

The welfare state in Mexico hangs on the cliff edge

Colegio de México mentions that authorities lack public policies to combat shortcomings; instead, they favor models that cause more poverty and inequality

Through six proposals, Colegio de México aims to redesign welfare in Mexico, where health and education were emphasized. Regarding those issues, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria has implemented, through its Welfare Ecosystem Model, integral solutions that have helped people in situations of vulnerability to get some welfare.

Mexico owns a broken welfare system that caused a set of shortcomings like: poverty, inequality, and the lack of social mobility; as Colegio de Mexico says.

In the research called “Towards a welfare state for Mexico”, it supports its affirmation using the example of social security, which is supposed to encourage formal jobs when more than 50 percent of the workers are found in the informal sector.

“Urban and informal workers get assistance by specific programs, farmers get benefits from very limited agrarian reforms, the biggest part of indigenous population do not have access to social security services, and the system keeps a conservative gender approach that affects women” Colegio de Mexico alleges.

This fragmentation caused severe inequalities to have access to services, its quality and protection to face social risks in different stages of life, research specifies.

“More than the half of the population of the states located in the North of the country were affiliated to social security in 2015, while in the South and Southeast it was not possible to reach even the third part of the population the same year; in those regions eight out of ten people did not have access to any service provided by social security institutions”, research details.

Colegio de México affirms that the Mexican government has not taken decisive actions to solve fragmentation in the system based on coordinated or structural ways. Conversely, the strategy consisted on creating social programs that are not based on contributions, but they provide limited benefits.

“Gradual deterioration of the social security institutions also caused the migration of middle-class and high-class users to the private ones. This process generates an even bigger stratification of Mexican society and an implied need to find solutions, which increases the perception of poverty and inequality as problems seem to be solved by individuals or families only” analysis highlights.

It is time to move on to a new welfare state

Colegio de México created six proposals to take Mexico to a new welfare state. The first two proposals emphasize that a bigger investment should be made in infrastructure and supplies for human capital in matters of education and health.

The third proposal pretends to convert social security into a universal service by removing the requirement of being a formal worker to become part of it. The fourth one is to create a mechanism to protect from unemployment. The fifth one consists of developing early childhood development through centers operated by a national system, and in the meantime, apply paternity leave for men or women to close the gender gap and to facilitate labor inclusion of women.

In the last proposal, in order to complement the investment on high-quality public services, Colegio de México proposed that groups of people in vulnerable ages receive money transfers to give them an income to prevent them from falling into poverty.

It is the moment to do it

“Good intentions are useless if they do not turn into results. Stop making promises and start making and creating!”, that is the principle that rules Congregación Mariana Trinitaria to provide welfare to vulnerable people.






CMT has dedicated a considerable part of its 24 years to listen to people, to observe the context they live into, and to analyze the actions that governments make, even if they are right or wrong. This way, it promotes programs based on strategies and resources; and considering the citizens’ point of view, they should be implemented by the government.




Nevertheless, in the face of the lack of resources and honesty in some authorities, CMT encourages a society to develop in tandem with the government and citizenship, to convert the Welfare Ecosystem Model into a source of inspiration, research, evaluation, planning, analysis and solving lacks in public policies.

In many cases, this continuous work became a development axis in states and municipalities, resulting in strong public programs that CMT has supported by providing resources and this way, deep changes were also made on the indicators that had not received any attention before. Nowadays, many of our dreams and illusions are public policies that contribute to the development of Mexico.

The proposals of Colegio de México and the CMT actions to reach social welfare

Proposal	EL COLEGIO DE MÉXICO	CONGREGACIÓN MARIANA TRINITARIA
Educative infrastructure 	In Mexico, 17 million 099 thousand 241 students and 761 thousand 265 teachers go to schools with poor infrastructure. That is why Colegio de México suggests investing in infrastructure for elementary, secondary and high school facilities: not only in the building, but also in services like water, drainage, electricity, and internet.	CMT, through its Welfare Ecosystem Model and its 11 networks, takes welfare to vulnerable people. In this case through the Network of Education, it collaborates with people and the three levels in the government to improve the infrastructure, equipment, and connectivity to foster learning achievement for students.
Hospital infrastructure 	Between 2005 and 2015 Mexico addressed only 6 percent of its GNP to hospital infrastructure, which caused a poor hospital infrastructure in the country. “We suggest transforming public general hospitals with incomplete infrastructure into functional places able to provide quality services”.	CMT through the Network of Health, aims to create and increase the opportunities for families to have access to health services. It offers resources for infrastructure, supplies and health personnel.
A universal system in social security 	Colegio de México mentions that the current system in Mexico discriminates citizens due to fragmentation and inequality in many regions; some people have access to the benefits and enjoy quality services, but many people do not. “Everyone agrees that it is urgent to transform social security so as to promote equality in opportunities”.	In the Network of Productive and Financial Inclusion, CMT aims to contribute to increase the opportunities to have access to financial mechanisms, insurances, post-retirement and productive services; especially for people in situations of vulnerability and limited resources.
Unemployment insurance 	The objective of the insurance is to protect people in case they lose their job, and they do not get an income anymore. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that Mexican families depend on incomes and when they do not have them anymore, they fall into poverty, specifically the workers with low incomes.	As a consequence of the lack of incomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to support vulnerable communities in the sanitary contingency, strategies were promoted to assist micro producers. The results were meaningful and the CMT strategies were taken by the federal Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development (SADER).
Money transfers for children from 0 to three years and elderly people over 70 	A universal transfer for all the Mexican people is fiscally impossible these days, but it is possible to create a model depending on the stages of life to support vulnerable groups, that is to say, children between 0 to three years old, and adults over seventy.	Congregación Mariana Trinitaria does not donate cash, all its subsidies are materials to potentialize addressed resources to increase welfare, collaborating with the government, civil associations, and organized social groups.

The proposals of Colegio de México and the CMT actions to reach social welfare

Proposal	Colegio de México	CMT actions
A national system of childcare centers 	The national system of childcare offers two advantages: on one hand, it makes possible the labor inclusion of women in the short-time; and on the other hand, the state makes long-term benefits by actively participating in the development of children.	Children and women are an important part for CMT, and each one of its networks promote integral solutions for their welfare, mainly in education, health, housing, and security.

