



# MEDITERRANEAN CHRONICLE



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## MEDITERRANEAN CHRONICLE

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## **The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza<sup>1</sup>**

### **The institutions of Paidopoleis and their evolution**

While the Greek Civil War (1946-1949) was in progress, groups of population especially from the northern and mountainous areas of the country moved for security reasons to lowland areas, mostly to towns and cities. Due to the unfavorable living conditions and overcrowding, it was decided by the official Government to initially take care of these afflicted people, however eventually the interest turned to the most sensitive age group, namely the minors. Under the supervision of Queen Frederica's Fund, which was officially inaugurated on July 10, 1947 by royal decree, the so-called Paidopoleis were founded. These were idiosyncratic institutions-facilities for hosting children. The process of transferring children was used as propaganda, on political and diplomatic level, resulting in carrying a strong ideological charge, even today. The name "paidofylagma" (literally children keeping) is also characteristic, a term that contrasted with the so-called "paidomazoma" (literally practice of forcibly "recruiting" children) of the communists, who from the beginning of about 1948 started a similar operation to transfer children to the People's Republics. As a result, the children had become the *apple of discord* for the National Army and the

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<sup>1</sup> "This research is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund- ESF) through the Operational Programme «Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning 2014-2020» in the context of the project "The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza"(MIS 5050160, project code: 80474)."



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Dimitrios Anoyatis-Pelé, Konstantinos Mavreas, Antonis Masonidis, Stefanos Agathos

Democratic Army, respectively. Thus, the so-called “crisis of the children” also concerned the international community as it was the first issue of diplomatic importance on the Cold War agenda.<sup>2</sup>

With the children in the Paidopoleis, the official state also assumed the role of the sole responsible for their care and spiritual education, replacing -in a sense- their families. Life in Paidopoleis was like life in a camp and included a specific program and activities: wake-up, flag raising, homotypical attire, education-training (in Primary school or technical workshops), specific hours for eating, silence, entertainment, gymnastic exercises and demonstrations, inspection, participation in various activities, parades, church services, prayer, catechism and songs of patriotic content, including the National Anthem. In addition, there were certain restrictions; the time was determined by the ringing of the bell and the contacts with the “outside world” were not only minimal, but also completely formal; even if they were outside the building complex, they still walked in a line. The fundraiser was headed by Fredericka, assisted by about twenty commissioned ladies, who were each appointed responsible for specific areas. A numerous staff of both sexes and of various specialties (health workers, teachers, leaders, deputy chiefs, community leaders, team leaders, security guards, accountants, cooks, tailors, laundresses, etc) were employed.<sup>3</sup>

The Paidopoleis, hosted children aged mainly from four to sixteen years old, and were initially mixed-sex. Gradually, however, from 1949

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<sup>2</sup> Lars Bærentzen, “Το “παιδομάζωμα” και οι Παιδουπόλεις της Βασιλίσσας”, in L. Bærentzenetal (ed.), *Μελέτες για τον Εμφύλιο Πόλεμο 1945-1949*, μτφρ. Αριστέα Παρίση, Athens 2002, pp. 148-150; Tasoula Verveniōtē, “Τα παιδιά του Εμφυλίου. Παιδομάζωμα ή/και παιδοφύλαγμα”, in V. Panagiōtopoulos (ed.), *Ιστορία του Νέου Ελληνισμού 1770-2000. Αλβανικό Έπος-Κατοχή και Αντίσταση-Εμφύλιος*, τ. 8, Athens 2003, pp. 271-273, 277-279; Tasoula Verveniōtē, “Περί “παιδομαζώματος” και “παιδοφυλάγματος” ο Λόγος ή παιδιά στη δίνη της εμφύλιας διαμάχης”, in E. Voutyraetal (ed.), *Το όπλο παρά πόδα. Οι πολιτικοί πρόσφυγες του Ελληνικού Εμφυλίου Πολέμου στην Ανατολική Ευρώπη*, Thessaloniki 2005, pp. 101-103, 113-118; Loukianos Chasiōtēs, *Τα παιδιά του Εμφυλίου. Από την «Κοινωνική Πρόνοια» του Φράνκο στον «Έρανο» της Φρειδερίκης*, Athens 2013, pp. 139, 147, 150-159.

<sup>3</sup> Mando Dalianis & Mark Mazower, “Παιδιά στη δίνη του Εμφυλίου Πολέμου: Οι ενήλικες του σήμερα”, in Mark Mazower (ed.), *Μετά τον Πόλεμο. Η ανασυγκρότηση της οικογένειας, του έθνους και του κράτους στην Ελλάδα 1943-1960*, Athens 2004, p. 113; Tasoula Verveniōtē, *Αναπαραστάσεις της Ιστορίας. Η δεκαετία του 1940 μέσα από τα αρχεία του Διεθνούς Ερυθρού Σταυρού*, Athens 2009, pp. 212-213; Nikos Karayiannakidēs, “Παιδόπολη “Άγιος Γεώργιος” Καβάλας: η ίδρυση και ο πρώτος χρόνος της λειτουργίας της (Σεπτέμβριος 1947-Σεπτέμβριος 1948)”, in N. Roudometof (ed.), *Η Καβάλα και τα Βαλκάνια. Η Καβάλα και το Αιγαίο: Από την αρχαιότητα μέχρι σήμερα. Πρακτικά Β' Διεθνούς Συνεδρίου Βαλκανικών Ιστορικών Σπουδών 15 έως 18 Σεπτεμβρίου 2005*, Καβάλα 2009, (digitizedat: <http://ionio.academia.edu/NIKOΣΚΑΡΑΓΙΑΝΝΑΚΙΔΗΣ>, 1-30), pp. 4, 7, 19; Loukianos Chasiōtēs, op. cit., pp. 291-222, 225-229, 242-249; Riki Van Boeschoten & Loring M. Danforth, *Children of Greek Civil War. Refugees and the politics of memory*, Chicago and London 2012, pp. 89-93, 97-99; Antonēa Charisē, *Παιδόπολη «Καλή Παναγιά». Εκεί που η ιστορία συνάντησε τα παιδιά*, Veria 2017, pp. 74-87, 93-103.

onwards, they began to be divided into male and female. The 53 Paidopoleis existing during the Civil War in various parts of the country (capital, co-capital, provincial towns and islands), housed approximately 18,000 children, were significantly reduced after the end of the war, and the majority of children was repatriated (from October 1949 to June 1950). Thirteen of these institutions continued to operate after the Civil War for two reasons. On the one hand, in the context of the post-war reality, they hosted children whose family situation had been affected by the Civil War in one way or another (orphans, the needy, children of prisoners or exiles and children returning to Greece from the Eastern bloc countries). On the other hand, they acquired characteristics of social welfare for children who needed care regardless of the conditions of the Civil War (unprotected, illegitimate, large or troubled families etc). Besides, in 1955 the Queen's Fund was renamed to Royal Welfare (*Vasiliki Pronia*). During the Dictatorship of the Colonels the name was changed to National Welfare Organization (*Ethnikos Organismos Pronias*), while in the late 1990s it was first assimilated by the National Social Care Organization (*Ethnikos Organismos Kinonikis Frondidas*) and then, in 2003, by the National Social Care System (*Ethniko Systema Kinonikis Frondidas*).<sup>4</sup>

