



GRRIPP

Gender Responsive
Resilience and Intersectionality in
Policy and Practice

PLAN TO EXPLORE NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE

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Context

The care dimension is fundamental in human life. Women have historically overseen care, which can result in an overload in the daily responsibilities for one's life and others. Despite the centrality of care at the social level, incorporating it remains a challenge for public policy makers and it is an element not sufficiently studied at the academic level in the continent.

Against this background, the problems addressed by this proposal are the individualisation of care and the need for more infrastructure around carers. This project aims to collectivise care by providing safety and communication infrastructure that facilitates the maintenance of/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. This territory has a board of neighbours who support older adults with disabilities, and the board has established alliances with organisations of women caregivers.

About 30 people participated in this project including: neighbours, 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 was to be achieved through organising different scales of care in the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood care community and its relationship with the public entity; educating non-carer community members about 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 the project team 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; thinking of carers outside the private housing sphere, and understanding care 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.

Credit: Citizen Caring Cooperative



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. The project hosted sessions where participants reflected on care at the theoretical level, starting from the perspectives and previous knowledge of the community. From the feeling, a "body mapping" activity developed, where the participants could observe that the body also lives the burden of care and recognise the body as territory. Participants also observed 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 recognised the emotions that the burden of care brings, the disease that affects subjectivities and the body, as the first territory. From the making perspective, a participatory mapping activity was developed to identify the spaces of the neighborhood that care, recognising 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.

Workshops developed for the community to strengthen the care network of the Juanita Aguirre neighborhood in the Commune of Conchalí.

Credit: Citizen Caring Cooperative

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

The project also developed a documentary that recorded the entire process, a manual to explore the infrastructure of neighbourhood care, and a methodological proposal with workshops and activities to address care at the neighbourhood level.

Finally, the direct involvement of caregivers allowed participants to strengthen their organisations and community identity by deepening the theoretical aspects on which they base their work, the relationship with their community, and the promotion and strengthening of care in this territory. Likewise, activities reinforced organisational 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"

Available: www.gripp.net/lacdigitalresources & <https://youtu.be/0-sjYnc2M2s>



Plan to Explore the Neighborhood Care Infrastructure

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