

Israel Journal of  
**SOCIAL POLICY**



Published by

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF ISRAEL

September 2021

No. 114

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Israel (Issi) Doron, *Editor in chief*

Nitsa (Kaliner) Kasir, *Chairman*

Suliman Abu Bader

Leah Achdut

Jon Anson

Liat Ayalon

Orly Benjamin

Nissim Cohen

Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui

John Gal

Jochanan Stessman

Aviad Tur-Sinai

*Managing Editor:* Maya Orev-Attal

*Typesetting:* Onit Computer Services Ltd.

## Contents

**Media's share in the perception of danger of the mentally ill**

Yakov Yosef Teichman

**Fertility decline in Negev Bedouin society in the 21st century**

Abu-Srihan Naser and Anson Jon

**Poverty and employment: employment patterns among people living in poverty who receive services from social services departments**

Aila Brand Levi, Miki Malul , Netta Achdut and Michal Krumer-Nevo

**Taking a parental look at children with disabilities – critical reading of parents' legal stand**

Marva Ish-Am

**Multifaceted volunteering: the volunteering experience in the first wave of the Corona pandemic in light of volunteering patterns**

Liat Kulik , Ronit Bar and Liora Arnon

**Public attitudes in Israel toward privatization of social services and governmental infrastructures**

Baruch Levi and Amos Zehavi

**Hybrid organizational culture: the case of social enterprises**

Milana Yaari, Edith Blit-Cohen<sup>1</sup> and Rivka Savaya



## Summaries of the main articles



## Media's share in the perception of danger of the mentally ill

*Yakov Yosef Teichman*<sup>1</sup>

It is assumed commonly that there is a significant statistical relationship between danger and psychiatric diagnosis, this assumption is often used by various professionals (e.g. judges, lawyers, psychiatrists, social workers and other workers from paramedical professions) when making decisions about a person diagnosed with mental illness. However, the findings of various studies indicate that no significant statistical relationship necessarily exists between danger and psychiatric diagnosis. On the contrary, quite a few studies indicate that risk assessors are wrong in a large proportion of cases when diagnosing people suspected of being mentally ill.

In this opinion paper I seek to argue that the media contributes, among other things, to the dissemination of the stereotypical perception regarding the dangerousness of people diagnosed as mentally ill. This view is also supported by research findings that indicate that the media has a tendency to spread the message about the dangers of those diagnosed with mental illness.

## Fertility decline in Negev Bedouin society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

*Abu-Srihan Naser*<sup>2</sup> and *Anson Jon*<sup>3</sup>

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Bedouin fertility reached over 10 children per woman, one of the highest levels ever recorded in human history. In the first decade of the present century, fertility declined by almost 50% and has since stabilised. In this article we examine this Reproductive Revolution

---

1 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
2 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
3 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Emeritus)

and consider how fertility decline is related to other social changes: the rise in living standards, education and paid work, especially for women; the move to urban dwelling, beside the continuation of life in the unrecognised villages, and the infiltration of new aspirations and life styles, but also the reality of living on the margins of Israeli society and the ongoing confrontations with the institutions of the Jewish State.

In 1948, Bedouin society lost almost 90% of its population and those who remained were transferred to the arid lands of the Eastern Negev. The result was the total destruction of the Bedouin economy, which had developed during the Mandate period, and of the network of family relations. The rebuilding took place under circumstances of irregular and insufficient income, dependence on the State coupled with continuing confrontations and competition between the tribes and the families. Under these conditions, women and their fertility became a central resource in the struggle for survival. In the present century, change accelerated: a growing number of people moved to the urban settlements and a growing number of men and women took up higher education and began to work in the fields of education, welfare, medicine and law. The birth-rate suddenly dropped dramatically but this drop halted after a decade.

Our aim is to identify who led the drop in fertility and what stopped its continuation? The analysis is based on data from the survey conducted by the Galilee Society in 2007, a socio-economic survey of the Arab population in Israel, from which we focussed on 491 married women aged 18 to 52 from the towns and unrecognised villages located in the Negev. Controlling for age, the main effects were post-secondary education, confrontations with the State (negative) and standards of living (positive). These effects changed over the generations and brought about a change in the age at marriage and at first birth, which are the proximate, but not the only, determinants of the number of children born.

The dramatic decline in the birth rates in Bedouin society in the Negev in the past two decades is part of a comprehensive process of change, a Reproductive Revolution, which includes changes in the way of life, in patriarchal relations in the family, in values and in traditional patterns of behaviour. The steep decline, followed by stabilisation at a level of fertility which is high relative to that of the rest of Israeli society, reflects these changes but also their complexity.