### **The Paidopolis of Ziros in Preveza**

The Paidopolis of Ziros was officially opened on January 14, 1948, although there is evidence that a few weeks earlier, the first children had arrived due to the military operations in the battle of Konitsa. In the summer of the same year, the children and the staff of Paidopolis was forced to move and was hosted for two consecutive years in the facilities of Paidopolis "Aghios Andreas" in Kalamaki of Attica due to the war situation in the wider area of Epirus. In Attica, it officially received the name "Aghios Alexandros". In August 1950, Paidopolis returned to the area of Ziros, but the majority of initial inmates had already been repatriated.<sup>5</sup>

In the rural area of Philippiada, closely to Lake of Ziros, the facilities of the paidopolis were built as early as 1946, and were originally intended for

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<sup>4</sup> Tasoula Verveniōtē, "Παιδομάζωμα ή/και παιδοφύλαγμα", in Ch. Chatzēiōsēph (ed.), *Ιστορία της Ελλάδας του 20ού αιώνα. Ανασυγκρότηση-Εμφύλιος-Παλινόρθωση 1945-1952*, Athens 2009, pp. 91-92, 102-103, 105; Tasoula Verveniōtē, "Το "εθνικό παιδοφύλαγμα" και ο Έθνος της Βασίλισσας Φρειδερίκης (1947-1950)", in D. Papadēmētriu et al (eds.), *Αθέατες όψεις της Ιστορίας. Κείμενα αφιερωμένα στον Γιάνη Γιανουλόπουλο*, Athens 2021, pp. 273-276; Loukianos Chasiōtēs, op. cit., pp. 203, 209-210, 214-215, 251-252; Riki Van Boeschoten & Loring M. Danforth, op. cit., pp. 102-105; Riki Van Boeschoten, "Το σύστημα των Παιδοπόλεων: Ιστορικό πλαίσιο και εθνογραφική έρευνα", in *Το φυσικό και πολιτισμικό απόθεμα της λίμνης Ζηρού*, Philippiada 2014, pp. 91-92.

<sup>5</sup> Tasoula Verveniōtē, *Αναπαραστάσεις της Ιστορίας...*, pp. 222-224; Stefanos Agathos, "Η δίχρονη φιλοξενία της Παιδόπολης Ζηρού "Άγιος Αλέξανδρος" στις εγκαταστάσεις της Παιδόπολης "Άγιος Ανδρέας" Αττικής (1948-1950)", in N. Karampelas (ed.), *Ψηφίδες Ιστορίας της Πρέβεζας β'. Ιστορικά της Πρέβεζας 3*, Preveza 2020, pp. 111, 113-114.

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the victims of World War II. The building complex was designed and built by foreign constructors led by Rodolfe Pfeniger and funded by Switzerland (“Don Suisse”). Initially, the buildings were essentially wooden constructions, but over the years there have been improvements, replacements of construction materials and new buildings. The layout of the building complex was typical of a small village. The facilities consisted of the main gate, dormitories, baths, toilets, technical workshops (small shoe factory, machine shop, bakery and carpentry), primary school, warehouses, dining-rooms, entertainment room, doctor’s office/mini hospital, church, theater, garden, makeshift shelters for domestic animals etc. The inmates were divided into groups, wore uniforms and stored their meager belongings in small wooden boxes.<sup>6</sup>

From 1948 until the end of 1957, the inmates of Paidopolis of Ziros were of mixed sex, but the boys were always the majority. From 1950, when the children and the staff returned to Philippiada, the girls<sup>7</sup> were just a small subset and lived in a separate group called the “Sacred Battalion” (*Ieros Lohos*). From the end of the year 1957 onwards, “Aghios Alexandros” hosted exclusively boys. Its operation ceased shortly after the mid-1980s. Since 2009, its abandoned facilities house the Environmental Education Center (*Kentro Perivalontikis ekpaidefsis*) of Philippiada and have been gradually renovated. The site is now open to the public and, among other things, organizes actions to highlight the value of the ecosystem by implementing environmental education programs.<sup>8</sup>

### **The archive of the Paidopolis of Ziros Preveza**

The archive of Paidopolis of Ziros in Preveza was found in the early 2010s in a poor condition, partially damaged, and therefore not complete. The order of the files had been disarranged, as it was found literally discarded, having all these years suffered a lot of damage from the weather conditions (humidity, temperature fluctuations, exposure to rain), attacks by rodents and insects and the oxidation of metal objects (staples, pins). All this demanded the need for restoration, maintenance and classification-indexing, and was done gradually and in any case after its delivery to General State Archives-

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<sup>6</sup> Vasilēs Sandrēs, “Η ιστορία της Παιδόπολης Ζηρού μέσα από μαρτυρίες”, in *Το φυσικό και πολιτισμικό απόθεμα της λίμνης Ζηρού*, Philippiada 2014, pp. 116-117, 122; Christos Skamnelos, “Εγκαταστάσεις Παιδόπολης Ζηρού”, in *Το φυσικό και πολιτισμικό απόθεμα της λίμνης Ζηρού*, Philippiada 2014, pp. 157-167; Riki Van Boeschoten & Loring M. Danforth, op. cit., p. 100.

<sup>7</sup> It should be noted that no Fact Information Sheets with data (quantitative or qualitative) for female inmates were saved-founded.

<sup>8</sup> Christos Skamnelos, op. cit., p. 155; Stefanos Agathos, “Παιδοπόλεις και περίθαλψη. Ιστοριοκοδημογραφική αποτύπωση του βιβλίου νοσηλείας των ετών 1950-1954 της Παιδόπολης Ζηρού Πρέβεζας”, in *Περί Ιστορίας 8*, Ιόνιος Εταιρεία Ιστορικών Μελετών, Kerkyra 2017, pp. 35, 42-43, 49.

Archives of Prefecture of Preveza, where it is currently located. More specifically, the contribution of two people, the doctor-historian researcher Mr. Vassilis Sandris and the instructor Mr. Vangelis Dakoulas, was decisive in locating and rescuing this file, as they gathered the material and transferred it from the abandoned and not very accessible building in which it was located, in one of the renovated buildings of the former complex of Paidopolis of Ziros, which now houses, as mentioned above, Environmental Education Center of Philippiada since 2009. The rescued historical documents were classified and restored thanks to the assistance of the Head of General State Archives-Archives of Prefecture of Preveza Mr. Spyridon Sklavenitēs<sup>9</sup>. It is noted that out of the 479 files examined, 35% of the cases were incomplete or partially damaged.

### **The demographic profile of the male inmates of Paidopolis "Agios Alexandros" Preveza in the period 1950-1968**

While this is clearly not the case with all the Fact Information Sheets of the children hosted in Paidopolis of Ziros throughout its operation, the fact that even this sufficient sample files of exclusively male inmates were rescued is a fortune - in the literal sense of the term—for the historical research and leads to satisfactory conclusions. More specifically, the research focused in the following three perspectives: a) Geographical, social and family origin of the hosted children, b) medical condition of the children when entering the Paidopolis and during their stay there, with emphasis on data concerning their growth (weight, height), c) Inmate education and training, d) Their destinations upon exit. The novelty of the research program, therefore, is firstly the uncovering of such a rare archive of a sui genesis structure, with its demographic data recorded, examined and evaluated. Definitely, in the Greek scientific literature, especially in the field of Historical Demography<sup>10</sup>, there is not yet any similar study regarding the Paidopolis institution.

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<sup>9</sup> Spyridon Sklavenitēs, “Το αρχείο της Παιδόπολης Ζηρού”, *Η ιστορία της Παιδόπολης Ζηρού μέσα από μαρτυρίες*, Ημερίδα Κέντρου Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Φιλιππιάδας, Philippiada 9.6.2013 (unpublished presentation).

