

Has South Africa found the tools to beat segregation?

Segregation is a problem that arises worldwide, and the Inclusionary Housing Policy could be the answer to the problem. South Africa is well-suited for research on this matter, given its history of institutionalised segregation. The study investigates which strategies and tools are believed to be most efficient in counteracting segregation and if any of these strategies could be implemented in other countries. In Cape Town, the Inclusionary Housing Policy is being implemented right now, and it is considered a remarkable effective strategy for integrating the city. The policy could result in integrated societies worldwide. The results also show that the housing system and the design of areas and public places seem crucial in counteracting segregation.

Our thesis has evaluated strategies and tools used in urban planning in Cape Town, South Africa, for promoting integration between different groups (as defined by socio-economic status and ethnicity). To find the strategies that are considered most efficient in counteracting segregation, the focus was on studying a specific suburb of Cape Town: Pinelands. Pinelands, which was originally a whites-only area, has since the end of apartheid undergone a significant change towards becoming more heterogeneous based on ethnicity.

One of the most essential components for achieving an integrated and inclusive society is the location of housing or, if you live far from the city centre, its access to public transport. Another finding was that affordable housing should be mixed with market units across the cities for everyone to have access to housing in a location close to the city centre. An integrated society could be achieved by providing affordable housing in the same building as market-based apartments, i.e. with an inclusive housing policy. In addition, enabling social

interactions in urban areas seem to be an effective tool for promoting an integrated society, as interactions between different groups of people seem crucial to creating higher levels of social cohesion and trust. This can be achieved by building public places such as parks, sports facilities, schools and other places where people of different socio-economic statuses and ethnicities can meet. A final important part is the non-governmental organisations that exist as intermediaries between the public sector and the population. They play a significant role in improving coordination between the city and its inhabitants, which is needed partly due to South Africa's complex laws and regulations.

Segregation is a common phenomenon that occurs all over the world. South Africa is an especially well-suited country to study segregation and methods to counteract it, not only because of its history of institutionalised segregation but also because of its multiculturalism. Residential segregation has been proven to result in several negative consequences for people living in poorer districts. For those living in poor areas, health-related misfortune increases and the likelihood of coping with school decreases. Thus, it is crucial to find strategies to remove these inequalities to achieve an inclusive and integrated society.

The study results can be seen as guidance on which tools are preferable in counteracting segregation. In other words, it can guide city planners, both in Cape Town and in other places, on how further developments should take place.

To arrive at the results of the study, both site visits and interviews were conducted. Apart from Pinelands, site visits were also carried out in two similar suburbs, Rondebosch and Rosebank, to enable comparisons. Interviews were held with professionals in urban planning and with Pineland's residents.