



POLITECNICO
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Honors thesis

COURSE OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

Abstract

Health Mobility and Hospitality – Casa Coraje

**"Proposal For A Halfway House-Atelier For Rural Women Heads Of
Households In Health Mobility In El Salvador"**

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My research was born from a personal curiosity and from a need to answer this simple question: Where do the women stay overnight in health mobility?

The main subject is health mobility of female heads of household in extreme poverty and sickness. When there is a sickness in a family, the psychological and economical balance of the whole family destabilizes.

Across the whole of the world, regardless of the social status or the religion, it is usually the woman who is the base of the micro-unit, that is the family, so obviously when the woman falls ill, the family balance is altered.

The situation worsens when the woman is the only head of the family and is solely responsible for both, the family well-being and generating income, especially if the woman in question belongs to a society where there is a strong inequality in law and is the victim of discrimination.

The research opens with a general international overview after which the study will focus on one case study: El Salvador, a vulnerable country due to a precarious society, although viewed as a tourist paradise destination by the world, it also has thousands of critical environmental, social and economical problems.

El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America with a population of approximately 6.2 million people and has also the highest density of population in the region. (290 persons / km²), where more than half of the population is female. El Salvador also faces a security crisis and in fact is the most dangerous country in the world.

The Salvadoran women are subject to a complicated health mobility, often victims of discrimination, physical and social violence, they have difficulties in securing access to health services.

Reaching the existing Salvadoran healthcare becomes a risky venture. A real adventure full of obstacles to be overcome where people face the risk of being robbed, killed and raped during the journey, face the responsibilities of protecting their own children and finally have to overcome the distressing harassment during mobility, as "campesinas", (the peasants). A Salvadoran woman who faces a health mobility is certainly a brave woman like few in a modern international society.

The overall objective of the research is to outline the profile of the woman in health mobility and understand what are the stages of the whole process of mobility, from the moment she leaves her home until she gets to the last level of health attention available in the country, and also compare the factors directly and indirectly involved in the parts of this health journey.

The ultimate goal is to present an architectural proposal: a halfway house for sick rural women-heads of the household. A house, that even though small, is ready to face the phenomenon of mobility, is able to receive and give support to women and their children from rural areas as well as their escorts, enabling them access to the national hospital centers.

The method used is a qualitative sociological investigation, where the detection techniques in qualitative research are often used simultaneously.

This is how through reciprocity between the concepts acquired and studies previously conducted by the Turin Polytechnic, Salvadoran Lutheran University, the National University of El Salvador and empirical analysis of the site shaped this work which is intended to be a

starting point for the solution of the problem, which is now clear: the lack of accommodation for the thousands of women who every day come to town to access the hospitals. Currently these women represent a phantom population of mobility and nobody cares about them.

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