<sup>10</sup> Indicatively, some studies in the field of Historical Demography: Dēmētrēs Anōgiatēs-Pelē & Anda Marselou, “Γεωγραφική διασπορά της ελονοσίας κατά τις δεκαετίες 1920-1950. Έμφαση στις χρονικές περιόδους και στις περιοχές του ελλαδικού χώρου που παρουσίαζαν ιδιαίτερος υψηλά ποσοστά νοσηρότητας”, in *Νοσηρότητα και θνησιμότητα στην Ελλάδα του 20ού αιώνα: Ιατρική και δημογραφική προσέγγιση*, Ionian University, Kerkyra 2009, pp. 69-82; Δημήτριος, Dēmētrēs Anōgiatēs-Pelē & Ioanna Athanasopoulou, “Παραδείγματα θνησιμότητας στον ελλαδικό χώρο κατά τη διάρκεια του 20ού αιώνα”, *Διημερίδα Ιστορικής Δημογραφίας, Νοσηρότητα και θνησιμότητα στην Ελλάδα του 20ού αιώνα: Ιατρική και δημογραφική προσέγγιση*, Kerkyra 2009, edition of N.I.M.P. *Ιστορική Δημογραφία*, pp. 207-242; Dēmētrēs Anōgiatēs-Pelē & Ioanna Athanasopoulou, *Οικιστικό πλέγμα και θνησιμότητα στους Παξούς μέσα 19<sup>ου</sup>- τέλος 20ού αι.*, Athens 2011.



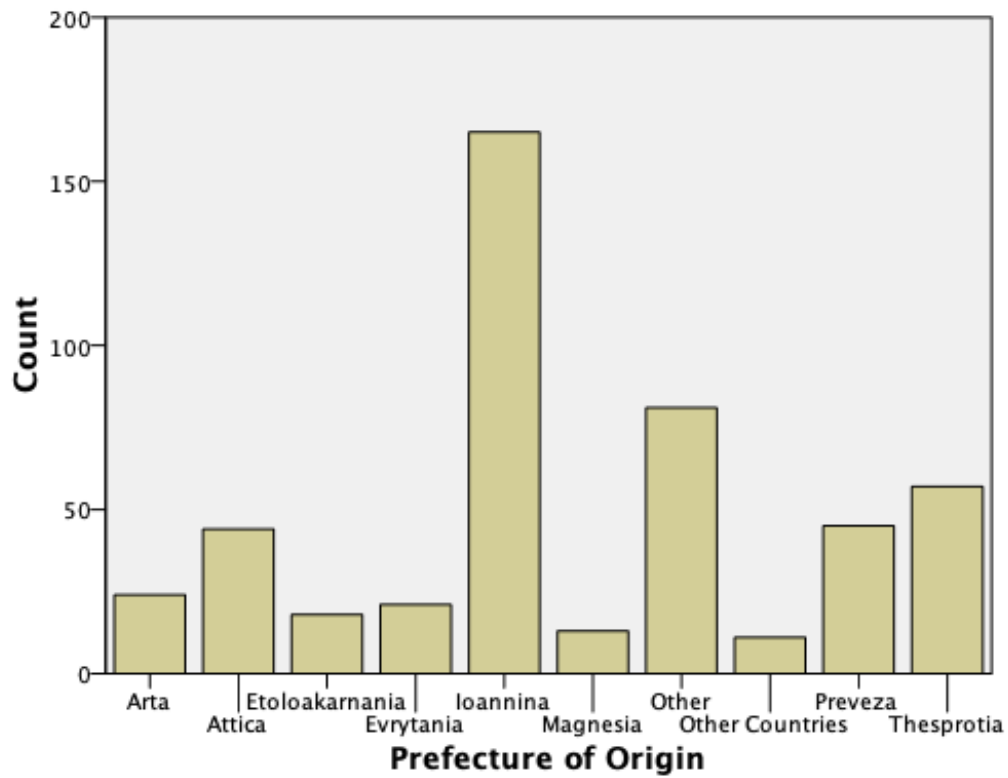
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The following graphs present the various parameters from data extracted from the rescued individual files of male inmates and in particular from the 479 standardized documents of the Welfare of the Northern Provinces of Greece (Pronia Vorion Eparchion) called Inmates's Facts Information Sheets, for the years 1950-1968. It must be mentioned that the full data was not always filled in the appropriate fields (e.g. information about the child's parents, the school performance of the inmate-student, etc.) of these documents by the employees of the Paidopolis "Aghios Alexandros". As of that, the outcome shown in the following diagrams refers to those inmates whose data was put in the correct field, thus not all of them. Additionally, some documents may have missing pages or others may be either torn or damaged. The information that was not possible to be recorded sometimes is also reflected in the graphs that follow with the indication "no annotation".

As can be seen from Figure 1, the majority of inmates came from the same geographical region, to which Philippiada also belongs, i.e. the geographical region of Epirus. In particular, most of the boys who were hosted in the Paidopolis "Aghios Alexandros" came from Ioannina (34.4%), Thesprotia (11.9%), Preveza (9.4%) and Arta (5%). This is fully justified given the proximity of the Paidopolis from these places, where in the future they would probably return. The same is true for the registrations regarding Evritania (4.4%) and Etoloakarnania (3.8%) since they are nearby, too. It should be noted that a large number of inmates originates from the prefecture of Magnesia (2.7%) and the prefecture of Attica (9.2%). Finally, it should be mentioned that a portion of children (2.3%) came from abroad and specifically from the countries of the eastern bloc, as was thought necessary to be "re-educated" and to join the Greek education system and values. This is why their entering was often approved quickly and easily.

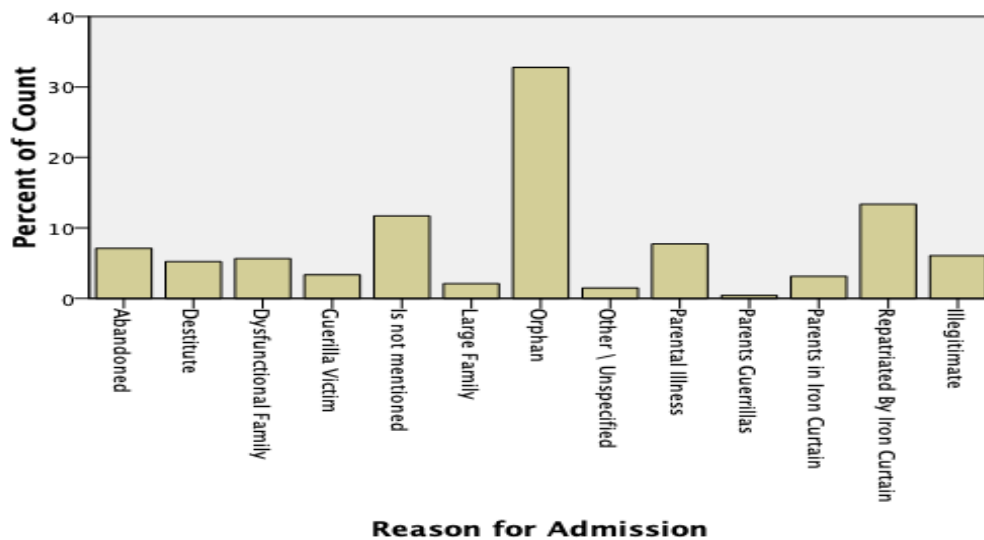
The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

