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Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities

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Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities

SPECIAL ISSUE

Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado and Inés Novella Abril coordinated this special issue with the editorial board

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Urban Quality Audit from a gender perspective A feminist methodology for the analysis, design and evaluation of everyday life spaces

Adriana Ciocoletto

Abstract

In general, in the different phases of urban planning, a holistic interpretation is missed in the decision-making process. Also, women's experiences, as users and professionals in the transformation of the place we inhabit, have been dismissed.

Therefore, the main goal of developing the Urban Quality Audit with a gender perspective as an urban evaluation tool is to evaluate whether our neighbourhoods and cities respond to people's needs without any type of discrimination.

This article is part of the evolution of the work of my doctoral dissertation in coordination with members of Col·lectiu Punt6. The Urban Quality Audit with a gender perspective is part of the work that has nurtured over time through the collective experience, the knowledge of women who have participated in workshops, walks and participatory



processes, the exchange with municipal staff who has participated in trainings and the different consultancy work developed for different public institutions.

The current article is divided in three parts: a brief approximation to the feminist contributions to contemporary urban practice; a second part that interrelates the concepts of urban planning, gender perspective, everyday life and the neighborhood scale; a third part where the methodological contributions of the audit are presented. Finally, some general conclusions about the application of the audit.

KEY WORDS

Urban planning for a gender perspective, urban indicators, everyday life spaces, feminist methodology.

Analisi di Qualità Urbana secondo una prospettiva di genere. Una metodologia femminista per l'analisi, la progettazione e la valutazione degli spazi di vita quotidiana

In generale, nelle diverse fasi della pianificazione urbana, un'interpretazione olistica è mancata nel processo decisionale. Inoltre, le esperienze delle donne, come utenti e professionisti nella trasformazione dei luoghi in cui viviamo, sono state escluse. Pertanto, l'obiettivo principale di sviluppare l'Analisi di Qualità Urbana secondo una prospettiva di genere come strumento di valutazione urbana è quello di stabilire se i nostri quartieri e città rispondono ai bisogni della gente, senza alcun tipo di discriminazione.

Questo articolo è parte dell'evoluzione del lavoro della mia tesi di dottorato in coordinamento con i membri del Col•lectiu Punt6. L'Analisi di Qualità Urbana secondo una prospettiva di genere fa parte del lavoro che è stato svolto nel tempo attraverso l'esperienza collettiva, la conoscenza delle donne che hanno partecipato ai laboratori, alle passeggiate e ai processi di partecipazione, lo scambio con il personale del Comune che ha partecipato ai corsi di formazione e le diverse attività di consulenza sviluppate per diverse istituzioni pubbliche.

L'articolo è diviso in tre parti: una breve descrizione dei contributi femministi alla pratica urbana contemporanea; una seconda parte che correla i concetti di pianificazione urbana, prospettiva di genere, vita quotidiana e la scala di quartiere; una terza parte in cui vengono presentati i contributi metodologici dell'Analisi di Qualità Urbana.

Infine, alcune conclusioni generali circa l'applicazione dell'Analisi.

PAROLE CHIAVE

Pianificazione urbana per una prospettiva di genere, indicatori urbani, spazi di vita quotidiana, metodologia femminista.

Urban Quality Audit from a gender perspective A feminist methodology for the analysis, design and evaluation of everyday life spaces*

Adriana Ciocoletto

1. Feminist contributions to the urban planning critique

The feminist critique makes an essential contribution because it challenges the homogenous view of society, and makes visible how our patriarchal and capitalist society assigns gender roles that reproduce inequalities. Through a feminist lens, we can analyse how the design of the space where daily activities are developed can generate inequalities if the needs related to care and reproductive tasks are not included.

Also feminist and gender studies make a methodological contribution, which is needed to make visible the differences, address inequalities and respond to the everyday life needs in a holistic way.

