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F O C U S

RIGHTS VIOLATION: CHILDHOOD

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SUMMARY

Introduction

1. Childhood and family members

2. Future effects

3. The efforts of Cáritas

4. Appendix

Introduction

Making a general assessment of the last decade in terms of social exclusion, we can see that our society requires further integration as there are areas of severe exclusion which is deeply embedded in the social structure. Delving deeper into the differences which exist between groups, we especially note the vulnerability of children and the poor reality experienced by them.

Firstly, we can assert that while childhood, like the general population, has improved its situation compared to 2013, there is still a long way to go to get to the position we were in before the crisis. On the other hand, the data, separated by age, places childhood in the most vulnerable group and households with children are more disadvantaged than the rest.

According to the latest EINSFOESSA¹ study in 2018, **23%**² of minors in our country are socially excluded, which implies that almost a quarter of our childhood is spent developing in a limiting context of lack or need. But if we focus our attention on the most critical situations, such as severe exclusion, the data reflects that it affects **13%** of childhoods.

1. Childhood and family members

We understand that to be able to correctly contextualise exclusion in childhood, it's necessary to broaden our gaze and provide an analysis of households in which exclusion exists, and in which it is growing and developing.

At first analysis we can state that having children in the home increases the risk of being excluded. In the current scenario, **21%** of households with children are excluded (**16%** in households without children), and this figure is increased to **28%** in regards to single parent households and **33%** for large families.

In the field of housing, the physical environment in which a child grows up shows a reality of shortages and unresolved needs. **13%** of children grow up in inadequate housing due to poor

¹ FOESSA Foundation's Survey on Integration and Social Needs

² The data in bold is listed by the Autonomous Communities in the attached tables.

infrastructure, lack of supplies, overcrowding, etc. And **6%** do so in unsafe housing, i.e. without legal status, with notice of neglect or in a violent home.

This idea is reinforced by the analysis of some indicators that refer to the deprivations experienced in the country's households. In all cases, the percentage of families with children in their care affected by these indicators is always higher compared to households without children. For example, **10%** of households with children don't have a sufficient diet due to financial difficulties, compared to **6%** in households without children. Similarly, regarding basic housing services, households with children who have had warnings about their electricity, water or telephone being cut off are more than double that of households without children; **12%** compared with **5%** of households without children.

Another aspect which shows substantial differences between households is how difficult it is for them to make ends meet. Almost a third of households with children (**29%**) express the great difficulties they have to make ends meet, compared to **21%** of households without children. These financial difficulties for the households are related to the extra costs involved in bringing up a child. In a report made by Save The Children, "The cost of raising a child"³, published in September 2018, claims that having children in the home increases your monthly expenses by between €480 and €700, depending on their age and the Autonomous Community they're being brought up in.

Thus, it seems evident that family economies suffer when bringing up a child and this is corroborated in the analysis of debt accumulation. **7%** of households with children have debts (rent, mortgage, supplies, taxes, loans, etc.) that they won't be able to pay off within the next year compared to **2%** of households without children.

In summary, we can conclude that, judging by the indicators analysed, the presence of children within a household tests the family's ability to remain in spaces of inclusion and integration, which should make us reflect on the efficiency of public policies in this area.

Faced with the reality of high percentages of social exclusion and childhood poverty, as well as the rest of the families in those households and in conclusion with previous reports and studies, the level of education is again presented as one of the main causes, since the likelihood of falling into this category is more than three times lower among the university educated population, than among the population without a proper education. Therefore, public investments in education are key to the construction of a cohesive society and, on the other hand, the data collected in 2018, according to which **11%** of households with children claim to have struggled finding the money to buy school materials, is very worrying.

2. Future effects

The document "Passing poverty through generations"⁴ from the FOESSA Foundation reveals the growing difficulties that a generation who has spent their childhood living in poverty has when reverting to this dynamic and moving up in socioeconomic status with relation to the previous generation; meaning that poverty is inherited. The recent FOESSA

³ <https://www.savethechildren.es/publicaciones/el-coste-de-la-crianza>

⁴ Flores, R. (Coord.) (2016). Passing poverty through generations: factors, processes, and suggestions for intervention. Madrid: FOESSA Foundation, Cáritas Española.

study draws a similar conclusion and deduces that the risk of poverty or exclusion in adults who suffered financial difficulties in their childhood is double that of the average population.