**Figure 1**  
Geographical origin of inmates



Source: own processing

**Figure 2**  
Reasons for admission

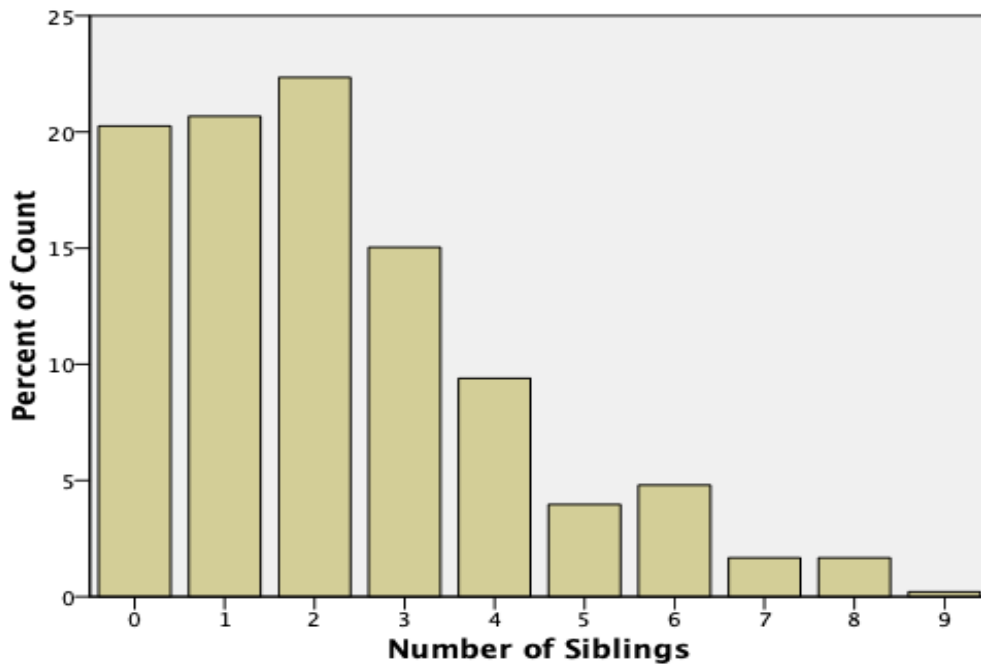


Source: own processing

Figure 2 presents the reasons for admission to Paidopolis of Ziros, a parameter that directly or indirectly reveals the social origin of inmate, and their family background. Based on the data listed above, the main reason for admitting a child in the boarding school of Philippiada during that period was being an orphan either due to the death of one parent or both. Another reason was the repatriation from the so-called Iron Curtain, as those children had to be integrated in a new community and embrace the Greek values and ideals. In addition, there were inmates who were admitted to Paidopolis for other reasons, such as poverty or serious illness of their parents; problems obviously could not be dealt with and could have an impact on the upbringing of the children. In addition, some children were admitted in the boarding school because they were abandoned, illegitimate or came from dysfunctional or large families. The latter shows that these children needed protection, as their parents either did not want to or could not support them. Finally, although the present research concerns the post-war period, the consequences of the Civil War still seem to be felt, since the ideologically charged phrases “guerrilla”, “parents in the iron curtain” and “guerrilla parents” had been recorded as reasons for the introduction of inmates.

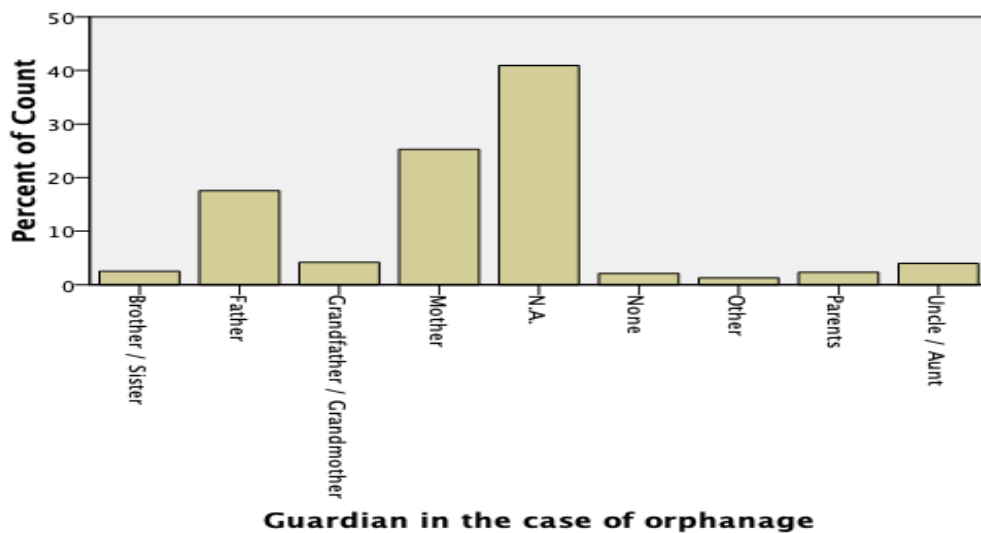
The majority of inmates had siblings (80% of cases). Over 50% of the sample of siblings had one or two (Figure 3). In fact, during the study of the documents, it was observed that some siblings were also hosted in Paidopolis of Ziros. In descending order, then, there were cases where they had two, one, three, four, six, five, seven, eight, and one case with nine more brothers and sisters. In fact, it was pre-arranged who would take care of them in case of orphanhood. It has to be noted that the inmate may already have been orphaned by at least one parent.

**Figure 3**  
Number of Siblings



Source: own processing

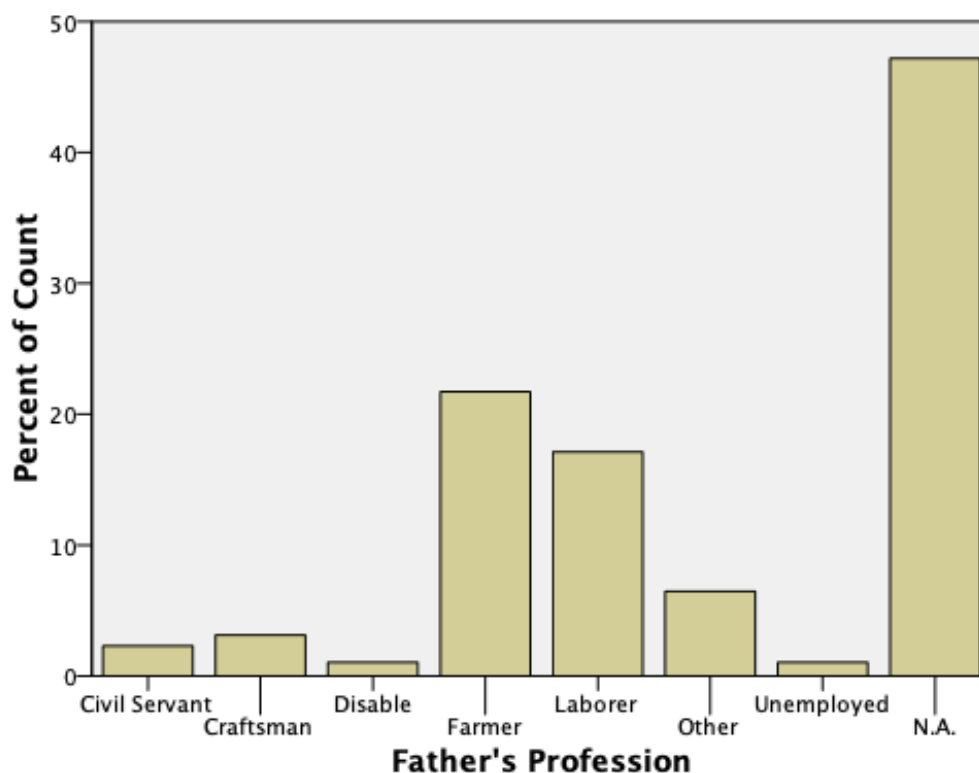
**Figure 4**  
Guardian in the case of orphanage



Note: Parents included to several instances of the other records.

