

Employment and social marginalisation in Denmark



The faces behind the numbers



Employment and social marginalisation

- 4,2 % of the total population in Denmark are unemployed (approx. 240.000 people)

Employment and social marginalisation

- In Denmark social politics is closely linked to labour politics
- “Everybody” has to work
- Dilemma: The labour market is very ‘closed’ and if you cannot work on regular conditions it is difficult getting a job.

Social benefits - rates

If you cannot get a job, you get social benefit:

- Rates:

Aged under 25: € 850,-

Aged over 25: € 1350,-

- Separate additions if you have children in your care

Social benefit - rates

- 'Introductory benefit' is given to those with no connection to Denmark within the last 7 years (citizens and non-citizens): € 720,-

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Employment and social marginalisation

- In order to receive any form of benefit you have to be available for the labour market
- You have to attend regular meetings at your local job centre
- You have to participate in social activation on a regular basis
- Dilemma: If you are unable to live up to this due to circumstances in your life, you do not get any money.

Employment and social marginalisation

Central dilemmas:

- Does everybody have to work?
- Should social politics be closely linked to labour politics?
- What if you have an addiction or a mental illness?
- It is stressful being part of 'the system' if you are vulnerable

The faces behind the numbers



- Only 5% of homeless people in Denmark are employed
- 60% are on social benefit
- 23% are on a social pension

- 4% of the homeless in Denmark have no official income
- The majority of these sleep rough

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Kings of the Streets

- All photos from the book 'Kings of the Street'
By Holger E. Henriksen and SAND
- The National Organisation for the Homeless in Denmark

