



DET KRIMINAL
PRÆVENTIVE RÅD

Citizen 's motivation for participation in local
crime prevention work.

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Who is the citizen ?



Definition of voluntary work:

- **Voluntary work or voluntary services is the term for individual, unpaid work of a certain formal nature. The work takes the form of organised and/or agreed services, not simply spontaneous acts of ordinary helpfulness such as, for example, neighbourhood watch. Voluntary work is understood as being unpaid, even if volunteers have their expenses paid or receive a small symbolic payment (ibid:43).**
- **Finally, voluntary work and membership of voluntary associations can be considered an expression of the social capital of an individual or a society.**
- **Voluntary social work addresses the political discourse concerning how “to take responsibility for each other”.**

Special characteristics of volunteers in social work:

- ❑ Most are working women between the ages of 30 and 65. **Only rarely are volunteers former users or relatives of users.** Similarly, only few associations have volunteers from a company that allows staff to offer their volunteer services during working hours.
- ❑ Certain types of jobs are particularly popular among volunteers – **guard duties and shop jobs, for example. Short-term jobs are also found to be attractive!**
- ❑ Quite a few associations have noted a general increase in the number of applications for volunteer work, while others have had to discontinue their activities because they lack volunteer help.
- ❑ **However, many researchers question whether volunteer work has sufficient potential as a means of ensuring the future of our welfare society, our welfare state.**



Voluntary action is motivated from different motivation functions:

- **Normative motives:**
 - Which relate to personal values as altruism, affection and obligations for the case
- **Structural motives:**
 - Which relates to necessity of belonging to a group and the need for social relations





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Experiences with local peoples participation in urban development projects in Denmark:

- **"Experiences with urban development(including crime prevention elements) projects in Denmark, which is based on local people's participation, shows that it requires certain resources to participate:**
 - *Time, knowledge and relational resources (how relational resources must be understood as being able to relate to organizational and political processes and political work .)*
- **These resources are not evenly distributed in the population, and some will, from this perspective have greater skills in relation to attend.**
- **Experience within nine urban area suggest that the most vulnerable citizens increasingly are targeted for activities other than participating in them. "(National Board of Health 2004)**



Experiences concerning citizen involvement

Experiences concerning citizen involvement in the Healthy Cities network also shows that the barrier for citizen can relate to:

- ❑ **Structural and organizational issues, such as lack of political and economic support, traditional governance, bureaucracy and hierarchy**
- ❑ **The professional's professional and personal skills. Working with citizen demands such that the professional respect and take seriously the public that the professional is open, responsive, patient, open minded and willing to break with its own standards that they manage to give citizens ownership of the activities they are involved in. If these competencies are not held it may be a barrier to citizen participation. (Health Authority)**



Examples of volunteering in the local crime prevention work:

Ordinary volunteering examples

- ***Natteravnene (Night Owls)***

The purpose of Night Owls is to heighten social value and engage in caring and preventive activities to improve the life quality, well-being and integration of certain groups in the public space, especially vulnerable children and young people.

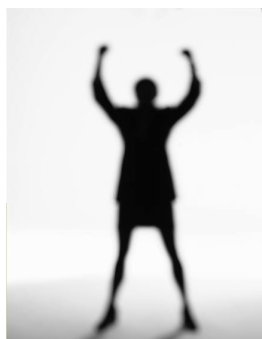
- ***Victim support organisations***

Volunteer workers at victim support organisations offer to talk to individuals who have been the victim of a crime. The aim of the conversations is to help these people regain faith in their surroundings and thus reduce their risk of once more becoming a crime victim

Volunteer work in close cooperation with the municipality

- ***Volunteer street patrols – a way of engaging the public***

Volunteer mentors and mentoring programmes (mentor corps – organisations of volunteer mentors) is an area experiencing rapid growth. Young people at risk of adopting a criminal lifestyle are offered a volunteer mentor as a conversation partner, supportive adult and contact person to the extent the young person feels a need for it.



Examples of citizen involvement in local crime prevention work

Citizen involvement

- **Safety walks**

Safety walks are a way to involve citizens to actively consider their local environment

A safety walk is a way to create a better local environment.

On the hike you go for a walk around the residential area to find unsafe places for improvement. The method is based on the knowledge that residents and people working in the area because they have the greatest knowledge of local conditions. Safety walks not only creates greater security. The improvements will often have an impact on crime in the area.

- **Community participation in urban areas – an example of asset-based community participation**

Vejle local authority has worked with Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) since 2005.

The model has been developed on the basis of a deprived housing estate that was used as a pilot for several years.

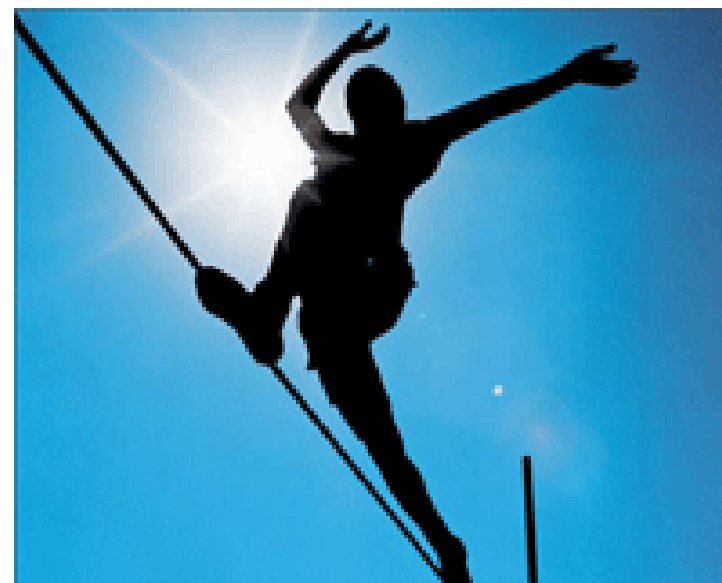
Citizen activity

- **Neighbourhood Watch schemes**

Break-ins and vandalism can be avoided if neighbours in residential areas and housing blocks agree to watch what is going on in the neighbourhood and keep an eye on each other's homes on a daily basis.



Perspectives ? Challenges ?



**Which of the above mentioned
experiences is important to remember ?**