



INTER NETWORK

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Active Citizenship: A Crucial Goal towards creating an Inclusive Community

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The Case for Active Citizenship (Public Participation)

The Challenges:

- Irreversible processes of modernisation (risks)
- Social segregation and individualisation
- Globalisation
- political apathy and cynicism
- Increasing “symbolisation of politics
- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Demographic changes

The Sustainable Impact of Early Participation

Further Benefits of Active Citizenship

- improving their social environment
- raising public awareness of their needs and rights
- enjoying public recognition of their engagement
- experiencing and learning about social and political issues, conditions, structures, processes
- acting and learning in alternative spaces

- experiencing and learning responsibility
- fostering cooperative action and social integration
- learning how to cope with conflicts and with not reaching a goal
- experiencing their real influence and thus
- increasing their self-confidence
- creating their civic identity

Benefits to Parents and Citizens

- mentoring their parents and other adults
- sharing effects of their participatory experiences

Benefits to Schools

- linking elements of curriculum-based learning with community issues
- fostering progressive and effective learning strategies (especially in the context of citizenship education)
- raising public awareness
- enjoying public recognition
- improving school quality and image
- empowering the school's role in community
- inviting public authorities and private sponsors to grant financial support

Benefits to Local Politicians and Public Administration

- increasing public acknowledgement
- developing community identity
- benefitting from specific expertise and knowledge of young participants
- supporting social integration
- contributing to crime prevention
- fostering social stability
- raising the attraction of the community
- sharing the burden of responsibility

Benefits to Local Economy

- accumulating 'social capital'
- offering attractive living conditions (especially to families)
- improving the commercial climate

Experiencing and Learning How to Participate as a Citizen

The Rationale of Experiential Civic Learning

Definition of Experiential Civic Learning

Essentials of Experiential Citizenship

- **Authenticity**
- **Reflective Action**
- **Self-determination**
- **Cooperation**
- **Problem-orientation**

Experiential Citizenship Education in Practice: Active Citizens

1. Identify public problems in the community
2. Decide upon the *problem* to solve
3. Gather and evaluate *information*
4. Examine *possible solutions*
5. Develop a strategy - a *public policy*
6. Develop an *action plan*
7. Develop a *portfolio*
8. Present the *portfolio*
9. Actively participate in the public policy process
10. *Reflection*

Conclusions

- Benefits of early citizenship participation
- Understanding youth attitudes
- The challenges of citizenship

- http://curriculum.qca.org.uk/key-stages-3-and-4/curriculum-in-action/casestudieslibrary/case-studies/Democracy_in_action.aspx?return=/key-stages-3-and-4/subjects/citizenship/index.aspx#page2_p



Thank you.