

Citizenship Practices of Women's Empowerment

Second Part

20 June 2022

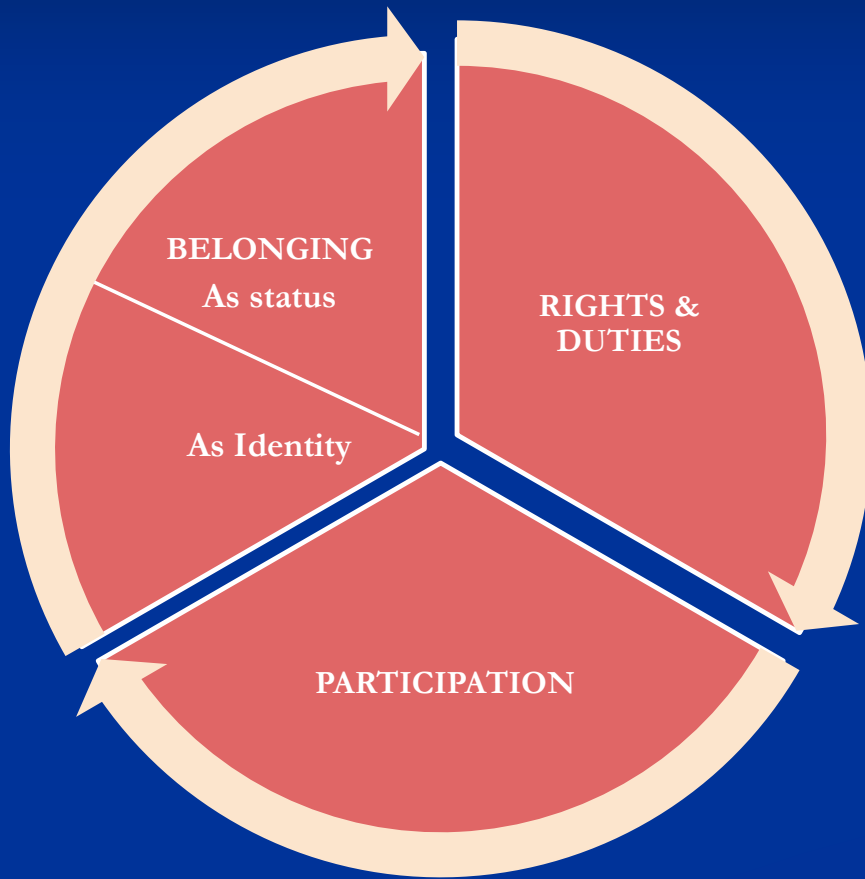
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Device components



Belonging: being recognized (in legal and social terms) and feeling part of the political community

Rights: standards of life taken for granted and implemented through institutional arrangements and through the exercise of **duties** of members of the political community (as individuals and as organizations)

Participation: involvement of all the members of the political community in the establishment and functioning of the institutional system, as well as of its aims, standards, and rules of the game, on an equal basis

«Places» where citizenship is defined and redefined

Constitutional-rank norms

Norms that define legal status, rights and duties, forms of participation

Civic Acquis or «storage»

The set of legal-, policy-, judicial- or civil regulation-based provisions establishing the content and extension of citizenship (e.g. public administrations establish which citizens can access to health services free of charge)

Citizenship practices

Dynamic relations between citizens and the polity and political community (citizens take part in shaping citizenship)

THE CONCEPT OF CITIZENSHIP PRACTICE

Features

- Dynamic relation between the citizen and the political community, on a daily basis
- In the operational as well as in the discursive dimension
- Individual a/o collective
- Can involve both horizontal (among citizens) and vertical (between citizens and institutions) relations
- Relations can be either defined or not defined by laws
- They can confirm and support, or challenge and modify, the citizenship device, especially its boundaries



Active citizenship is a citizenship practice

Content

1. Active Citizenship: the conceptual toolbox
2. Active citizenship and women empowerment
3. An exercise

1. A CONCEPTUAL TOOLBOX

A general view / 1

- Active citizenship as a phenomenon that takes place in reality, not a model of the «excellent citizen»
- Autonomous collective actions of citizens, aimed at the general interest, with a multiplicity of forms, motivations, roles and operational strategies for the exercises of powers in public policy making
- Scale of operations: from local to global
- Concreteness and materiality (not output but outcome) → making things happen
- Relations and cooperation with public institutions can take place or not (people's spaces vs. invited spaces)
- Scant relations with political parties; no participation in electoral politics

