

# **The Relationship between Social Exclusion and Spatial Segregation in urbanised modern Societies**

Prof. Dr. Dr. Detlef Baum

University of Applied Science Koblenz

Urban Research and Community Studies

# Questions

- Aspects and reasons for the connection between spatial segregation and social exclusion
- Approaches of Social Work which are able to ensure identity and to integrate people in a community

# Spatial Segregation leads to two interdependent processes

- Spatial Segregation in disadvantaged quarters is the main reason for social exclusion and in connection with poverty, low education and low-paid jobs spatial segregation leads to an exclusion from an average life-style.
- The life-style in such quarters is a factor of stabilising the life conditions, because people are sure that they can fulfil the expectations and norms there.

# Four central premisses of the Chicago School

- In a social space the population is spread over the space according to certain conditions or patterns of distribution.
- The spatial distribution of a population reflects the social stratification of a society in a certain space.
- Spaces must be taken in possession by the people acting there, before they become a social context in which people live and their life is influenced by the space.
- The space itself produces privileges and deprivations or problems by his structure regarding the arrangement and the quality of the buildings, the streets, the places etc., by its varied character, his borders and crossings to other quarters.

# Social Exclusion

- Social exclusion means a process by which individuals or groups are losing objective opportunities to participate on processes of communication and social processes,
  - which have a very high meaning for gaining behaviour goals,
  - which secure their social integration by interaction, social security and material reproduction of life,
  - which ensure their identity and their psycho-social balance regulation.
- People are disintegrated, if they cannot fulfil the expectations of the society on the level of their psycho-social competences and their structural conditions of life and the feel that.
- They are excluded, when they feel, that they have no meaning for others in interactions, that they are not needed on the level of their behaviour. They have no possibility to present their identity and to ensure it.

# Key of the process of social exclusion

- as a relationship between the **structural frame** of conditions for integration and
- the **definition or evaluation** of a certain status of a space by the municipal society
- The **frame for social integration** is the **municipal society**, the local life context, which shapes the general social conditions for the integration in a society.

# Who excludes?

- The social institutions, which refuse the access to it,
- the urban publicity, which expect a specific behaviour, to which people have no access,
- organisations and associations to which somebody has only an access, when he/she fulfils specific conditions.
- the reputation of the address, which has the effect of discretisation, partly based on pre-justices,
- the population of a city, which has no contact with these groups, mostly they even don't know something about these groups.

# Spatial Segregation

- Spatial segregation means a process of spatial distribution of the population
- because of the socio-economic principles of the access to chances and opportunities,
- because of the mechanism of the free housing market,
- or because of political decisions by the city-administration.

# The consequences of spatial segregation

- Psycho-social exclusion from communication processes, interactions, participation through discrimination or by losing the status or reputation.
- Exclusion from constitutional ideas of values and norms, from principles of integration or from ideas, how members of societies should be integrated.
- Exclusion from social contexts of action, in which they ensure their identity or their status as a condition of integration. They should be integrated in the working market and in the markets of consumption and in the housing market.
- Exclusion from social supports and social security.

# What is the challenge for social policy and social work?

- Social work is a part of social policy.
- The principles of social policy are solidarity, justice and subsidiarity.
- Social policy must realise a frame of social life conditions, within the individuals have the opportunities to fulfil social expectations, demands and interests, which guarantee a good life.
- The responsibility of the community is to influence the conditions of residence and generally life conditions directly in residential areas.
- The negative consequences of spatial segregation for the concerned people, above all for children and kids must be abolished.
- An insufficient infrastructure and an insufficient urban structure lead to deprivation of the inhabitants of deprived residential areas.
- In this case community have a responsibility to intervene by social policy.

# Community Work

- Community work is an approach, which works not on the base of individual helps and supports, but on the base of strengthening the people in their identity, their competences and their self-consciousness in the context of their life world.
- The people must get the feeling, that they are able to influence the political decisions in questions of their own life and that they are able to change und to improve their life conditions.

# community work needs a strategy of interference.

- Social work has to fight for better life conditions of their clients - not only by providing them with services but by supporting them in improving their objective life world on a political level.
- Social work must interfere in the shaping of an integrative city development policy, which shapes the social context of life in the whole city.