In the 1970s, the critique to the dominant urban planning paradigm argues that urban practice has been based on the idea of the functionalist city that is manifested in the territory through the segregation of activities and zones, and privileges the private vehicle as the mode of transportation, in opposition to the concept of a city with mixed uses and people's proximity (Jacobs, 1961; Choay 1965, Lefebvre, 1969). Feminist theory contributes to this critique by making visible the importance of the everyday life as essential data to include in the design of urban spaces, placing people at the center and making visible the activities of life reproduction. Therefore, from the different urban disciplines, a change of methodology is proposed to incorporate everyday life data through women's experiences and participation, which have been historically ignored.

One of the topics feminist theories have developed is the definition of everyday life. Summarizing, the everyday life can be defined as the activities that people develop in the different spheres of life, including productive, reproductive, personal, and community/political tasks. These activities are developed in a physical support (neighbourhood, city, territory ...) and at a specific time (Boccia, 2003; Horelli, 2006; Torns et.al, 2006; Casanovas, 2010; Ciocoletto & Gutiérrez Valdivia, 2011). To include this dimension of everyday life in urban planning is essential to respond to the real needs of people in an inclusive way.

The feminist critique confirms that despite the existence of alternative proposals to "humanize" the city, urban planning has been conceptualized as a science of "experts", based on the Athens Charter and has simplified the live to four large basic functions (inhabit, work, circulate, leisure) and on "universal" criteria about the needs of a "man-type". The ideology behind is the maximum profit of the capitalist society in the analysis and construction of cities (Choay, 1965; Jacobs, 1961; Lefebvre, Montaner & Muxí,

** This article was translated by Sara Ortiz Escalante, Col·lectiuPunt 6*

2011).

As a result, in different European countries, and in the United States despite the differences, urban centers have deteriorated and sprawl has expanded promoting suburban single-use areas such as residential suburbs, industrial areas, large shopping malls that respond to the Athens Charter's basic functions. (Hyden, 1982; Greed, 1994)

This form of city planning and design follows a growth model supported by the liberal economy where the productive and paid activities have a value. The rest of activities and specially the unpaid reproductive tasks are not valued (Carrasco, 2007).

As a consequence, the spaces needed to develop the everyday life, such as the traditional, vital and lively streets have been dismissed through the abandonment of the care of the city. In response, the social function of public space and the need for proximity in the different uses, as an urban quality, become a demand (Jacobs, 1961).

The feminist critique and gender studies have criticized the logic of the capitalist and patriarchal system, breaking hierarchies and privileging the experience instead of the jargon, to have a more inclusive vision of reality. This critique proposes to analyse, understand and propose urban alternatives to include the everyday life experience of people and specially of women, because due to the reproduction of traditional gender roles, women continue being responsible of most domestic and care work (Yeandle, 1998; Peña Molina, 1998). And beyond the gender roles, feminism critique reveals the different dimensions of violence and discrimination in the public space and how these generate differences in the use and enjoyment of women and men and the inequality in the access to the city (Falú, 2009).

Another methodological contribution of feminism is to include the everyday life experience applying qualitative methods from a gender and a participatory perspective. Feminists propose using qualitative methods to complement quantitative data (Pedone, 2000); giving attention to the relation between the researcher and the researchees, giving special value to the personal experience (Yeandle, 1998); including women's experiences as experts of their everyday environment (Booth, et. al., 1998) and applying an intersectional perspective that allows to know the needs and aspirations of the population depending on their gender, age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic situation (Sánchez de Madariaga, 2004).

2. Urban planning from a gender perspective: the everyday life at the neighborhood scale

Urban planning is essential in the lives of people because it is the discipline that determines the configuration of spaces, which constitute the physical structure of social uses. The uses of spaces and the activities that take place in them will depend on the everyday life experiences; therefore it is essential to analyze these spaces responding to the everyday needs of people.

A gender perspective redefines the urban planning developed in the current capitalist

society, where spaces and activities related with economic production have been privileged over the reproductive tasks related to the care and the everyday places where these tasks take place. Historically, mostly women have developed the reproductive tasks. For this reason, it is essential to analyze the everyday life and the gender differences in the development of reproductive and care tasks from an intersectional perspective, responding to the diversity of experiences of women, men, children, youth and senior, as well as to other intersecting characteristics such as capability, origin or income.

The concept of everyday life is a broadly studied theme and therefore, complex to define (Prats, et.al., 1995).