Therefore, bearing in mind that experiencing severe poverty during childhood multiplies the risk of suffering it in adulthood and that the exclusion figures of our current childhood are particularly high, we obtain an outlook that is certainly discouraging for the future of our society and the cohesion of our society that requires everyone's effort to prevent situations of poverty and exclusion from becoming severe.

Family has shown its importance and effectiveness as a key element of protection, especially during the latest crisis. Given that a more cohesive society is built on the double contribution of the family, through its production work and its reproductive effort, the clear lack of support for the family from social policies is worrying.

3. The efforts of Cáritas

According to the FOESSA 2018 study, 926,000 households received some type of support from Cáritas. Within these, more than half of the households **(52%)** had a child living there.

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE:

All of the information published is based on the Foessa 2018 Foundation's Survey on Integration and Social Needs, and is based on a global sample of 11,655 households and 29,953 people, which means a margin of error of less than 1%. The sample of the Autonomous Communities is made up of a minimum of 650 households and a minimum of 1,500 people, which means maximum margin of error of 5.5%.

4. Appendixes

Table 1. Children in a situation of exclusion according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Children in exclusion</i>	<i>Children in severe exclusion</i>
<i>Canary Islands</i>	30%	16%
<i>Aragon</i>	28%	16%
<i>Balearic Islands</i>	27%	11%
<i>Valencian Community</i>	27%	16%
<i>Galicia</i>	26%	16%
<i>Extremadura</i>	26%	12%
<i>Andalusia</i>	24%	13%
<i>Basque Country</i>	23%	13%
<i>Region of Murcia</i>	22%	13%
<i>Navarre</i>	22%	9%
<i>Catalonia</i>	22%	13%
<i>Castile and León</i>	21%	16%
<i>Community of Madrid</i>	21%	9%
<i>La Rioja</i>	20%	10%
<i>Castilla-La Mancha</i>	19%	10%
<i>Asturias</i>	15%	10%
<i>Cantabria</i>	14%	8%
<i>The whole of Spain</i>	23%	13%

Table 2. Different types of households and exclusion according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Households with children in exclusion</i>	<i>Households without children in exclusion</i>	<i>Single parent households in exclusion</i>	<i>Large families in exclusion</i>
Canary Islands	28%	28%	51%	38%
Balearic Islands	26%	22%	38%	30%
Extremadura	26%	19%	40%	29%
Region of Murcia	19%	20%	29%	32%
Valencian Community	23%	17%	33%	41%
Catalonia	19%	17%	26%	41%
Andalusia	23%	15%	26%	18%
Galicia	23%	16%	23%	20%
Castile and León	16%	16%	16%	46%
Castilla-La Mancha	17%	15%	31%	26%
Asturias	13%	16%	20%	33%
Navarre	22%	11%	18%	30%
Community of Madrid	19%	13%	27%	45%
Basque Country	22%	12%	21%	21%
Aragon	23%	10%	25%	43%
Cantabria	12%	12%	25%	25%
La Rioja	17%	9%	14%	20%
The whole of Spain	21%	16%	28%	33%

Table 3. Children who live in unsafe or inadequate housing according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Children in unsafe housing</i>	<i>Children in inadequate housing</i>
Galicia	17%	9%
Castile and León	13%	10%
Valencian Community	12%	14%
Region of Murcia	10%	18%
Canary Islands	10%	13%
Balearic Islands	9%	19%
Asturias	9%	16%
Navarre	7%	17%
Cantabria	7%	14%
La Rioja	7%	17%
Extremadura	6%	11%
Castilla-La Mancha	6%	10%
Catalonia	5%	27%
Community of Madrid	5%	26%
Andalusia	4%	9%
Aragon	4%	23%
Basque Country	3%	27%
The whole of Spain	7%	18%