## Poverty and employment: employment patterns among people living in poverty who receive services from social services departments

*Aila Brand Levi<sup>1</sup>, Miki Malul<sup>2</sup>, Netta Achdut<sup>3</sup> and Michal Krumer-Nevo<sup>3</sup>*

This study examines the employment status of people living in poverty who use the services of social services departments. Additionally, the study examines the role of sociodemographic characteristics, human capital indicators, and health condition in explaining the participants' employment patterns and their subjective perception regarding their employment status. Using a mixed methods approach, 166 service users were phone interviewed at two points of time: from June to October 2016 and one year later, from June to November 2017. The quantitative findings indicated that over 40% had been employed during both time periods, one third had not been employed at all, and approximately one quarter had moved between employment and unemployment. Greater labor force attachment was associated with the number of children in the household, country of birth, older age, having vocational training, absence of intergenerational distress, and better health condition. Most of the participants, at both measurements points, were employed at part-time jobs, while this rate slightly decreased from the first measurement point to the second. Being a man, older and living with a partner were associated with the scope of employment. The qualitative findings showed that the participants' employment preferences were the product of a broad set of considerations. Thus, many participants felt trapped in part-time jobs, with no better alternative. Recommendations for policy and further research are discussed.

- 
- 1 Social Affairs and Social Services, the Israeli Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences
  - 2 Department of Public Policy and Administration, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
  - 3 Spitzer Department of Social Work, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

## Taking a parental look at children with disabilities – critical reading on parents' legal stand

*Marva Ish-Am*<sup>1</sup>

This paper will suggest a new socio-legal view on the stand of parent of children with disabilities in Israel, focusing on unveiling the lack of a substantial legal view and rights discourse, and the demand to fill in the blanks. This argument will be presented through critical reading into central provisions enacted in the Israeli regulations of the National Insurance Law of 2010, which is the main legal source for economic support for parents of children with disabilities, and into rulings by Israeli courts touching on some main criteria for this support. My underlying assumption is that parents of children with disabilities are a group entitled to a designated legal status, and are not recognized as such due to negative social construction of disability and the power that lies in economic, political and legal traditions, which I ask to expose to criticism.

Traditional perception of disability as inherent human flaw and the medical-pathological approach to disability, manifest what I recognize as an “instrumental approach” to parents of children with disabilities, thus positioning the parents solely as a mean of mediating and facilitating rights and benefits for their children. I propose the need to attend to the legal status of parents, and demand the necessary legal change in regulations, interpretation, assumptions and discourse to allow the recognition of their entitlement to rights beyond the role of facilitators for their children, and articulating new legal criteria to support it. Disability studies and the social model uncovered disability as the life experience constructed by stigma, social exclusion and inaccessible public space. Through the social model, I will present critical analysis of National Insurance regulations and court rulings on disabled child allowance, exposing them as deficient mechanisms with respect to the status and rights of the parents. As such, these mechanisms take part in preserving stigma and negative social and legal views of disability and of disabled children's parents.

---

1 Law Faculty, Haifa University

## Multifaceted volunteering: the volunteering experience in the first wave of the Corona pandemic in light of volunteering patterns

*Liat Kulik<sup>1</sup>, Ronit Bar<sup>2</sup> and Liora Arnon<sup>3</sup>*

The goal of the present study was to test differences in the volunteering experience during the Corona pandemic according to three volunteering patterns: traditional volunteering that takes place mainly face-to-face, virtual volunteering that occurs through digital means and hybrid volunteering that combines virtual and traditional volunteering. The research sample included 657 volunteers during the first wave of the Corona pandemic. Four aspects of the volunteering experience were tested: the motivational, the affective, the cognitive and the behavioral. A mixed-method design was used and the data were collected via questionnaires that were distributed by an electronic link. In the qualitative part, a thematic analysis of the participants' answers to an open-ended question in which they were asked to describe special moments they experienced during their volunteering were analyzed. The volunteering experience of the hybrid volunteers was positive in some aspects: they are motivated by social solidarity and feel that they contribute to their clients more than the others, and exhibit the greatest commitment to volunteer. However, they are less satisfied than the others from the professional accompaniment during their volunteering and are characterized by a higher negative affect. The virtual volunteers exhibit relatively low commitment to volunteering and their satisfaction from the feedback they receive from the beneficiaries is lower. The content of the special moments of traditional and hybrid volunteers is usually emotional, with the volunteer at the center, whereas the special moments of the virtual volunteers are related to affording purposeful assistance, with the beneficiary at the center. Practical recommendations for non-profit organizations that activate volunteers are presented.