Source: own processing

**Figure 5**  
Father's profession



*Source:* own processing

As shown in Figure 4, in most cases the mother would take custody. The father, grandparents, uncles, aunts, brothers followed, while there were also cases when there was no one who could take care of the minor. Therefore, this was taken up by the closest relatives, who were obviously willing to undertake it. What is interesting is that a guardian is not appointed in case of orphanage in about 41% of cases.

Another topic of research was the profession of the parents of underage boys who were hosted in the Paidopolis "Aghios Alexandros" Preveza in the period 1950-1968. As shown in Figure 5, the majority of the fathers of the children had a manual occupation (farmer, laborer, craftsman, etc), meaning that there was no fixed income. In some cases the father was unemployed or disabled and therefore could not provide the necessary income for the family. It worth mentioning, however, that in eleven cases the father was a civil servant with a secure job and income, so the admission to the institution was not due to family finances; the children remained in Paidopolis for a reasonable period of time, ranging from one to seven years. In particular, it was found that these children were eventually admitted to the

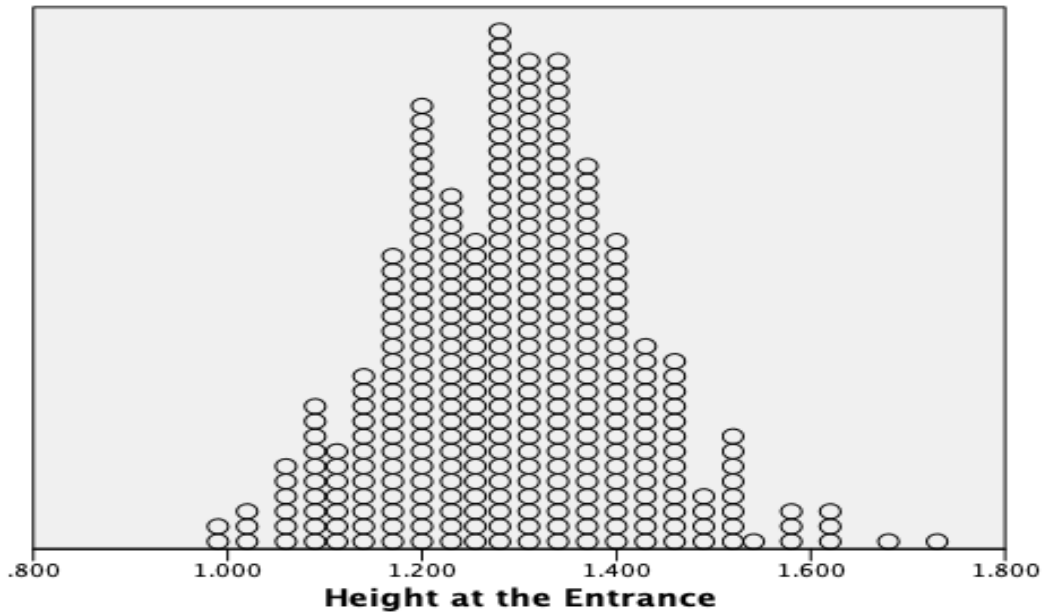
## The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

Paidopolis either because they had been repatriated from the so-called Iron Curtain, orphaned, illegitimate or abandoned or even destitute (the latter indicates that the father may have abdicated any responsibility from his upbringing of his child).

Regarding the profession of the mother, very few mothers worked, a little less than 4% of the sample. Apart from the fact that finding a job was not an easy task during the period under review, there were also some stereotypes that "forced" the woman to "stay at home", especially in the countryside where the level of education of women was extremely low. In the field of the profession of the mother for the majority of cases the word "household" is mentioned (approximately 62%) and not answered in the 34% of the cases.

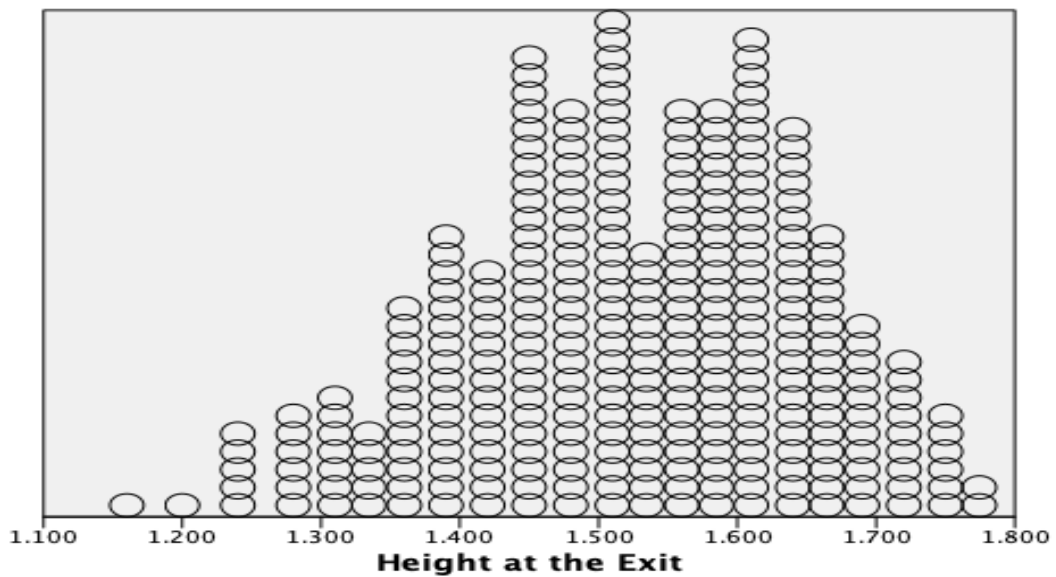
The questions that follow concern the physical characteristics of the children. Graphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 show their growth in terms of their height and weight upon entry and exit from the institution. The medical staff of Paidopolis recorded these quantitative data at least once a month. Given that the inmates were in childhood or adolescence and therefore in a period of physiological evolution and physical development it is logical to record an increase in height and weight in most cases. The medical staff of Paidopolis recorded these quantitative data at least once a month. The conclusions drawn from this is that both nutrition and health care were adequate, but this should be linked to the role of the Paidopolis of Ziros, which was obliged to perform its duties (nutrition, care, food health, etc.) as a competent body. It is pointed out that during the stay of the children in the institution weight loss may had happened in some cases, but this was usually due to a contagious disease, such as influenza. For those children, the doctor suggested an appropriate diet, aiming towards weight gain. This parameter is also related to the length of stay of each boy in the institution, which ranges from a few weeks to several years, so each case should be considered separately and therefore no special mention is made here.