Everyday life can be defined as the activities that people develop to cover their needs in the different spheres of life: productive, reproductive, community or political, as well as personal. These activities are developed in a particular physical support (neighborhood, city and region) and at different times.

In each of the four spheres of everyday life people develop different activities (Casanovas & Gutiérrez Valdivia, 2013).

- Productive sphere: activities related to the production of goods and services that usually are remunerated.
- Reproductive sphere: unpaid activities of personal and family care developed in a household. These activities are also called domestic tasks, and include the provision of housing, food, clothes and care. (Carrasco Bengoa & Serrano, 2006)
- Personal sphere: activities related to the personal and intellectual development of each individual. These activities can be developed through social life, sports, leisure, entertainment, hobbies, etc.
- Political sphere: actions that are essential to the foundation and conservation of a political community. This sphere sets the conditions to give continuity to a community through generations, memory and history (Arendt, 1958).

In practice, these spheres are interrelated. Reproductive tasks can have higher relevance since they are essential for the care of human life, and the other spheres could not be developed without reproductive work.

The complexity of everyday life depends on the gender assigned to each person. A person in charge of taking care of other people will develop a higher number of everyday life activities in comparison with a person who only needs to take care of him/herself. This difference becomes evident in the use of space. If a person only takes care of him/herself, his/her mobility will be simple and linear, from home to work or to another personal activity (traditional male gender role). However, the mobility of a person taking care of others is more complex and involves polygonal movements due to trip chaining, for example, from grocery shopping to accompany a dependent person (traditional female gender role).

The neighborhood becomes very relevant because it is the closer environment to housing where most everyday life activities of reproduction are developed, and the closer space for dependent people. From the housing dwellings it is necessary to be able to walk to: public spaces where people socialize and establish mutual support ties; public facilities

that support everyday tasks and improve the quality of life; commercial areas where people get supplies; and public transportation, necessary to move to other activities.

It is possible to identify three scales in the distribution of everyday life activities, depending on the distance to housing and the developed activities: the scale of the community, space closer to the housing dwellings; the space of neighborhood where we develop most of the everyday life activities; and the scale beyond-the-neighborhood, space located outside the neighborhood where people develop the rest of everyday life activities.

This paper presents the summary of the results of the research project where the methodology of Urban Quality Audit from a gender perspective has been applied. This research includes the elaboration of a concept map where the everyday life activities in the space have been enumerated and ordered. The objective of separating the scales in this map is to understand the relationship between physical and social needs. At the same time, we want to make visible the spaces needed to develop everyday life activities in the

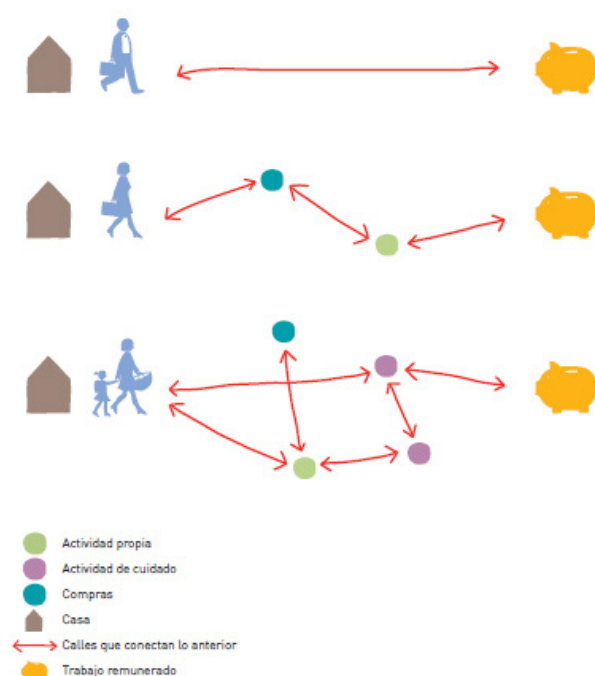


Fig. 1 - Everyday life, gender roles and urban spaces diagram. Source: Authors with Col·lectiu Punt 6, based on the dance of the cities of Jane Jacobs and in the work of Franziska Ullman.

