
CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Care as empowering people to care themselves, others, and community: Case of Seoul Health-ecosystem Initiative

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Introduction

Citizen participation in caring is important not only they can be service provider, but also they are citizen of community that they care about and try to solve matter of health and care in their community. Citizens' role as caregiver is widely discussed, but their role as democratic citizen in care perspective has not been considered much. Moreover, activists' role to empower and support participants to be democratic citizen has not been much known.

Aims Objectives Theory or Methods

The aim of this paper is to reveal activists' role to empower people to be democratic citizen and to support their caring activities. This will be discussed in view of care. From philosophers' perspective who dealt with caring ethics, such as Eva Kittay and Virginia Held, caring is matter of interdependency and relations. I'm going to focus on relationship among activists, participants, and other actors of community.

Interviews with 9 activists and 9 citizens from 9 communities in Seoul, South Korea, were conducted.

Highlights or Results or Key Findings

The main subjects of this initiative to promote people's engagement was activists, community based organizations(CBOs), and health committee which was composed of participants. In relations with participants, activists were recruiting participants by meeting people in the communities, supporting to empower recruited people in diverse ways, and they had people-centered attitude all over the initiative. In relations with community, activists were helping participants' activities with linking community resources and other activities in the community. The CBOs were being the base of all these citizens and activists works. Health committees were being the field that participants can discuss health and care issues of their communities and can raise holistic view of those issues. All these process were relational process. It can be also said that activists' works to support participants are caring work.

Conclusions

All these process were relational process. It can be also said that activists' works to support participants are caring work.

Implications for applicability/transferability sustainability and limitations

This paper contributes in that it revealed that the facilitator is needed to promote citizen engagement. The more focus on activists role as facilitator, the more citizen engagement could be activated. Limitation is that during covid-19, I couldn't interview diverse stakeholders of communities.