A general view / 2

- The relevance of organizing: «Why didn't you participate?» - «No one asked me»
- In Italy almost 100,000 formal (legally established) active citizenship organizations, with about 2,3 million activists and 500,000 employees
- Several non-formal organizations (e.g. self-help groups, neighborhood committees) that cannot be quantified

Roles & Strategies

Protection of rights



Caring for common goods



Empowerment



Advocacy



Delivery of services



Direct intervention



ROLES

STRATEGIES

ROLES

Protection of rights



Caring for common goods



Empowerment



1. Protection of rights ...

- To bear in mind:
 - Rights = Life Standard
 - Rights match with duties (of other citizens, of the State)

1. Put into effect rights established by law

- Existing rights are at risk because of:
 - Lack of interest of public administration (e.g. the relevance of time)
 - Existing conflicts with stronger rights (e.g. privacy vs. transparency)
 - Restrictive interpretations of people in charge (e.g. criteria for recognition of disability)
 - Generic formulations (e.g. «right to dignity»)
 - Unrecognized rights (e.g. of elderly, of children)
- Protection of rights: a problem of public policies more than of courts

1. Protection of rights

2. Promote the recognition of new rights

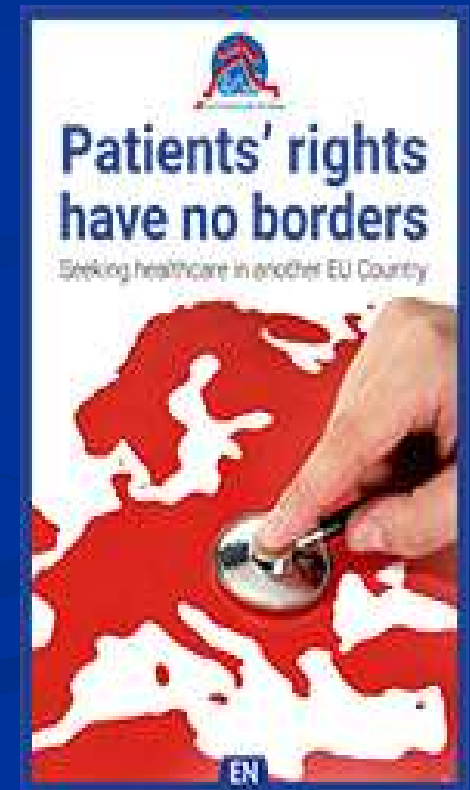
- A social recognition can take place...
- And eventually can take the form of a law
- The case of the Charters of Patient' Rights (1980-2002)



CHARTERS OF RIGHTS

1. To preventive measures
2. Of access
3. To information
4. To consent
5. To free choice
6. To privacy and confidentiality
7. To respect of patients' time
8. To the observance of quality standards
9. To safety
10. To innovation
11. To avoid unnecessary suffering and pain
12. To personalized treatment
13. To complain
14. To compensation

**DIRECTIVE 2011/24/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 March 2011
on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare**



2. Caring for common goods...

Those goods that everyone can freely use and that are exposed to the risk of selfish and speculative uses. Their loss impoverishes the whole society



What common goods



Material (e.g. water, air, ground)



Virtual (e.g. rule of law, social trust, sense of safety)



Created by people (e.g. Internet, artworks, public infrastructures)

2. Caring for common goods

- The tragedy of commons: easy to use, difficult to replenish
- The main factors to be challenged:
 - Overgrazing
 - Selfish use
 - Lack of maintenance
- Active citizenship concur to protect common goods and to facilitate their accessibility to everyone

3. Empowerment ...

- A process through which a subject (individual or social group) in conditions of weakness or subordination becomes able to exercise own prerogatives, rights and powers
- The example of hospitalization
- What empowerment is
 - Support to individuals and social groups for gaining autonomy
 - A cognitive phenomenon: «I can do it and then I do it»
- What empowerment is not
 - Mere assistance
 - Act on behalf of the affected subject
- Active citizenship role: to create material and cognitive conditions

Empowerment can concern ...



