Migratory Flows in Apulia: Preliminary studies on some samples

The aim of this study is to analyse the structural characteristics, educational level, professed religion, composition of the family nucleus in Italy and in the home country, and work conditions in Italy and in the home country, in order to describe the anthropological stress of the sample of immigrants examined. A series of questions was given to Albanian population immigrating to the province of Bari after 1991, Albanian refugees of 1997, Chinese population resident in Bari, and a sample of immigrants in Metaponto, regarding their specific motives for immigration.

1. Introduction

The new migratory flows, which do not meet to the needs for manpower in the host country but are determined by abnormal political and economic conditions in the country of origin, create serious and worrying social effects on the population of the host country (B. Chiarelli, 1992).

The host countries are experiencing such profound restructuring processes in their productive apparatus as to cast doubt on the traditionally positive relationship between economic expansion and the growth of employment, and indeed to extend a “local and qualified” area of social and productive inactivity to which the entry of “unqualified” non-European labour is added (Fondazione Agnelli, 1990).

Social and economic problems are therefore created in the settlement areas that heavily involve the local population, which is unprepared to face them and is not well inclined towards policies of integration such as those which, in more or less marked forms, were adopted in the years of growth following the Second World War.

These social dynamics have led to situations which are often uncontrollable and, in some cases, even tragic, eventually having a considerable effect on national and political stability (C. Bonifazi, G. Gesano, 1994; G. Gesano, F. Heins, 1994).

With regard to the questionnaire, the questions can be divided into various investigative sub-groups; these are formed by a series of questions that aim to analyse the structural characteristics, educational level, professed religion, composition of the fam-
ily nucleus in Italy and in the home country, and work conditions in Italy and in the home country, in order to describe the anthropological stress of the sample of immigrants examined. Each population was also given a series of questions regarding the specific motives for their migration.

2. Evaluation of Socio-anthropological stress in an Albanian population immigrating to the province of Bari after 1991

It is our intention to provide some results of a wider research on a case study, which we believe to be of considerable significance, of the disembarking of Albanians on the coast of Apulia after March 1991. Since that time there has been a silent but certainly fairly constant almost daily arrival of illegal immigrants, which culminated in the massive wave of refugees of March - May 1997 due to the serious disorders effecting Albania.

An interview-questionnaire was submitted to 218 Albanian nationals (103 women and 115 men) who settled in the province of Bari; the questionnaire was of a semi-structured character and was always administered by the same interviewer so as to reduce initial diffidence, it was organized in four sections:

1. the first aims to establish the structural characteristics (age, marital status, religion, residential accommodation in Italy);
2. the second refers to the family structure (Household) in Albania and Italy;
3. the third is dedicated to the interviewees' work experience;
4. the fourth, aims to highlight objective and subjective problems (and within certain limits the relative emotional experience) caused by the migratory experience and the subsequent condition of emigrant (use of free time, experience of discriminatory behaviour, problems of integration, etc.).

The analysis and further study of the data emerging from this final section of the interview forms the main focus of our study with the intention of understanding and defining, where they exist, the "migratory stresses" already described by others and their appearance in the form of "physical and psychic disorders (manias, depressions, paranoia) or even in deviant and criminal behaviour" (L. Grinberg, 1990). For this purpose the socio-anthropological stress index, IDN, was calculated for this group of immigrants (A. De Lucia, D.R. Nuzzi, 1999).