

Abstract

Social services represent an important form of help within a society. The opportunity for development and the degree of development of the social services are not independent of particular spatial and historical backgrounds, and they are also influenced by the social conditions (for example political-legal, economical, sociocultural factors etc.). In order to clarify the special features of the social services within the Taiwanese society, the above mentioned backgrounds and conditions are supposed to be analysed and to be represented. In Taiwan, compared to Western Europe welfare state programmes expanded more rapidly. A connection is to be seen in this case with the purposefully driven forward economical modernization. This also holds true for the democratization movement which took place simultaneously on pressure from below as on initiatives from above. Measures of social policy can only be successful if there is „trust in the system“. This was necessary in Taiwan because in the Taiwanese society a trust basis existed only within family-related groups. In the dissertation it shown, that contrary to the frequently contended superiority of "Asian value", the cultural model can be faced with a fast social change which hampers the functionary of these values. In this case it is solidarity within families with regard to care for the elderly. In order to guarantee solidarity within the family supporting measures of social policy have to be developed. Without innovations in this field and in related fields the "Confucian welfare state" will be at risk.