Abstract
In this article the phenomenon of poverty is defined and its main characteristics analysed, underlying the gradual replacement of this concept for that of social exclusion in the most advanced societies. The article also provides the results of recent studies carried out in Spain and implemented through different methodologies (quantitative, qualitative or mixed). The results highlight the relevance of educational factors in poverty and social exclusion processes and dynamics.

Keywords
Poverty, Social exclusion, Social studies, Educational factors.