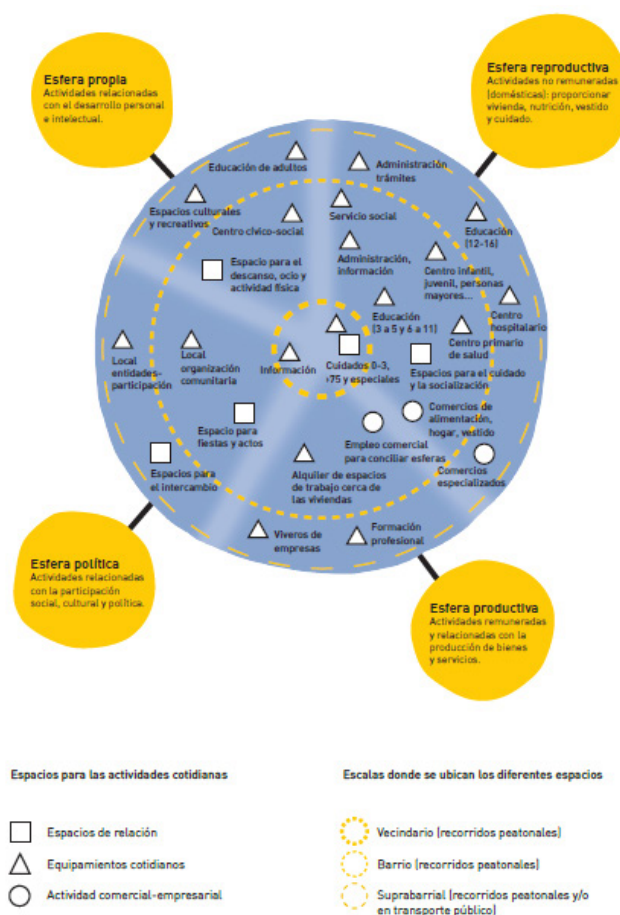


Fig.2 - concept map with the everyday life activities in the space and spheres. Source: Authors

different spatial scales and depending on the four spheres of everyday life (productive, reproductive, political and personal). It is essential to understand that these spheres do not have a rigid structure, all the contrary; the tasks of the reproductive sphere are mixed with all the others. Also, a different amount of time is dedicated to each sphere.

Here we propose to divide the spheres, not depending on the time invested in each of them, but approximately depending on the amount of spaces used and identified as necessary. It is possible to observe that the reproductive sphere is the one that needs more spaces for its development. Therefore, the methodological proposal of this paper is focused on analyzing and evaluating the conditions in these spaces to satisfy the needs of the everyday life.

Focusing on the scale of the neighborhood in order to study the everyday life does not mean to exclude from the analysis the scale of the city or the region, where other complementary activities are developed. The scale of the neighborhood, which includes the community scale, is where we can better evaluate where the gender perspective has been included in urban planning, since it is possible to measure its impact in a more specific and differentiated way.

Applying the gender criteria to the urban planning contributes to the development of a more just and equal society because it influences the location of the activities, the interrelation among them and the qualities of the spaces (Bofill Levi, 2008). In addition, it contributes to sustainable development (Sánchez de Madariaga, 2004) since the optimal city model for the development of the everyday life is based on the spatial-temporal proximity (Miralles-Guasch, 2011). This proximity facilitates a type of mobility that gives priority to walking and is accessible to connect activities and mixed uses with several facilities, retail and transportation close to housing dwellings. Also, this model of city responds to people's autonomy in the use of different spaces, to the vitality in the streets to help people to interact, and to the representativeness, the recognition and participation in equal conditions.

In order to mainstreaming gender in the design of spaces it is essential to work in a multi-scale form with people involved in all the phases of urban planning, from the details of the public space to the territorial analysis, avoiding the segregation of planning. Also, it is important to be interdisciplinary, and include in urban planning the different urban knowledges, not only those from architecture. Participation of the different social sectors is necessary, from neighbors to the institutions in order to integrate the different experiences.

