THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF THE ROMA POPULATION. THE SPANISH CASE

Prof. PhD. CARMEN RONCAL
Social Work and Social Services Department
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
Complutense University of Madrid
THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF THE ROMA POPULATION. THE SPANISH CASE

Contents:

1. The historical context of the Roma population in Europe and Spain
2. Equal opportunities and social integration
3. Roma populations and Social intervention
4. Principles and axes of social intervention.
The history of the Roma people is the story of a journey more than 1,000 years ago that began in India (Punjab) to the West.

It is the story of a nomadic people, persecuted, despised, but above all, very unknown.

They entered Europe around the fourteenth century.
In the middle 14th century, Roma settlements were detecting on almost all Mediterranean islands.

The first European territory that the Roma set foot was Corfu, fourteenth century.

There are references in the fifteenth century of this population throughout Europe.

They lived on begging, metalwork, music, and dance, etc.
Roma arrived in the Iberian Peninsula is in the fifteenth century, on January 12, 1425. It demonstrates the Roma presence in Spain for centuries.
The Holocaust marks this century.

On August 2 of 1944, more than half a million Roma were gassed and incinerated at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

It is estimated that between 70% and 80% was exterminating.

Forgetfulness begins.
Among the 28 States of the European Union, there are around 6-8 million Roma.

It is the most ethnic minority in Europe.

The largest concentration is in Central and Eastern Europe.

Spain does not ask about ethnicity in censuses, which makes it impossible to quantify the number of Roma inhabitants.

Estimate that Spain lives around 725,000 Roma.
PERCENTAGE OF ROMA POPULATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION - 2020

Note: EU, 2020
The Roma population in Spain - Institutional response

- The institutional response to the social risk situation of the Roma population has had several sources in Spain.
- In the middle of the twentieth century, means of the Catholic Church.
- Since the 1980s, planned public actions for the inclusion of this population.
- Roma Development Program (1989).
- National Plans for social inclusion (preferential Roma).
Spain, follow national and European guidelines for the Roma social inclusion.

The European strategies provides approaches, objectives, and work areas for all States Members.

It is a common framework for development measures and policies that fight against poverty and exclusion.

With this framework Spain has the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of the Roma Population (2012-2020)
The Roma community in Spain

- Roma is around 725,000 people.
- In Madrid, about 70,000
- 76% of families below the poverty line.
- 54% in severe exclusion.
- 64% school failure.
- Rate unemployment: 17 times more than the whole population.
- More than 9,000 Roma families live in substandard housing.

The negative social image that has the Roma increase the social discrimination. Currently, they have a process of significant social change, and have relevant progress in living conditions and their social integration.
The Roma community in Spain

The Spanish government, on April 8, 2018, recognized the symbols of the Roma People

The flag
The anthem
International day

But we do not know its history. Why?
Samuel´s Question

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpA1HQO5PxQ
Equality means that each person has the same value within society, recognizing their differences and avoiding all kinds of discrimination.

From the French Revolution, equality, together with freedom and fraternity, become an excellent social ideal.

Equality before the law means that legal rules are general and apply to all sectors of society. It includes political and financial impulse.
The current Spanish Constitution (1987) recognize equality before the law, without any discrimination. It is up to the public authorities to promote the conditions for the freedom and equality of individuals.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union also is a framework for equal opportunities and social integration.
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Roma video - Equal opportunities

The situation of the Spanish Roma population has changed more in the last thirty years than in the previous five centuries; this is due to:

- To improve the living conditions of the whole of the citizenship.
- Roma has benefited from the generalization and universalization of Welfare State measures.
Factors that are contributing to the change of the Roma population to their social integration process.

a) **The democratization of Spanish society.** The new Spanish Constitution (1978) considered the Roma as full citizens.

a) **Improvement of living standards** and socio-economic progress of the country.

The historical vision of the integration process
Historical vision of the integration process

c) The universalization of social welfare policies. Under a cooperative system of contributions in Spain that include:

- The health system
- Unemployment
- Pensions
- Social services
- Minimum income
- System for personal autonomy and care for dependent
The historical vision of the integration process

d) The implementation of specific programs addresses to Roma population in the whole country, include:

- **Housing access.** Eradication of shantytown.
- **Education.** Creation of "bridge schools" such a first step in the schooling of those Roma children who had never accessed school. In addition, academic support and follow-up programs.
- **Employment.** Specific job training programs (like Fundación Secretariado Gitano - ACCEDER program).
SOCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

The model of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG)

FSG is a non-profit organization (NGO) that operates in 14 Autonomous Communities and has 64 social offices throughout the country and Europe.

It provides services for the integral development of the Roma population in Spain and Europe.
The experience of this NGO allows it to carry out some methodological orientations in social intervention with the Roma population. Considered:

- **Personal attention approach.** Social, educational, and labor insertion individual itineraries.

- **Comprehensive approach and attention in standardized services.** Adaptation of general and specialized services (adapted, but not segregated).
SOCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES

FSG methodological approach

- **Multidimensional approach**: integrating the perspective social and economic perspective.

- **Multi-regional approach**: combine the European, State, Autonomic, and Local perspective.