**Figure 6**  
Height at the Entrance



Source: own processing

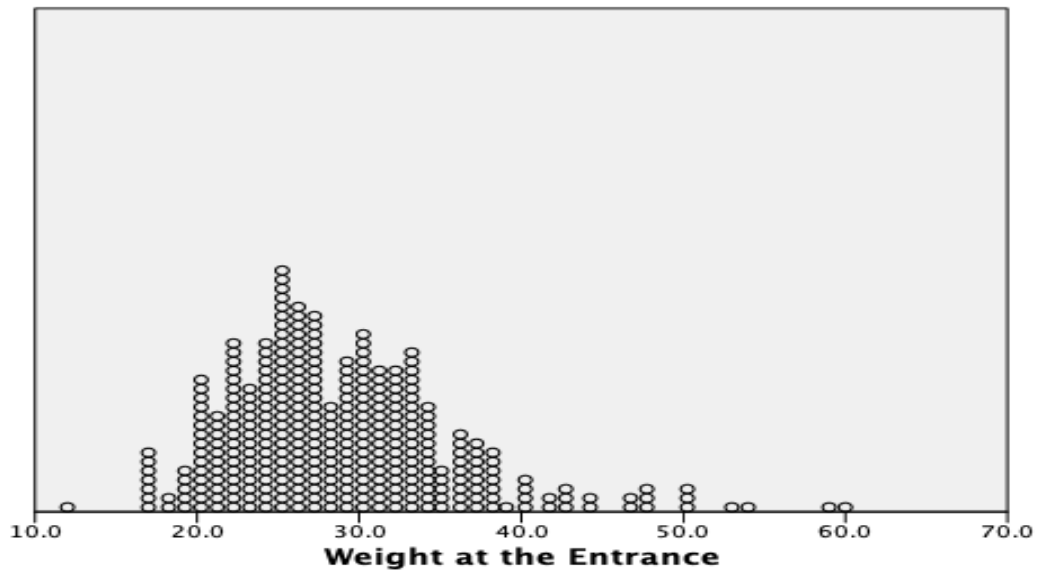
**Figure 7**  
Height at the Exit



Source: own processing

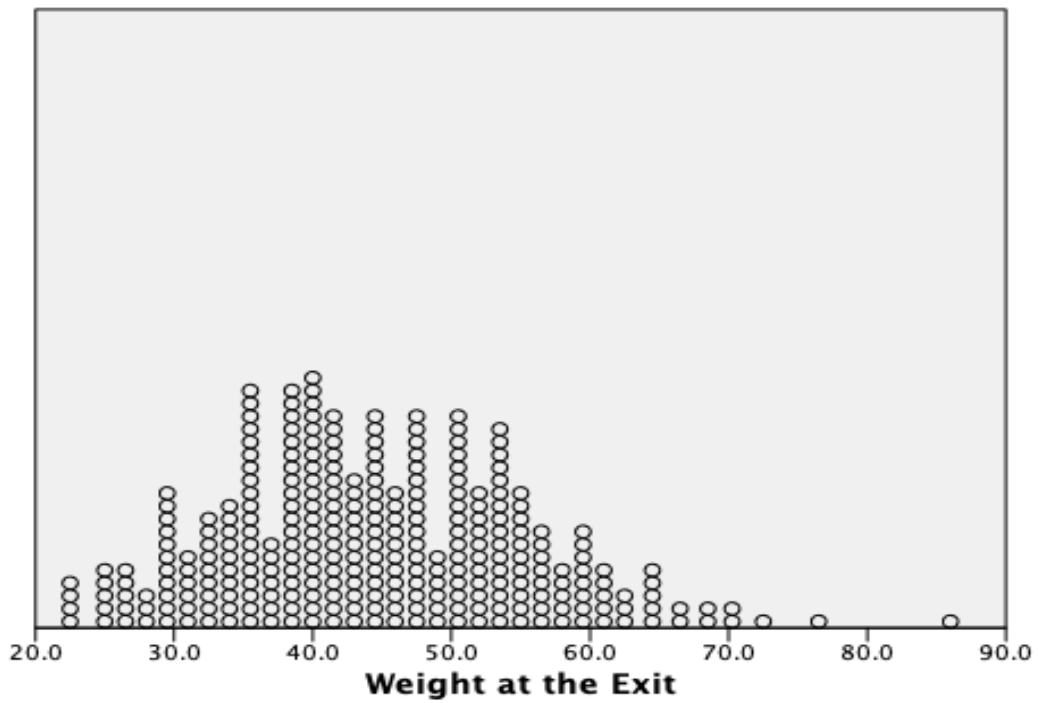
The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

**Figure 8**  
Weight at entrance



*Source: own processing*

**Figure 9**  
Weight at exit



*Source: own processing*

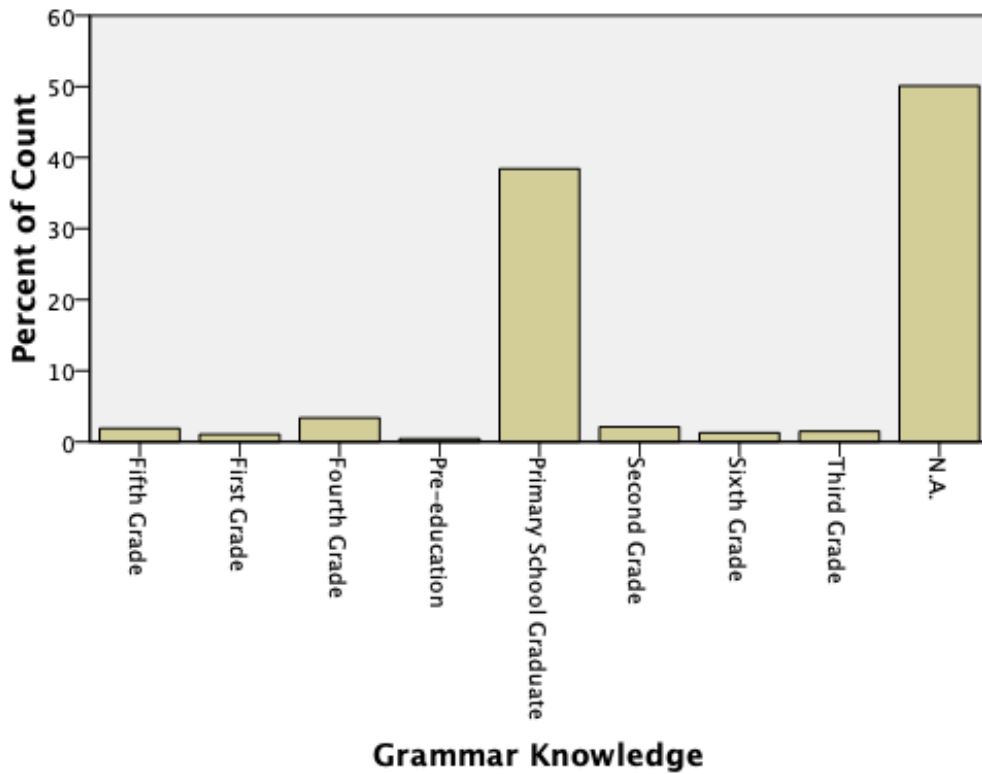


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Another issue of attention and scientific interest was the education level of the boys in Paidopolis of Ziros during the period 1950-1968. In that particular period, the educational level in the country was generally considered low; especially in the provinces, access even to primary education was not taken for granted. Information about their grammatical knowledge, school performance and later specialization in different skills is admittedly not much, because the Fact Information Sheets were not always filled in properly, the data extracted and presented in Figures 6, 7, 8 and 9 are as follows: Most inmates graduated from primary school (either they completed it in Paidopolis of Ziros, or were already graduates when they were entered to the institution), while there were also students who attended some of the primary school classes. Most of them performed “relatively good” or “good”, while only a few appeared to be very good. It should be noted that after Primary education, high school students had the opportunity, after entrance exams, to be admitted to a secondary school, while the rest could attend a workshop of Paidopolis, in order to be trained in some useful workmanship in a sufficient level. In Paidopolis “Aghios Alexandros” there were workshops-laboratories of carpentry, mechanics, gardening, bakery and (small) shoe factory. The apprentices of these workshops could then attend a technical school, where they would specialize in a craft. From the existing sample, it is observed that most of them attended the Valliani Vocational School of Lixouri, and others chose the Royal Technical Schools of Leros or the School of Sailors of Poros. Finally, in the inmate Fact Information Sheet we find cases that chose a military school, an option that would ensure a secure job and income.

