SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY IN DEVENTER, THE NETHERLANDS

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‘Undivided city’ is one of the basic objectives of current development strategies with the aim of integrating minority groups to the majority of population sometimes by destroying the ethnic identities in favor of social cohesion. One of the basic policies originates from discussions on ethnic dimension of residential segregation/concentration. Local governments propose developing heterogeneous/mixed housing areas shaped by the renewal efforts. These kinds of policies consider a linear relationship between the concentration of different social groups (ethnic and/or social status groups) in housing areas -even if it is by law- and social cohesion and more precise a linear relationship between ethnic concentrations and the rising element of xenon-racism. The contemporary debate about the status of immigrants witnesses outbreaks of xenophobia/xenon-racism by a popular imagination of strong concentrations of Muslim communities as ‘threats to security’. In other words there is a linear relationship between the neighborhood effects - the behavior of individuals are directly related with the neighborhood in which they live - (Kauppinen, 2006) and social exclusion directed by xenon-racist movements and policy formations.

Central in these discussions is an assumption that the civil disturbances have been sparked by the immigrants who have lacked assimilation (Cheong, et al, 2007). In this regard, especially second and third generation immigrants are accepted to be socially and economically excluded more with respect to their parents within the current economic conditions and their identity expectations in between their origins and the cultural sovereignty of a European Union country. However, destroying their social ties with their communities is in fact destroying their support in an environment in which they are excluded. Researchers prove the fact that there are other factors such as economic restructuring, transition from welfare society to market mechanisms, urban history, general housing policy and cultural orientation, in the residential segregation of immigrants (Deurloo, Musterd, 2001). Anti-immigration policies on the contrary, result in the empowerment of social solidarity networks reidentified within a system of ethnic and/or belief formations and strong (sometimes violent) resistance.

The aim of this study is to put forward the reasons of segregation and/or concentration of the immigrant Turks in the case of Deventer/the Netherlands to discuss policy concerns of social cohesion in a culturally diverse society. Thus social inclusion is clarified with an evaluation of the factors of segregation and concentration within the forms of ‘institutional racism’.

KEY WORDS: Divides city, social exclusion, xenon-racism, social inclusion, segregation.