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Volume 27: **The rural population in Spain. From disequilibrium to social sustainability**

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This study of rural Spain examines the problems that impede the balanced social development of the rural world. The research has found three interrelated factors that create an extraordinarily complex social challenge: demographic disequilibriums, gender inequalities and unequal access to mobility.

Demographic disequilibriums manifest themselves in a masculinised and aging rural population, but, above all, in the prominence of the so-called «support generation»: men and women of around 40 years of age that have become the authentic pillar of support in rural society.

The gender inequalities which beset rural areas, though not exclusive to such areas or more intensive than in urban ones, are more visible there and their effects are felt not only by women but throughout the overall social fabric.

Lastly, there is inequality in access to mobility, which constitutes an important marker of social differences in rural regions, making mobility an important component of policy aimed at the development of rural areas.