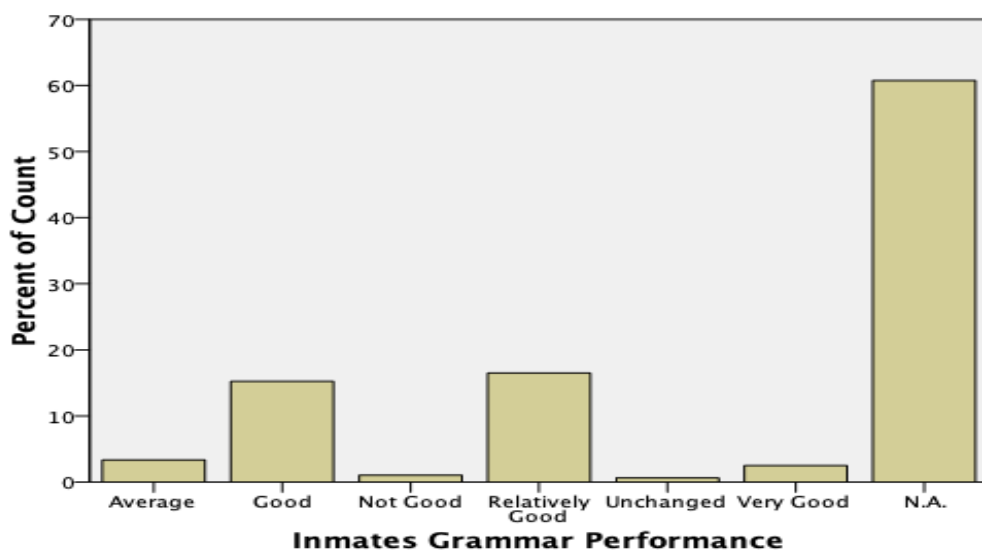
The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

**Figure 10**  
Grammar Knowledge



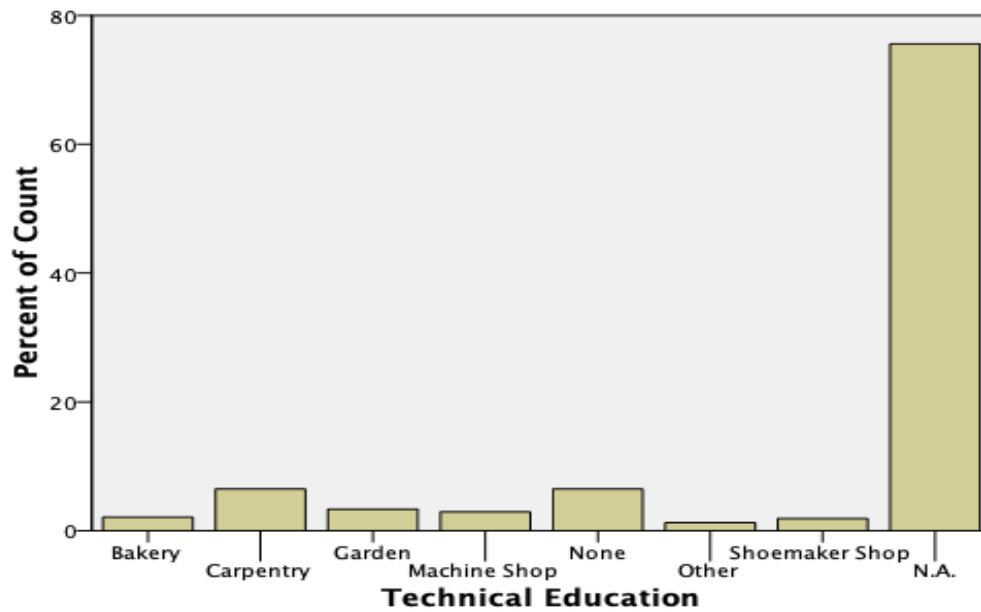
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**Figure 11**  
Inmates Grammar Performance



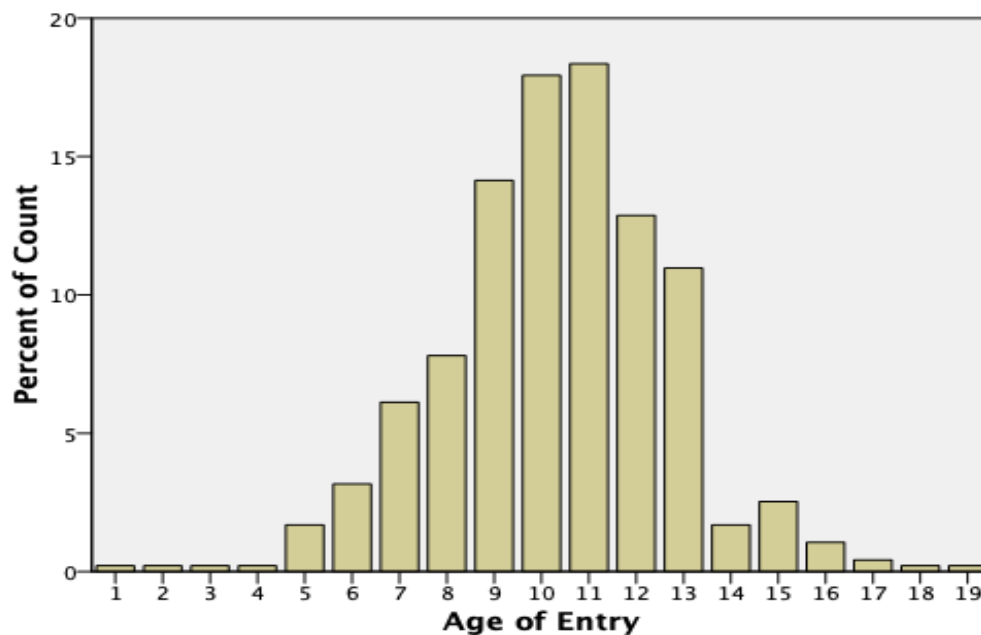
Source: own processing.

