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Gender Responsive
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Policy and Practice

PLAN TO EXPLORE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE INFRAESTRUCTURE

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Context

The care dimension is fundamental in human life. Women and dissidents have historically overseen care, which implies an overload in the daily sustenance of one's life and others. Despite their centrality at the social level, incorporating these remains a challenge for public policies and an element not sufficiently studied at the academic level in the continent.

Against this background, the problems addressed by this proposal are the individualization of care and the need for more infrastructure around them. This project aims to collectivize care by providing safety and communication infrastructure that facilitates the maintenance between the caregiving community and the borough dwellers.

The Plan to explore the infrastructure of neighborhood care was carried out in the Juanita Aguirre borough, in neighborhood unit 29, commune of Conchalí, Santiago de Chile. A territory with great popular strength that has a board of neighbors in charge of an older adult with disabilities, who has established alliances with organizations of women caregivers.

About 30 people participated in this project among neighbors, the Research Center of Mobility and Territories, the Friendly City Program of the municipality of Conchalí, and the Citizen Caring Cooperative.

Objectives

The project's main objective is to strengthen the care network of the residents of Juanita Aguirre, Conchalí. This is through organizing the different scales of care in the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood care community and its relationship with the public entity, educating the community that does not perform as caregivers regarding the community role of care, and encouraging self-management of the care network in the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood.

Courses of action

The territorial and horizontal work with the community allowed to develop an exchange of knowledge linked to three axes.

The first consisted of knowing the network of care in the neighborhood. The second consisted of promoting the community role of care to think of them outside the private housing sphere, understood as a complex network of people, institutions, and public policies.

Photo captured in the framework of the workshops developed for the community to strengthen the care network of the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood in the Commune of Conchalí.



Finally, the third axis dealt with the promotion of self-management and sustainability in the time of the care network, with the aim that care relationships do not fall on a single person or women.

Approach

The project addressed the understanding of care from thinking, feeling, and doing. There have been sessions where we reflect on care at the theoretical level starting from the perspectives and previous knowledge of the community. From the feeling, the activity of "body mapping" developed, where the participants could observe that the body also lives the burden of care and recognize the body as territory and, at the same time, the influence of the territory (spaces that are inhabited daily - park, services, work, school, etc.) in the body.

As part of the methodology, the project decided to recognize the emotions that the burden of care brings, the disease that affects subjectivities, and the body, as the first territory. From the making, a participatory mapping was developed to identify the spaces of the neighborhood that care, recognizing the territorial dimension of care.

Impact

The project created a playful tool to evaluate the infrastructure based on four dimensions: self-management, sustainability over time, the spatiality of care, and relationship with the State.

Photo captured in the framework of the workshops developed for the community to strengthen the care network of the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood in the Commune of Conchalí.

Through questions, the collective and neighborhood council became aware of the existing care organization in the community and identified the care experiences of its inhabitants collectively.

On the other hand, the project developed a documentary that recorded the entire process, a manual to explore the infrastructure of neighborhood care, and a methodological proposal with workshops and activities to address care at the neighborhood level.

Finally, the direct involvement of caregivers allowed them to strengthen their organization and community identity by deepening the theoretical aspects on which they base their work, the relationship with its community, and the promotion and strengthening of care in this territory; likewise, they reinforce its capacity to coordinate and influence local public policies with the Municipality of Conchalí.

Published resources:

Manual to explore the neighborhood care infrastructure

[Documentary film "Plan para explorar la infraestructura de los cuidados barriales"](#)



Plan to explore the neighborhood care infrastructure

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