

Research

Models of education and care from 0 to 3 years of age and participation in the labour market: Study of social innovation in Barcelona.

Barcelona, March 2019

Project carried out with RecerCaixa support, a program promoted by "la Caixa", with the collaboration of the ACUP

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The research team of the project includes members of the Institute of Government and Public Policies (IGOP) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, of the Universitat de Barcelona (UB), of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), and of Knowledge Sharing Network (KSNET).

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1. Summary

Why families (parents) prefer and/or choose a particular option or model of education and care for their 0-3 years old children, and a particular model of participation in the labour market? These two decisions are made simultaneously because they are interdependent. As far as these decisions have a deep impact on several dimensions of equity and (in)equality of opportunities (not only for parents, but also for children), it is highly relevant, from a social, political and economic point of view, to know their motivations. Over the past recent years, innovative, alternative models of 0-3 pre-school education have appeared next to the traditional, institutionalized (public/private) provision. What are the characteristics of all these models? What is their distribution across the neighbourhoods of Barcelona? Which family profiles choose each option and why? The aim of this research is to identify the relative weight of the different factors in families' preference and decision when it comes to choose a particular model. Thus, this study provides knowledge useful to design policy tools that may influence parents' decisions and improve equality of opportunities for parents and children.

2. What?

This research project aims to know why families (parents) prefer and/or choose a particular model of education and care from 0 to 3 years of age, and a particular model of participation in the labour market. These two decisions are made simultaneously because they are interdependent. These decisions have a deep impact on several dimensions of equity and (in)equality of opportunities (not only for parents but also for children). Therefore, knowing parents' motivations is relevant from a social, political and economic perspective.

The **research questions** are:

1. Which factors explain parents' choice for a particular model of education and care for 0 to 3 years of age and for a particular model of participation in the labour market?
2. As for innovation in education from 0 to 3 years of age:
 - a. What are the characteristics of the models of education for 0 to 3 years of age that have developed recently as alternative options to the traditional, institutionalised provision (public/private)? Which family profile choose each option and why?
 - b. Which factors explain parents' decision to choose those models? Which is the specific weight of these factors in the preferences and decision of parents when they choose one or another model?

3. Who?

Research Team: Raquel Gallego (IP) (UAB), Nicolás Barbieri (UAB), Jaume Blasco (Independent analyst), Cristina de Gispert (UB), Sheila González (UAB), Paula Salinas (KSNET), Enric Saurí (UOC), Maite Vilalta (UB).

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Funding institution: RecerCaixa Program (CaixaBank and ACUP).

4. Why?

Over the past recent years, innovative, alternative models of 0-3 pre-school education and care have appeared next to the traditional, institutionalized (public/private) provision. This research aims to provide knowledge that may allow to generate a social

debate and to make policy decisions that improve quality of life, equity and equality of opportunities. Political decisions on this issue have a deep social impact on different dimensions: education, gender equality, migration, labour market, equity and (in)equality of opportunities... This research project will allow us to identify the policy tools that may condition and have a direct influence on parents' decisions.

5. How?

This research combines quantitative and qualitative methodology:

- Characterization of the existing provision of education from 0 to 3 years of age in Barcelona. The study designs and conducts a survey to a representative sample of parents with children in P-3 (pre-school education for 3 year olds) in Barcelona, and elaborates an analytic model to explain the complexity of these decisions.
- In-depth case studies of alternative experiences and creation a typology of innovative models of education from 0 to 3 years of age in Barcelona.

6. When?

May 2018 - April 2020

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