Table 4. Effects of financial difficulties on households according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Inadequate diet</i>		<i>Warning for cutting off of supplies</i>		<i>The difficulty for households with children to make ends meet</i>
	<i>Households with children</i>	<i>Households without children</i>	<i>Households with children</i>	<i>Households without children</i>	
<i>Basque Country</i>	17%	5%	9%	3%	21%
<i>Valencian Community</i>	17%	9%	20%	10%	35%
<i>Castilla-La Mancha</i>	15%	7%	12%	4%	26%
<i>Community of Madrid</i>	12%	4%	13%	4%	27%
<i>Navarre</i>	12%	5%	8%	4%	33%
<i>Canary Islands</i>	11%	11%	23%	15%	38%
<i>Catalonia</i>	11%	8%	16%	5%	28%
<i>La Rioja</i>	11%	5%	6%	2%	17%
<i>Castile and León</i>	10%	4%	8%	2%	24%
<i>Extremadura</i>	10%	6%	16%	6%	38%
<i>Balearic Islands</i>	9%	8%	13%	8%	31%
<i>Region of Murcia</i>	8%	7%	15%	9%	33%
<i>Andalusia</i>	7%	8%	6%	3%	32%
<i>Asturias</i>	6%	6%	11%	5%	25%
<i>Cantabria</i>	5%	4%	7%	3%	10%
<i>Aragon</i>	5%	4%	9%	2%	22%
<i>Galicia</i>	3%	3%	8%	4%	18%
<i>The whole of Spain</i>	11%	7%	13%	5%	29%

Table 5. Amount of households with accumulated debts according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Households with children</i>	<i>Households without children</i>
<i>Castile and León</i>	12%	2%
<i>Extremadura</i>	11%	2%
<i>Valencian Community</i>	11%	3%
<i>Region of Murcia</i>	10%	4%
<i>Balearic Islands</i>	9%	5%
<i>Community of Madrid</i>	9%	2%
<i>Catalonia</i>	9%	3%
<i>Canary Islands</i>	7%	6%
<i>Asturias</i>	6%	2%
<i>Castilla-La Mancha</i>	5%	2%
<i>Navarre</i>	4%	1%
<i>Basque Country</i>	4%	2%
<i>Galicia</i>	4%	1%
<i>Aragon</i>	3%	0%
<i>Andalusia</i>	3%	1%
<i>Cantabria</i>	2%	1%
<i>La Rioja</i>	--	--
<i>The whole of Spain</i>	7%	2%

Table 6. Indicators of exclusion and education according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Percentage of people in social exclusion without compulsory schooling</i>	<i>Percentage of people in social exclusion with University degrees</i>	<i>The divide in exclusion according to studies⁵</i>	<i>Households with difficulties finding the money to pay for school materials</i>
Canary Islands	39%	14%	2.8	18%
Region of Murcia	28%	5%	6.2	16%
Catalonia	28%	6%	4.3	11%
Castile and León	28%	7%	4.3	9%
Balearic Islands	28%	8%	3.4	19%
Andalusia	27%	7%	3.6	9%
La Rioja	27%	3%	9.2	11%
Valencian Community	26%	9%	2.8	22%
Castilla-La Mancha	24%	9%	2.5	13%
Extremadura	23%	16%	1.5	19%
Asturias	23%	8%	2.8	11%
Navarre	23%	7%	3.5	6%
Aragon	23%	11%	2.0	7%
Community of Madrid	22%	5%	4.1	6%
Galicia	20%	10%	2.0	5%
Cantabria	20%	8%	2.5	2%
Basque Country	16%	11%	1.4	17%
The whole of Spain	26%	8%	3.3	12%

⁵ The divide in exclusion between people without obligatory schooling and people with university degrees.

Table 7. The efforts of Cáritas to help families with children according to the Autonomous Communities

<i>Autonomous Communities</i>	<i>Families with children cared for by Cáritas</i>
Region of Murcia	73%
Community of Madrid	72%
Aragon	71%
Castile and León	69%
La Rioja	67%
Cantabria	60%
Catalonia	57%
Asturias	50%
Navarre	50%
Balearic Islands	48%
Valencian Community	47%
Castilla-La Mancha	46%
Basque Country	44%
Andalusia	42%
Galicia	40%
Canary Islands	39%
Extremadura	38%
The whole of Spain	53%