In the process of analyzing the institutional urban planning practice, major challenges are identified when applying the multi-scale, interdisciplinary and participatory conditions that should guarantee gender mainstreaming in urban planning (Col·lectiu Punt 6, 2011). There is a tendency to separate people depending on the space they occupy, and with a very simplistic vision of society. This is due to the rigidity of the urban planning tools (regulation and plans), to the challenges of teamwork and between departments (urban planning, social services, etc.), and to the absence of a comprehensive analysis that allows a redefinition of needs and an ongoing evaluation

to adapt these needs.

When we analyze the city as a whole, as a remote scale, we obtain data about the distribution of green areas, facilities and services, transportation, connectivity and accessibility between the different areas. However, quantitative analyses are not enough to understand the reality, they can even give a distorted picture. For this reason, it is essential to evaluate always these data from the proximity at the neighborhood scale (Muxí Martínez, 2006) and from people's everyday life. This allows corroborating how the different elements work within the spaces on a daily basis and how they respond to the different needs.

Three typologies of spaces have been defined to apply the evaluation of everyday life spaces: neighborhood and everyday life network, spaces of relationship, and everyday life facilities.

Neighborhood and everyday life network

The neighborhood is the unit of analysis. It is composed of an urban fabric and a population with particular characteristics. The everyday life network should be identified and might not coincide with the limits of the neighborhood. This network is a set of spaces of relationship, everyday life facilities, retail stores, public transportation stops and streets that connect all these spaces, and people who live in the neighborhood use to satisfy their everyday life needs. The streets of the everyday life network should allow walking, have continuity and be useful; therefore, they should include different activities in addition to connect places.

Community scale: space located in the immediacy of the housing dwellings, shared

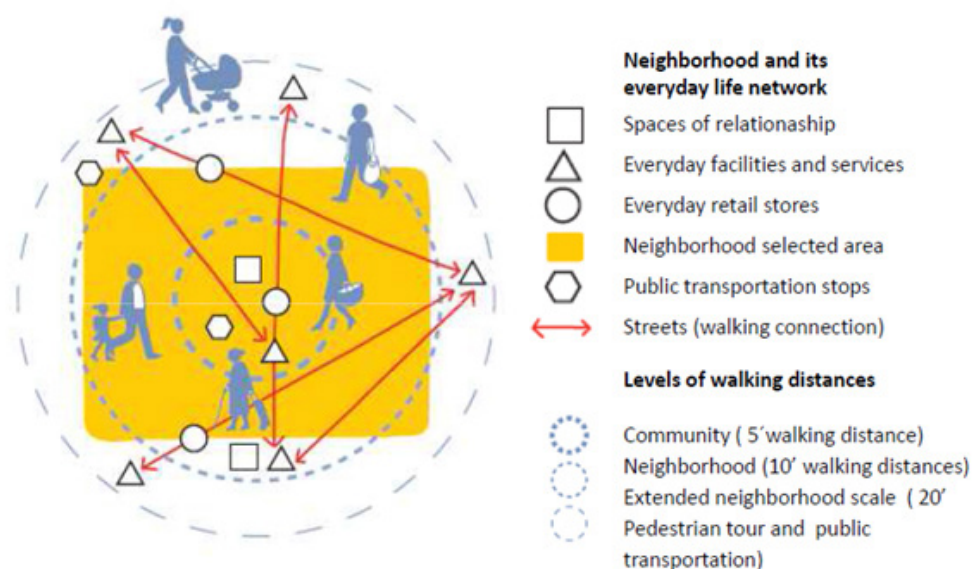


Fig .3 - Neighborhood and everyday life network diagram. Source: Authors

with neighbors and where it is possible to meet and socialize. It can be measured approximately between 250 or 300 meters maximum. It corresponds to a distance that is accessible, easy to travel for seniors, people with reduced mobility and people with children. These spaces can be intermediate spaces between the housing dwellings and the street, corners that allow the stay and other undetermined spaces.

Neighborhood scale: expansion of the community space where everyday life tasks are developed. It is where, in an optimal situation, we can find spaces of relationship, everyday life facilities, retail stores needed for the everyday and public transportation. It can be measured approximately in a radius of 10 minutes walking of a person without mobility challenges.

