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| **How can we promote neighborhood social capital through shared ownership over neighborhood-resources?** |
| **Introduction:** Within health promotion, a central strategy is to create health-supporting settings, and counter-act environmental and social health-inequalities. In this context, facilitating for social capital in the neighborhood emerges as a beneficial approach. The focus of this paper is to critically examine if and how shared ownership of neighborhood-resources can facilitate for the development of neighborhood social capital.  **Methods:** 3 focus-group and 3 in-depth interviews were conducted in a Norwegian municipality between 2013 - 2014. Each focus-groups was composed of inhabitants from two proximate neighborhoods. In-depth interviews were conducted with strategically sampled participants, and primarily used to confirm emerging findings and indicate data-saturation. Data was analyzed using a constructivist grounded theory approach.  **Findings and discussion:** Findings suggest that ownership can be experienced independently from de-facto ownership. It is experienced as emotional closeness, responsibility towards, and a certain influence over the resource. Shared ownership facilitates for social capital by providing meeting-places, opportunities to share a common focus, engage in joined activity, and develop shared goals. These experiences are linked to bonding social capital and the establishment of a local in-group. Shared ownership benefits bridging social capital by engaging in shared activity and inter-group dialogue, including negotiations about internal distributions and terms-of-use. This highlighted conflicting needs, and enabled neighbors to make compromises. However, this might be spoiled by horizontal as well as vertical power-inequalities. Shared resources play an ambivalent role in respect to linking social capital: shared, adaptable resources could contribute to perceptions of being self-sufficient and experience structural social capital. However, over-ruling perceived ownership could lead to bonding social capital locally, while simultaneously damage for linking social capital by de-legitimizing public decisions and decision-makers.  **Concluding remarks:** Shared, perceived ownership of neighborhood-resources is a favorable condition for social capital, especially bridging social capital. However, matters of internal as well as horizontal power-relations have to be taken into account. Committing agreements in regard to shared responsibilities and influence between various groups, as well as between the neighborhood and the municipality, are crucial in order to promote the health-beneficial effects of shared ownership. |