

S U M M A R I E S

B. BARBERO AVANZINI, *Social services and young people: research carried out at Cernusco sul Naviglio*

This research examines the problem of young people (the family, work, school, and leisure) and what the social services are doing to solve these problems. The first part of the article picks out various aspects of sociological theory, while the second part gives the results of research carried out in a small town on the outskirts of Milan. The object was to discover the main needs of young people with regards to the family, school, work, and leisure, to find out what they thought of the existing social services, and to examine the behaviour of these young people who tend either to find their own solutions to their problems, or to rely totally on the social services.

V. CESAREO, *Voluntary help and social services*

This article examines the complex situation of voluntary workers, and to discuss above all the relationship between voluntary help and the social services in Italy. Voluntary help is considered from the point of view of a possible breaking down of the excessive red tape in daily life, as a basis for a better way of life, and as subjective restructuring of work-leisure relationship.

Finally there is an examination of the problem of the relationship between the civic authorities and the need for change taking into account the new trends in voluntary help during the 80s.

G. ROSSI, *Voluntary social-help in Lombardy: a survey guide*

Voluntary social-help is largely diffused in Italy and operates on different kinds of needs (steady, increasing, emergent needs). In the survey which was carried out in Lombardy have been considered: 1) institutional form and structure, 2) fundamental values, 3) field of action, 4) model of action, 5) relation with public organization, 6) economic administration and financing system.

All these elements have been considered regarding legally constituted associations, spontaneous groups, and community experiences.

S.R. NOVELLI, *Elections, stability and the political system in Italy*

The study has shown that clear differences exist in electoral volatility trends in Northern, Central and Southern Italy, which regularly displays a high rate of volatility. Since Southern Italy increasingly weighs on the whole country in terms of population distribution and social mobility, it is likely that the decrease in volatility will end in the near future. In addition, a multiple regression analysis has shown that electoral volatility mainly depends on changes in election regulations in the case of the Chamber of Deputies. For the Senate, on the contrary the most important variable seems to be the turnover rate of the electorate. All this strongly suggests that the electoral choice of the same individual for the two chambers are likely to be different in a large portion of the population. Thus, the most likely future scenario for the country consists in a very slow move towards a center-right versus left majority swing.

C. CIPOLLA, *Social statistics and inductive faith*

The article aims at examining to what extent social statistics (those of ISTAT above all) can be used to get an overall sociological picture. It tries to explore the possibility of laying out broad guidelines, theories and future trends.

Initially there is a negative hypothesis, and certain reasons for this are given, together with an empirical verification. The article suggests that care should be taken, and concludes with certain elements aimed at "reinforcing" the credibility of statistical sources and classifications, which can encourage theoretic hypotheses based on statistics.