Beyond-the-neighborhood scale: space located outside the neighborhood and where we can find the rest of spaces of relationship, facilities, and retail not necessary at the neighborhood scale because they are not related to family dependencies. It can be measured approximately in a radius of 20 minutes walking of a person without mobility challenges and/or it can be covered by public transportation.

Spaces of relationship

Spaces where people can interact when developing everyday life activities in their urban environment (neighborhood), mostly those that are related with the care of the home and other people, that allow strengthening social networks of mutual support.

Everyday life facility

Facilities that are used on a daily basis and that are essential for the support of everyday life in all the phases of life. They improve people's quality of life. They are also spaces of reference for a particular community where exchange, socialization and mutual support is generated.

A minimum number of facilities should exist within the everyday network, in order to respond to people's needs through specific programs. These facilities might not be located in a particular building, they could be multifunctional spaces that respond to more than one need. Also, the list of facilities could be expanded depending on the specificities of each neighborhood or municipality and it will depend on the size of the population. In the social contexts evaluated we considered basic facilities: information in the City Hall, health centers, space for elder care (day center or similar), space for childcare from 0 to 3 (daycare or other spaces that respond to this need), preschool from 3 to 5, school from 6 to 11, high school from 12 to 16, community centers for different ages, cultural centers (civic center, library, etc.), spaces for physical activity (sports center or spaces where people can exercise), etc. This list must be adapted to the context.

3. The Urban Quality Audit from a Gender Perspective

Who is involved?

The diagnosis and application of the urban evaluation and management indicators need information that come from different groups of people: the auditors that are in charge of the evaluation, people that represent the public administration of the place where the audit takes place, neighbors and the users of the evaluated spaces.

Auditors: Sensitive professionals trained in urban planning and everyday life from a gender perspective. It is essential that they receive the adequate education because this will allow them to have the judgment needed to understand the reality, without simplifying both social and functional aspects, and have at the same time knowledge of people's everyday life.

Administration: All those technicians and people that work in City Hall policies and take part in the planning process and the urban improvement of the evaluated neighborhoods. It is essential for the politicians and professionals group to be transversal, multidisciplinary and led by the Mayor's Office. It is necessary that the selected people belong to diverse areas related to urban planning, social services, equality, community relations, elderly services, youth services, culture, local police, etc. They will receive instructions to understand the concepts needed to give information, and to validate results presented by the audit team. They will work through workshops and/or meetings.

Neighbors: Neighbors from the evaluated neighborhood that allows us incorporating the everyday life experiences as data for the evaluation. We will work with a women's group from the neighborhood that will lead the Audit as experts in the use of spaces. The group will work with other neighbors with whom we will organize workshops and interviews to get essential and necessary information. The group selection will respond to the different demographics in order to reflect diversity: sex, age, functional diversity, origin, culture, as well as the role played in the neighborhood.

How much time is needed?

The time to carry out an Audit will depend on the internal organization of the Administration, in coordination with the neighbors, to work with the auditors. This basically consists in providing the contact list of the neighbors, finding places for conducting meetings and workshops, giving the information required, and having available time for the meetings. From the experiences previously developed, the time estimated is between 2 and 4 months

How is it developed?

The Audit comprises three consecutive phases of development.

1. *Participatory Diagnosis*

Data collection to evaluate the spaces in collaboration with neighbors. Previously the area of work is studied and analyzed, including the physical, social and functional aspects. A qualitative methodology from a gender perspective is used to determine in which conditions the everyday life is developed in the neighborhood.

2. Urban Space Evaluation

Quantitative information is elaborated with data that contemplate physical, social and functional aspects. This allows measuring and comparing the neighborhood situation across time and identifying the necessary lines of action for the improvement of people's everyday life. The municipal team and the representative agents of the women's group of each neighborhood validate the results.

3. Urban Management Evaluation

Internal analysis of the city's departments that have participated in the different urban planning related themes in order to evaluate whether gender mainstreaming is applied.



