



SOCIAL DIVERSITY AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

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Israeli society is facing major social challenges that all societies are experiencing but with particular intensity:

1. Cultural diversity
2. Integrating immigrants
3. Temporary foreign workers
4. The impact of the hi-tech revolution
5. The rising cost of health care technologies
6. The aging of the population



Structural Social Challenges of Israeli Society

Immigration

- Very high rates of immigration
- Very high percentage of immigrants are without means



Structural Social Challenges of Israeli Society (cont.)

Cultural Variation

- Very significant cultural variation within the Jewish population
- Religious, cultural and national differences between the Jewish and Arab population against the background of tension between Israel and its Arab neighbors
- Cultural variation within the Arab community



Structural Social Challenges of Israeli Society (cont.)

- **Very high heterogeneity in social capital among Israel's population**
 - Education
 - Family size
 - Cultural attitudes towards women's and men's roles and participation
 - Language
 - Being new in the country



Structural Social Challenges of Israeli Society (cont.)

- High Correlation between cultural background and social capital
- Phase on the continuum of social change and inherent tensions



Implications of structural factors for social challenges

1. Income inequality and poverty
2. The implications of economic inequality for disparities in access to services
3. Need for cultural appropriateness and sensitivity to ensure participation and a voice
4. Need to address stereotypes and discrimination

More recent trends:

- The role of foreign workers
- The impact of the hi-tech revolution on labour markets and on disparities
- The rising cost of health technologies
- The aging of the population