The Promotion of Community Well-Being and “Public Space”

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ABSTRACT

For the promotion of community well-being, there is a need for commonality. A concrete method of accomplishing such commonality is by organizing people in community. But organizations based on commonality tend to exclude non-members. There is a need for a process that subsumes people from the community who have been excluded from the organization.

Therefore, this paper is a study of “public space,” which uses the concept of “public” to examine those spaces open to everyone, and how they contribute to the process of promoting community well-being.

“Public space” for the promotion of community well-being has the following features: first, it has the characteristics of “public space” identified by Hannah Arendt. In fact this is the space where politics begins, and reflects the pluralism and initiative of human beings. But it does not have a totalitarian mentality and does not put labor’s values in a positive light. “Being plural, human beings can gather to form a space amongst themselves, and in that space can see their common world from different points of view and therefore talk about their common affairs” (Canovan, 1992: 146). Some examples include, psychological, spiritual, and active [making friends]. The second feature of such public spaces is that the means of accomplishing its potential is through communication. Finally, this space plays a background role in providing an infrastructure where people can be brought together, and thus be the setting for community well-being practice and activities.

Key Words: community well-being, commonality, ARENDT’s “public space”