

Abstract

Debates on the so-called care economy have increased in recent years, whether from a feminist perspective, which has sought the vindication and recognition of the unpaid female worker - a condition that continues to this day, especially in countries with a non-existent welfare State – as well as around those trades that are currently performed by both men and women belonging to the working class, whose functions are characterized by being the basis of the processes of social reproduction, which are characterized by a state of precariousness that makes any type of social mobility impossible, as well as a continuation and even an increase in the condition of poverty.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the care crisis in the city of Berlin from the perspective of the workers who carry out their jobs as Nannies and Babysitters, a trade that is still mostly exercised by women and lacks recognition either by the families -employers- or by the State, which paradoxically urges their services but in turn does not facilitate their insertion to those who developed it. On the other hand, the challenges faced by these workers such as labor outsourcing -intermediation of agencies and digital platforms-, the non-existent labor protection, the difficulties for a collective organization, and the romanticization of working with children and families in the private sphere.

Introduction

The urgency of capitalism for the maintenance of the family institution as the motor of social reproduction has been sustained and has taken on great force in recent years. The family wage depends on both men and women, which on the one hand demonstrates the re-insertion of women in the labor market, and on the other hand a growth of what Fraser calls exploitable worker/labor¹. With the growth of this type of exploitation, there is also an increase in other forms of labor exploitation such as expropriated and domesticated labor, which have become the basis for the current development of the so-called care economy. In this category lies the childcare profession, specifically that developed by young migrant women who work as Nannies or Babysitters, whose

¹ It is one of the forms of exploitation of the system, which requires both expropriated and domesticated labor to subsist. The worker who falls under this category has a status that grants him/her rights and is recognized as a citizen and covered by legislation. This worker has different options to sell his labor force and is independent of his/ her work; he/she can choose not to work by receiving government subsidies.