- **An approach oriented to effectiveness**: actions oriented to results, evaluated and contrasted through the evolution processes of the Roma participants in these actions.
**SOCIAL INTERVENTION STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES**

**FSG methodological approach**

- **Concertation and partnership.** The sum of different economic and social actors working on shared projects. Exceptional attention to NGOs, integrate by Roma and other organizations, can direct their favor.

- **Encouraging participation in decision-making.** Involving the Roma, empowering them to participate, and giving them a protagonist role.
Integrality. Focused on all dimensions that affect them such as employment, health, housing, education, etc., and directed to the whole Roma community.

Standardization: use of standardized services for all citizens.

Roma participation: they must have an active role in their integration process.

Interculturality. To respect their cultural characteristics and their diversity that exists in this community.

PRINCIPLES AND AXES OF SOCIAL INTERVENTION

- **Community development.** Involves Roma in the progress of the territory in which they live.

- **Equal opportunities.** To promote actions that facilitate reach of the standards of the majority population in employment, education, housing, health, cultural promotion, etc.
MAIN AXES OF INTERVENTION

To fight social deficiencies, poverty, and inequality

SOCIAL RIGHTS ACCESS POLICIES
- Employment
- Education
- Health
- Housing

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

CULTURAL RECOGNITION
- Insufficient cultural recognition. Identity based on resistance
- Cultural traits
- Cultural strategies

EQUAL TREATMENT AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

EQUALITY POLICIES
- Discrimination/racism
- Social rejection
- Prejudices and stereotypes
- Gender equality

CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION
- Under-guaranteed rights
- Social participation
The FSG is committed to improving the employability of the Roma community as a means of social inclusion through its ACCEDER program.

ACCEDER is the training and employment program of the Fundación Secretariado Gitano that promotes the incorporation of the Roma population into the labor market for their social inclusion.

It is a comprehensive response to the situation of exclusion from the labor market of the Roma, focusing on:
MAIN AXES OF INTERVENTION

To faite social deficiencies, poverty and inequality

Employment

❖ The professions with high demand, for employed by others.
❖ Approach the general services of training and employment of unemployed Roma.
❖ Sensibilization again prejudices and discriminatory practices of Roma are victims and the progressive improvement of their social image.
❖ To create active employment policies specific to the Roma population.
Employment

20 YEARS

> acceder

promoting employment for the Roma population

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJrGTapDZYM
Education is the best way for social change. Break the cycle of poverty to achieve social inclusion.

Since always, these organizations have created education programs to help close the education gap with support programs at all stages.

Since 2009 this program has been financed by the European Social Fund for 14 Autonomous Communities, and 64 cities in Spain.

The PROMOCIONA Program aims to facilitate young Roma to complete Compulsory Secondary Education and continue to study.
To fight social deficiencies, poverty and inequality

**Education**

- It personalized educational guidance itineraries develop for students.
- Give educational support actions out outside school hours, in school centers, or at the Foundation's classrooms.
- The family and the educational center are involved.
- At the end of their studies, successful students are motivated to become educational references in their community, a way of social participation.
Promociona
To the academic success of the Roma community

Educational support and guidance programme for Roma youth and their families

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-gbuSRG1mk
The COVID-19 show pre-existing social and economic inequalities in Spain, special Roma population.

This population has a general deficit level of health as well as their care and prevention habits.

It surveying 11.000 Roma in 14 Autonomous Communities and 68 cities.

This information was communicated to the relevant authorities, helping them to address the specific needs of Roma in Spain during the pandemic.
The survey provides data on five areas:

- Basic needs situation
- Health situation
- Employment situation
- Educational situation of minors
- Perception of discrimination situations
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 ON ROMA POPULATION

Basic needs results

More than 40% of respondents had food access issues. Families received help from the extended family or neighborhood.

30% of social entities
23% From City Council

(53,2%) need support from your local social services. Of this, 61.2% people who need support, are not receiving it.

34% had difficulty paying for electricity, 31% water, 25,6% rent, and 25% gas.
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 ON ROMA POPULATION

Health situation results

In the first months of confinement, there was a low incidence of contagion and deaths.

1.53% developed symptoms
1% confirmed COVID-19, more women than men.

25% had difficulty following protective measures: gloves and masks (no money)

The biggest concern: the overcrowding and economic problems.
They couldn't buy medicine.
In confinement, the employment situation of two-thirds of Roma has worsened.

More than a third have lost their jobs, another third have included in a Temporary Employment Regulation Record (ERTE).

Of those who worked at 12%, they reduced the day. Only 24% have not changed the situation.

58% unemployed people who do not charge any benefit and allow a situation of unprotection now.
INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 ON ROMA POPULATION

Educational situation of minors

30% could not perform the homework because they did not have adequate equipment and school supplies.

They lack computers; 40% of students do not have access to the internet or have limited data.

The 15% even if they have resources, do not move forward because they do not understand the subjects.

Just a half of the students have support from their families in developing these tasks.
37% believe they are being stigmatized, offering a hostile and unfair image of the Roma community in the context of the Covid-19 crisis.

6.3% of respondents claim to have experienced one or more cases of discrimination, insult, or assault as a Roma.
A new generation - Z

https://youtu.be/scCyf-LaC-g
Thank you very much

Your atención!

cmroncal@ucm.es