidemiological and socio-sanitary characteristics, and to achieve an improvement in the situation of this collective on the basis of establishing proposals of action and/or mechanisms of coordination between the sectors of social attention and health care.

In order to materialise this study, an analysis was made of four aspects related with the health of the homeless: the perceived state of health, the incidence of tuberculosis, the consumption of drugs and mental disorders.

From the methodological point of view, surveys were performed throughout one year (June 97-98), with both people living in the street and people accommodated in specific care centres. It is calculated that the number of homeless in Barcelona oscillates between 800 and 1,500.

The results of the study demonstrate a precarious health situation of the homeless, which, according to the authors, is no more than the reflection of a much broader-based series of social problems which requires the collaboration of ample sectors of society and the design of integrated strategies embracing not only socio-sanitary policies but also employment, economic and housing policies.

THE PARTICIPATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES IN EUROPEAN CITIES

Within the framework of the European programme LIA for the promotion of the integration of immigrants in European cities, the Barcelona City Council commissioned from the Fundació CIREM a study on the mechanisms of participation available to the collectives of immigrants in 12 European cities.

The starting point for the report is the acknowledgement that European society, and particularly that of its cities, is more an more a mosaic of different cultures, as a result of migratory processes.

The problem of the integration of immigrants in the cities is a component of a broader process of social and territorial exclusion which also affects autochthonous populations resident in the urban centres.

The political integration of immigrants, materialised in the right to vote, is closely linked with nationality. In contrast, few European countries link the right to vote with residence, as a result of which the civic and democratic integration of immigrants has frequently been channelled through mechanisms of participation which have been materialised through participation councils which have a consultative and non-binding character for the municipal governments. Their principal objective is to foster the dialogue between the local authorities and the communities of immigrants, and their objectives vary in function of the social representativity of the collectives of immigrants, the latter being much more numerous in the countries of the North of Europe.

CITIES AND IMMIGRANTS: REFLECTIONS FROM BARCELONA

The objective of this article is a closer view of a possible model of foreign immigration in Barcelona, by way of the analysis of the policies applied in other European cities. The author first analyses the broadest European framework with its different policies, which oscillate between the application of measures of common law to more specific models for certain collectives, in order to make a closer study in the future of the models in operation in Southern Europe and in the city of Barcelona itself.

The article reviews the public policies addressed to the immigrant population in various cities (Birmingham, Frankfurt, Rotterdam, Milan, Marseilles, Barcelona), and attempts to establish on what bases the social services could be organised.

WOMEN IN THE 1998 BARCELONA JOB MARKET

This article presents a brief description of the current situation of women in the Barcelona job market, and the impact of the favourable economic development in 1998.

Barcelona women have dominated a widespread process of joining the job market in the last few years, which has placed the city midway between the Spanish and the European Union employment rates.

A good example of this is the fact that women signed nearly half of the contracts recorded in 1998; this rate is higher in the case of temporary contracts.

Between 1990 and 1998, the unemployment rate for women was reduced to half the men's, placing women's unemployment rate below 10%. This rate, and the degree of feminisation of unemployment in Barcelona, is less than those in Spain and in Catalonia as a whole.

Furthermore, it must be emphasised - as a qualitatively significant element - that the weight women shoulder in business companies is clearly higher than in Spain, and has tended to increase in the last few years.

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE MUNICIPAL HOSTEL IN CARRER VALLDONZELLA

The Municipal Hostel in Carrer Vallonzella has, for 50 years, been one of the municipal centres dedicated to caring for the homeless and socially excluded. At the end of 1998 it ceased to serve these functions, on being substituted by other, better-equipped centres. In this article, the author supplies data and information on the various phases of the Hostel, from the period of municipal charity to the development of the network of social services.

INFORMATION SOCIETY AND NEW FORMS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The article is a transcription of a speech given by the author in November 1998 during the Debate Meetings on the Integral Development Plan of the Social Services of the Barcelona City Council.

The author argues that in the new information society in which we live there are serious dangers of social exclusion caused by the shortfalls of considerable sectors of population in access to the new working conditions mediated by the conditions imposed by a society which will have its new paradigm in knowledge and not in the mere access to information.

The author sustains that social exclusion will be based on the problem of access to the information networks. Four causes would restrict this access. Firstly, the danger of extensive geographical zones being excluded from the networks of distribution of information, which are being established on the basis of criteria of profitability. Secondly, the danger of the obtention of information being guided exclusively by economic criteria. Thirdly, the risk of technological barriers hindering the generalisation of access to information. The fourth and final cause would be more related to cultural and intellectual capacity, as this is based on the capacity to transform information into knowledge.

COMBAT PROJECT: TELEWORKING AND DISABILITY

The Combat project carried out by the Barcelona Municipal Institute of People with Disability between the years 1994 and 1996 was included in the 4th framework programme of the European Union, specifically in the TIDE Initiative (Telematic Initiatives for the Disabled and Elderly).

The principal objective of the project was to overcome the exclusion from the labour market suffered by people with disabilities, by way of teleworking and access to the new information technologies. At the same time, the Combat project aimed to establish business structures, methodology and technical solutions which would join local workers with remote businesses, forming a single network.

The project was addressed to a subgroup of persons with disabilities of over thirty years of age, with greater difficulties in obtaining employment due to lack of practice and computer skills.

Within the framework of the project of a transnational character, specially-adapted and easy-to-use computer programmes accompanied by training courses were developed, which enabled the users to carry out tasks of telephonist, client attention service, reception of messages, control and management of diaries and introduction of data.

Initiatives such as Combat permit the opening of new employment markets for people with disabilities.

HOME AUTOMATION OF DWELLINGS FOR PEOPLE WITH SEVERELY REDUCED MOBILITY: THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE MODEL

The Municipal Institute for People with a Disability of Barcelona, in collaboration with Fundació ONCE (National Organisation of the Blind of Spain), has implemented a residential facility for people with a severe physical and/or visual disability. This initiative is a pilot experience in the application of new technologies to promote a more self-sufficient alternative of life for people who have heretofore been accommodated in conventional residential facilities.

The dwellings comprise six two-person apartments situated in the Olympic Village of Barcelona. They have been automated with a control system operated by a "smart card" endowed with various codes that allow activation of the apartments' operating devices.

The pilot project also includes the provision of basic personal and social support services, upkeep and cleaning. It represents the continuation and consolidation of the research in the field of the new technologies adapted to this area of attention.

HOME CARE SERVICE CHEQUE FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN SABADELL

We present here a local experience of a cheque for home care service for elderly people carried out in the city of Sabadell (Barcelona). The cheque is conceived as an instrument of management which is complementary to the public provision of home services (the majority in the city) and centred on providing a response to situations which require immediate and short-duration assistance for both the old person and the persons caring for him/her. It includes an economic contribution by the user (according to level of pension) and a subsidy from the administration and the companies.

It promotes the creation of employment (through the diffusion and visibility of the supply, intermediation in supply-and-demand and subsidising of the demand) and expands the social protection of dependency (universality, advice and professional attention, assistance in satisfaction of needs not previously protected).

The results are very positive: high degree of satisfaction of the users, coverage of needs and of new fringes of population, new framework of relations between administration and companies, generation of employment and advance in the culture of incorporating professional services in place of the exclusivity of women as carers or the use of the submerged economy.