---

1 School of Social Work, Bar Ilan University

2 Head of the Israeli Volunteering Council

3 Head of Innovation at the Israeli Volunteering Council

## Public attitudes in Israel toward privatization of social services and governmental infrastructures

*Baruch Levi*<sup>1</sup> and *Amos Zehavi*<sup>2</sup>

Public attitudes regarding privatization are important for both political and normative reasons. However, in the Israeli context, this subject has received little attention. The aim of this study is twofold: First, to survey public attitudes in Israel toward privatization of social services and governmental infrastructures both in general and in specific policy areas. Second, to explore the determinants of these public attitudes toward privatization.

For this purpose, a survey was conducted in August 2016 among a random sample of 1,142 Israeli adults (age 18 and above). The survey questionnaire was administered through landline and mobile phones. Quantitative analysis of the survey findings was performed using multivariate logistic regression, cross-tabulation, t-tests and descriptive statistics by IBM-SPSS software. Eight explanatory variables were tested: Socio-economic status (SES), level of education, union membership, age, gender, socio-economic views, ethnic group membership and level of religiosity. The researchers defined privatization as the transfer of public assets to private ownership, through sale or lease of public land, infrastructure, and enterprises. After being presented with the above definition, 57% of the respondents supported privatization and 43% opposed it ( $p < .01$ ). However, breaking down the question to specific policy domains revealed that 62% of respondents objected to privatization of social services, such as healthcare and education, compared to only 43% who express a similarly negative position regarding infrastructures, such as seaports and electricity. With the exception of level of education, all other explanatory variables were found to have a statistically significant effect on attitudes toward privatization as described in the research hypotheses. Non-Jews were twice more likely to oppose privatization than Jews, similar to the effect of union membership versus non-membership. Also, the likelihood that the individual will oppose privatization decreased by about 25%-30% with the increase in the

---

1 Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

2 Public Policy and State Science Classes, University of Tel Aviv

level of his religiosity, socio-economic status, and support for a capitalist world view.

Respondents were also asked about their views regarding “partial privatization”, defined as a process in which the operation of the service is transferred to a private operator, but its regulation and finance remain in the hands of the government. 72% of them supported partial privatization in general, but only 38% supported this policy in regard to social services specifically.

The findings indicate that public attitudes towards privatization vary considerably depending on the policy area. The findings also suggest that the term “privatization” may have different meanings, and indicate the ambiguity surrounding this concept. Nevertheless, it seems that the Israeli public in general demonstrates a softer stance toward partial privatization as defined in this study. Finally, this study reveals the importance of personal identity variables such as ethnicity and level of religiosity on public attitudes toward a distinct socio-economic policy such as privatization.

## Hybrid organizational culture: the case of social enterprises

*Milana Yaari<sup>1</sup>, Edith Blit-Cohen<sup>1</sup> and Rivka Savaya<sup>2</sup>*

In recent decades, the phenomenon of hybrid organizations that promote a double-bottom-line of profit and social gain has been expanding. There is a broad spectrum of organizations. One end of that spectrum includes businesses that are motivated by considerations of financial profit and promote social activities in an effort to fulfill “corporate social responsibility”. The other end of the spectrum includes nonprofit

---

1 Paul Baerwald School of Social Work and Social Welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2 Shapell School of Social Work, University of Tel Aviv

organizations, which promote social goals and operate business enterprises in order to create independent sources of income. In the middle of the spectrum are social enterprises, which integrate business and social values as part of their core activities. Hybrid organizations create structures and practices that enable the coexistence of values and identities representing two paradigms, business and social, even when some of their values contradict each other. Hybrid organizations are fertile ground for chaos, but they can also promote innovation and creativity, and they create a new organizational field. The topic of hybrid organizational culture in social enterprises has not been examined comprehensively to date, and current research seeks to fill this gap.

In this article, we present the findings of a study that examined the organizational culture of hybrid organizations based on models developed by Schein (1990) and Martin (1992). We present research findings that indicate the unique characteristics of the organizational culture in WISE organizations (Work Integration Social Enterprises) by focusing on the interface between the business and social orientations in two organizational models (“synergetic partnership” and “synchronous partnership”). These models have a substantive impact on the extent of hybridity in the enterprise, and on the dynamics of the relationships between representatives of the two orientations.

Based on our findings, we developed a model that presents parameters to support the establishment of a hybrid organizational culture. The parameters include: the vision of the entrepreneur, a hybrid professional staff, complementary practices, inter-organizational relationships, and characteristics of a “learning organization”. The findings broaden organizational theory and shed light on the way contradictory orientations coexist in hybrid organizations.