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Analysis of the vicious circle of poverty and social exclusion of the gypsy woman in the neighbourhood of Los Rosales, Murcia

Ana Ortuño García* & Práxedes Muñoz Sánchez

UCAM Catholic University of Saint Antonio in Murcia, Campus de los Jerónimos, 135, Guadalupe, Murcia. 30107. Spain.

Abstract

Poverty and social exclusion circle theory, based on the reproduction of causes and effects of poverty and social exclusion, above all, of the gypsy woman (Caselles, 2008), leads us to approach, taking histories of life as starting point, the reality of three gypsy women who belong to the same family and from distinct generations resident in the neighbourhood of Los Rosales, in El Palmar (Murcia), in order to know to what extent the theory is real, and if it was, to what level is presented and how can be fought from quotidian routine.

The reality of these women is presented with the aim of knowing and letting know not only the problems of a badly structured neighbourhood, but also the community and individual capacities and strengths of the neighbourhood from the gypsy woman point of view.

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Keywords: Social Exclusion; Vicious Circle; Poverty; Gypsy Woman

1. Introduction

The present research aims to deepen the social, family and community reality of three gypsy women in the neighbourhood of Los Rosales, El Palmar, Murcia. The aim is to know and analyse the experiences and anxieties of these three gypsy women who belong to the same family from distinct generations.

* Corresponding author. *E-mail address:* aortuno@ucam.edu

Poverty and social exclusion circle theory, based on the dynamics of reproduction of causes and effects of poverty and social exclusion, above all, of the gypsy woman (Caselles, 2008), leads us to approach the reality of these women in order to know to what extent the theory is real, and if it was, to what level is presented and how can be fought.

Thus, in doing so, we will start analysing concepts such as poverty and social exclusion, their relationship and their differences. Authors like Tezanos (1999) help us to understand the complexity of these terms, since we do not deal with unique and static states, but dynamic and multidimensional processes. Equally, it is important to know the different dimensions of the study, some of them will be object of study of this research.

Although the analysis focuses on a concrete neighbourhood, we consider necessary to present a real state of poverty and social exclusion, which, thanks to different studies, quite recent as EAPN or the fourth FOESSA Report, with its figures, percentages and qualitative analysis, leads us to approach the actual Spanish situation. As we will see, these figures show a growth of the percentage of people who, nowadays, live, not only at risk of poverty and social exclusion or suffer social exclusion, but also the number of people who live in a state of severe poverty and social exclusion including gypsy population and women as one of the most affected groups, together with immigrants and children.

Through the gypsy population and specifically gypsy women, we will know, not only quantitative information about the situation of social exclusion which they are living long time ago (centuries), but also, thanks to contributions of FSG (2000, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2014 and 2015) or authors like Caselles (2008), we will know what dimensions are the most suffered and the dynamics of reproduction of habits, conducts and capacities which lead them to feel immersed in what is called the circle of poverty and inheritance of social exclusion.

We stand out Pilar Monreal's study (2014) about the culture of poverty and neighbourhoods of gypsy population, it is necessary to get out of the concept of poverty: "Through ethnography and critical anthropologic theory, we can conceive poor people beyond a population to intervene and protect, victims who need help, in order to see them as human beings capable of fighting and creating their history" (p. 179).

Following, we will get into the reality of the three gypsy women, focusing the comparative and analysis on a series of dimensions considered important to research, allowing thus to identify their lacks and needs, together with the causes and consequences of the realities they live, equally gathering, the possible generalities of the neighbourhood of Los Rosales.

2. Poverty and social exclusion around the vicious circle of poverty.

The relationship between poverty and social exclusion exists, since probably, one leads to the other and vice versa, but nevertheless they are not equal.

Tezanos (1999), with the help of the following table, shows us the differences between poverty and social exclusion using separate items, which leads us to acknowledge the most important features of the distinction between poverty and social exclusion.

Table 1. Poverty and social exclusion distinction features Source: Tezanos (1999, p. 32)

Distinction features	Poverty	Social Exclusion
Situation	It is a state	It is a process
Basic character	Personal	Structural
Affected subjects	Individuals	Social groups
Dimension	One-dimensional (economic)	Multidimensional (labour, economic, social, cultural)
Historic field	Industrial and traditional societies	Post-industrial societies and/or technologically advanced
Analytic approach applicable	Deviation sociology	Conflict sociology
Fundamental variables	Cultural and economic	Labour
Associated social trends	Impoverishment	Social dualization
Additional risks	Social marginalization	Social links crisis

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