**Figure 12**  
Technical Education



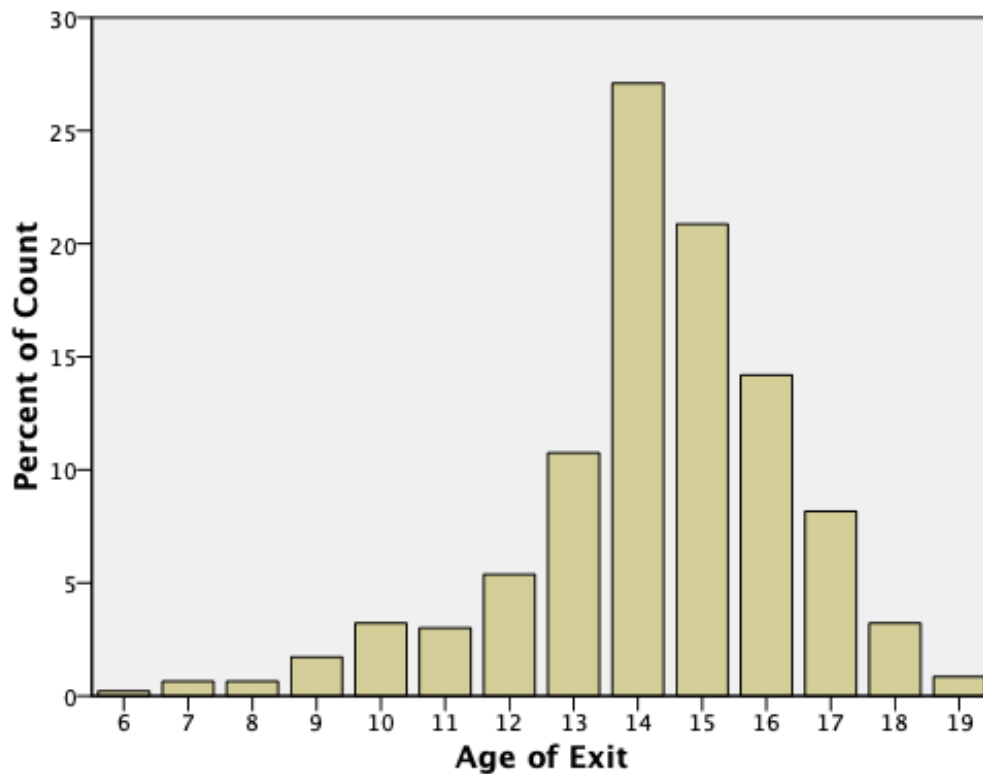
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**Figure 13**  
Age of Entry



Source: own processing.

**Figure14**  
Age of Exit



*Source: own processing.*

The age of entry and exit of inmates is shown in Figure 13. Most of the children were admitted to the institution between nine and thirteen years old. Some entered from six to nine years, while there were also cases of children who were already in their teens when they were admitted at the Paidopolis. On the other hand, as shown in Figure 14, most of the inmates left the structure at the ages of thirteen to seventeen. However, a few inmates left the structure of “Aghios Alexandros” as adults and others at the age of twelve and younger.

### **Conclusion**

The Paidopolis of Ziros in Preveza, after its two-year relocation in the capital of Greece, Athens (1948-1950) because of the Civil War, returned back in the summer of 1950, and it operated autonomously in the post-war reality, hosting mostly boys. During the period 1950-1968, which the present article examines, the Paidopolis of “Aghios Alexandros” was adapted to the new data and evolved into an institution that hosted and was responsible of the “guardianship” of vulnerable and orphaned children. As shown in the graphs presented here, the male inmates came mainly from areas around the

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institution, but there were also cases coming from more distant areas. Those children, whose family environment could not - for various reasons - support them or had to be hosted in case of repatriation from the Eastern bloc, lived in an environment where both nutrition and health were at least satisfactory given the conditions of the times. Additionally, in the Paidopolis, the children were given the opportunity to attend Primary School, thus the basic education. Most of the boys entered the institution in childhood and they left as teenagers. At that point, as the archival material showed, many attended vocational-technical schools, in order to make a living in their adult life. Although in any case the purpose of Paidopolis of Ziros that hosted these children was to offer at least adequate living and educational conditions, the result seems to be positive; staying with their families may have had the opposite effect.

In the future, we believe that a combined analysis of the demographic data from the Fact Information Sheets of Paidopolis of Ziros with oral testimonies of living inmates and other quality data of the Archive of Paidopolis of Ziros, in combination with the context of socio-economic conditions prevailing in Greece in the 1950s-1960s, will definitely give an additional perspective to this controversial institution of the post-war period.



*Photo: The hospital of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza, Source: GAK-A.N. Preveza, Archive of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza "Agios Alexandros"*

The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

**ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑ**

**ΠΑΙΔΟΠΟΛΙΣ** "ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΕΩΣ"

Φωτογραφ

**ΠΛΗΡΟΦΟΡΙΑΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ ΠΑΙΔΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ**

**I. ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΟΥ:**

- 1) Όνοματεπώνυμον Αρτζίνι Αθανάσιος
- 2) Έτος γεννήσεως 1948
- 3) Τόπος Αρτζίνες Ηλείας
- 4) Θρήσκευμα Ορθόδοξος
- 5) Ημερομηνία εισόδου εις την Παιδόπολιν 1-11-51
- 6) » έξοδου εκ τής Παιδοπόλεως
- 7) Από ποίας Παιδοπόλεις ή άλλα παρεμφερή

8) Λόγοι διά τούς οποίους εισήχθη εις τας Παιδοπολεις (κ) ως αρρώστου παιδιού

**II. ΟΙΚΟΓΕΝΕΙΑΚΗ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΟΥ:**

**Πατήρ:**

Όνοματεπώνυμον	Έτος γενν.	Επάγγελμα	Τόπος διαμονής	Χρόνος και αίτια θανάτου
<u>Κωνσταντίνος</u>	<u>1902</u>	<u>αργατέλης</u>	<u>Αρτζίνες</u>	

**Μήτηρ:**

Όνοματεπώνυμον	Έτος γενν.	Επάγγελμα	Τόπος διαμονής	Χρόνος και αίτια θανάτου
<u>Σοφία</u>	<u>1908</u>	<u>οικιακή</u>	<u>Αρτζίνες</u>	

Εάν οι γονεΐς εύρισκονται έν ζωή, ύγιεινή κατάστασις έκατέρου: Πατρός: \_\_\_\_\_  
Μητρός: \_\_\_\_\_

**Άδελφοί:**

Όνομα	Έτος γενν.	Επάγγελμα	Τόπος διαμονής	Χρόνος και αίτια θανάτου
1) <u>Αθηνά</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>αργατέλης</u>	<u>Αρτζίνες</u>	
2) <u>Αθανάσιος</u>	<u>1936</u>	<u>??</u>	<u>??</u>	

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## **Abstract**

### **The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza**

Paidopoleis<sup>11</sup> (literally children's cities) were a consequence of a difficult historical situation in Greece, the Civil War (1946-1949). These were hosting institutions for children in the context of the *Fund* (*Eranos*) of Queen Fredericka. Paidopolis "Aghios Alexandros" in Ziros of Preveza was one of them and continued its operation after the end of the Civil War, hosting inmates whose family situation in one way or another had been affected by the War (e.g. children of exiles, orphans or ones returning to Greece from the countries of the Eastern bloc etc.) or needed care for family reasons (eg illegitimate) or other kinds (eg destitute), not directly related to the conditions of the Civil War. In this article a precise descriptive analysis of a specific section of the material is attempted, through the presentation of the demographic profile of the male inmates of Paidopolis of Ziros in Preveza during the period 1950-1968, as it emerged from the recording of the rescued Information Fact Sheets (*Pliroforiaka Deltia*) of 479 male inmates. It should be emphasized that the results of the research are original and presented for the first time in the scientific community.

In particular, not only is the profile of the family and social background of the children captured, but also the reasons that led them to this specific Paidopolis and their descent. In addition, there is data included concerning their entering and exiting the boarding school, their performance, level of education, learning an art, destination to vocational schools, age of entry and departure from that institution.

## **Keywords**

demographic profile, inmates, Paidopolis of "Aghios Alexandros", post-(Greek) civil war period, prefecture of origin, reasons for admission, family background, healthcare, education.

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<sup>11</sup> The research team warmly thanks the head of General State Archives-Archives of Prefecture of Preveza Mr. Dr. Spyros Sklavenitēs for his unreserved support throughout the research. His knowledge of the archival material and the facilities he provided were of excellent value for the final result.

The demographic profile of the children of Paidopolis Ziros Preveza

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