Care ethics approach to children‘s participation

Theorizing childhood: citizenship, rights, participation

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Anne Wihstutz,
Protestant University of Applied Sciences, Berlin
agency as a relational concept

- Agency is responding to circumstances the person finds herself or himself embedded in.
- Agency is the use of one's resources and abilities to respond to another's use of resources and abilities, limited by specificities of context.
- Agency implies an active, responsive self.
- The active self shows agency in interacting with his/her own lived reality.
- Agency is an expression of subjective interpretations of specific and contextualized circumstances.
- Agency is not limited to materialized, visible change and outcomes.
Care-ethical perspective

- Care is practice and disposition.
- Care is a concern of living, active human engaged in the processes of everyday living.
- Care as practice is aimed at maintaining, continuing, or repairing the world.
- Care is NOT limited to dyadic or individualistic relationship.
- Care is an ongoing process.
- Care is NOT gender-bound

(Tronto 1993, 103/4)
Central ethical aspects to care

• attentiveness,
• responsibility,
• competence
• Responsiveness

• Caring about
• Taking care of
• Care giving
• Care receiving
Participation

• Is not limited to public/political sphere
• Includes care practice
• In informal contexts and social relationships
• In multiple groups
• Is a struggle to be acknowledged member
citizenship

• Is not simply granted (historical fight: women, slaves; today: children)
• Reflects a struggle for participation
• Recognises citizens’ difference as collectivities with distinct historical circumstances, vulnerabilities and interests.
• signifies acknowledgment of citizen’s desire to belong as full members
“Children’s rights of participation must address and empower children’s agency in resisting the oppressions that they may be facing in ways that have their basis in an acknowledgement of children’s rights to participate in this resistance and not by overlooking it through a construction of children as victims.”

(Moosa-Mitah 2005, 382)
Thank you for your attention!
Bibliography


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