Social groups



Individuals



Communities

STRATEGIES



Advocacy



Delivery of services



Direct intervention

1. Advocacy

- Mobilization of the citizenry, in general or with reference to a specific condition or situation, to represent and assert its point of view and needs towards established powers (either public or private)
- Examples: communication campaigns, gathering of signatures, symbolic actions (e.g. flashmobs), actions of awareness raising, information actions, promotion of petitions, lobbying, legal actions, etc.

Disability Pride



2. Delivery of services

- Establishment and management of initiatives directly answering to needs, interests or rights of social groups or the citizenry in general
- Examples: information and advice services, legal assistance, safe houses and communities, education and training programs, cooperatives employing people with disabilities etc.

Free clinics for reproductive health



3. Direct intervention

- Initiatives aimed at modifying situations or preventing risks here and now
- Examples: monitoring and production of «civic information», check and evaluation of situations, adoption of public spaces and places, conflict management, proximity information, support of people in emergency situations, awarding good practices, boycotting products and services, ethical consumption actions, promotion of roundtables and partnerships

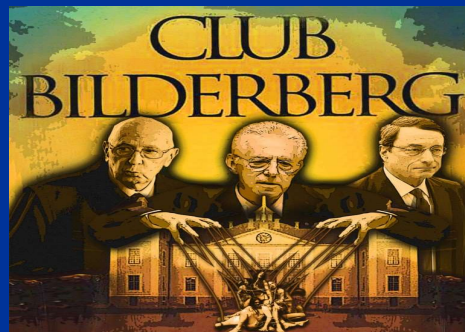
Regeneration of urban public goods



POWERS

Stereotypes

- Power vs. influence
- Powerless citizens
- Demonization, personification



Power as a relation

Power = ability to have an impact on reality, on the course of events, on others' behaviors

Organized citizens' powers

- Power of information (to bring out unknown or hidden situations → rights of convicts, illegal dumps)
- Symbolic p. (changing awareness → disability)
- Institutional p. (make institutions work → coherence between organizational and professional models and citizens' needs)
- Material p. (changing situations here and now → creating services, taking action in emergencies)
- Power of legitimation (recognize entitlements to interlocutors → social licence to operate of public and private actors)
- Power of partnership (gather interlocutors → the employment vs. environment case)

2. ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP EMPOWERING WOMEN

Two empowerment ways

- Active citizenship lead by women → women's leadership is diffused in active citizenship initiatives directed to the whole citizenry
- Civic actions directed to women's empowerment → the case of Covid-19 emergency



In general

- A non-recognized leadership role
- Mainstream representation: on women only as victims of the Covid-19 impact on social and economic life, not on their ability to face emergency, both in material and cultural and political terms
- Other representation: superhero women
- Scant visibility of women civic leaders: a role played more in terms of “bridge leadership” than in terms of public profile
- A 2021 Fondaca research identified civic actions lead by women during the emergency
→ the hidden civic leadership of women
- A tipology accompanied by some examples is presented

Production and diffusion of data and information

- Gathering and sharing information on the development of emergency, on work and life condition, on gender-based violence, etc.
 - <https://women.it/news/Covid19-uno-sguardo-di-genere-analisi-collaborativa/>
 - <https://fattoremamma.com/2020/04/20/iorestoacasa-come-cambia-la-vita-familiare-ai-tempi-del-coronavirus-03-2020/>

Delivery of services

- Regarding psychological, legal, financial support, but also health care and nutritional advice, access to services, use of information technology
 - Remote school support: <https://www.soroptimist.it/club/belluno-feltre/attivita/solidarieta-on-line-33684/>
 - Remote relational and technological support to stranger mothers: <http://www.terzavia.it/>
 - <https://www.soroptimist.it/club/varese/attivita/fase-2-emergenza-covid-con-sportelli-d-ascolto-33477/>
- Reorganization of services, enhancing the digital assistance. The case of services for women at risk of domestic violence
 - <https://www.pontedonna.org/>
 - <https://www.direcontrolaviolenza.it/violenza-covid19-2867-donne-si-sono-rivolte-ai-centri-antiviolenza-d-i-re-durante-il-lockdown/>

How-to information diffusion

- Setting up and diffusion of handbooks, toolboxes, tutorials, playlists aimed at transferring know-how related to the management of health, social, economic, psychological effects of pandemic
 - Support to the creation of proximity safety nets for women at risk:
<https://strumenticontrolaviolenza.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Guida-alla-solidarieta.pdf>
 - Multilingual guide to access the emergency services and benefits
<https://luchaysiesta.com/2020/03/30/lavoro-e-tutele-guida-pratica-al-tempo-del-covid-19/>

Material support

- Gathering and delivery of food, drugs and other basic goods
 - <https://www.karmadonne.it/il-filo-che-ci-unisce-una-risposta-di-solidarieta-di-fronte-al-covid-19/>
- Production and delivery of masks
 - <https://www.facebook.com/sorelleburkinabe/>

Proposals, complaints, lobbying

- Setting up policy proposals on the emergency management
 - <https://www.ladynamics.it/il-futuro-che-vogliamo-le-nostre-ideexdomani/>
- Development of proposals on post-Covid emergency
 - <https://www.casainternazionalelledonne.org/campagne/assemblea-della-magnolia-donne-e-next-generation-eu/>
- Pushing for equal gender representation in institutional emergency bodies
 - <https://www.facebook.com/100070249264302/posts/202594182092223/>
 - <https://www.datecivoce.it/>
 - <https://www.mammadimerda.it/blogs/non-ci-siamo>

3. AN EXERCISE

Women's Safety Audits

- Created by Metrac (Toronto, Canada), diffused worldwide
- Aimed at giving value to women expertise and to empower women
- The rationale:
 - if an area is considered safe by women, it is safe for everyone
 - the experts on the security of a particular area are those who frequent it: its users
- Conducted by a group of approximately 10 people who are familiar with the area and who are most vulnerable
- It was used to assess the safety of neighborhoods, public transit systems, housing units, parks, parking lots and garages, college and university campuses, workplaces and schools

How it works

1. Preparation and training: choosing an area, sensitization of key stakeholders and policy makers and training of the people who are going to conduct the audit walk itself
2. Exploratory walks: a group of approximately ten people walk through the area with a map and a questionnaire to analyze the urban design and detect what corrective action needs to be taken in the urban environment in order to make it safer for its inhabitants
3. Formulating recommendations: based on the views, perceptions and experiences of the people who conducted the walk and to be handed over to the key urban policy makers
4. Follow up to ensure the implementation of recommendations

The checklist

1. Poor	2. Substandard	3. Ok	4. Good	5. Very good
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Safety Audit Report Card	Scale			
OVERVIEW – overall sense of safety in the area.			3.2	
LIGHTING – the ability to see and be seen clearly.			3.6	
SIGNS AND MAPS - knowing where you are reduces fear of being attacked or getting lost.			3.2	
ISOLATION - people tend to feel safer when others are around.			3.2	
SIGHTLINES - clear views ahead and all around, not blocked by bushes, walls or fences.			3.3	
MAINTENANCE - dirty and untidy areas make people feel no one cares and no one will come if they need help.			3.2	
ACCESSIBILITY - it is easy to move around the area.			3.2	
SECURITY – presence of security systems in places that work and security staff treat everyone the same way.		2.7		

Some examples

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMr_JzT-QIk
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMr_JzT-QIk
- [https://safetipin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Jakarta-City-Safety-Analysis-Report Safetipin 2016.pdf](https://safetipin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Jakarta-City-Safety-Analysis-Report-Safetipin-2016.pdf)
- https://www.endvawnow.org/uploads/browser/files/understanding_womens_safety.pdf

The exercise

- Choose an area familiar with you (not too large)
- If possible, involve some women to take part
- Take the walk and fill the checklist, rating the situation and explaining the main material reasons for your choice
- Send a short report to the module mailbox (speakup.jmm@gmail.com), include information on the chosen area