Fig.4 - Urban spatial qualities that respond to everyday life.
Source: Authors

Urban Indicators system

The urban evaluation has been developed through a system of spatial urban indicators that apply gender mainstreaming. This system of indicators responds to the local scale of the everyday life environments and to the qualitative information that includes the diversity of people's use and needs of people in the spaces. Different aspects until now omitted in general urban analysis have been incorporated.

This system of indicators has specific characteristics that make it complementary of

other systems of urban indicators, since this system analyzes in detail the spatial qualities from people's everyday life experiences. Also, this system does a multidimensional and cross-cutting analysis between the different physical, social and functional aspects, and it is built through team work between users and professionals. The data used is qualitative but the system of indicators has a rating system that allows quantifying, measuring and comparing in a temporal casuistry way, as well as verifying continuously the results to permit their correction. It is replicable in different urban and social contexts and in different phases of planning, since the system has been developed to analyze, evaluate and propose with the goal of becoming an educational and informative material.

The system of indicators has been structured in the spaces defined for the analysis and the five urban qualities, which are considered essential for spaces to respond to everyday life. Crossing spaces and qualities gives as a result a total of thirteen indicators. The system is structured in the three urban spaces: neighborhood and everyday life network, spaces of relationship, and everyday facilities. Each space is defined through the following urban qualities: proximity, diversity, autonomy, vitality and representativeness. The urban qualities are those characteristics that respond to the essential conditions of a space in order to respond to people's everyday life.

- Proximity

Proximity is the close location, in terms of space and time, as well as the connectivity by foot free of obstacles between spaces of relationship, everyday life facilities, public transportation stops and retail stores in relation to the housing dwellings and among spaces. It should be possible to develop the everyday life activities by foot with routes that connect the different spaces. There are three scales of proximity depending on the assiduity and the needs of the population: 5 minutes from home (300 m. approx. community scale), 10 minutes (800 m approx. neighborhood scale) and 20 minutes (1.500 approx. beyond-the-neighborhood scale) by foot and without difficulty. Proximity is needed to develop everyday life activities in an effective way and combining the personal, productive, reproductive and community spheres.

- Diversity

Diversity implies social, physical and functional mixture that allows a diversity of people, activities and uses responding to the different people's needs based on gender, sex, age, origin, and social class, among other factors.

- Autonomy

People have autonomy when spaces are perceived as safe, generate confidence to be used without restrictions and when accessibility conditions are universal in the spaces of the neighborhood and the everyday life network, independently of the different physical capacities.

- Vitality

The vitality of a space emerges with the simultaneous and continuing presence of people and with the density of activities and uses in the streets, spaces of relationship and facilities, favoring the meeting, socialization and mutual support.

- Representativeness

Representativeness emerges when there is real and social recognition and visibility of the community, and the memory, social and cultural patrimony with equity and participation is valued in planning decisions.



Fig.5 - Urban management qualities that include gender mainstreaming
Source:Authors

In addition, to incorporate gender criteria in the urban interventions it is essential that these criteria are integrated in the organization of work and within the technical team on a daily basis, in accordance to the particular context.

Gender mainstreaming in urban management is the incorporation of the gender equity principle in the urban management in a multi-scale, interdisciplinary and participatory way:

- Multi-scale

From the details of public spaces to the comprehensive analysis of the territory and in the different phases of urban planning, avoiding the segregation of planning.

- Interdisciplinary

Between the different institutional departments to include the different urban knowledges and not only from architecture.

- Participatory

Guaranteeing that the information fluctuates bi-directionally between neighbors and the institutions, independently if the urban planning intervention is lead from the community or from the municipality.

4. Conclusions

The Audit has been applied in five neighborhoods in different municipalities of the Barcelona province and in a neighborhood of the City of Buenos Aires.

The indicators proposed in the Audit have served essentially to evaluate the current situation and identify future lines of action. To understand how this analysis is conducted, we have identified some examples in order to highlight the aspects that favour everyday life. We propose the following lines of action to improve the conditions.

Some of the general reflections from the six cases are:

1. The gender perspective as a mainstreaming tool in urban planning public policies is still in an incipient state of application.
2. In the cases where gender mainstreaming is applied, it is due the political will and it is implemented with a professional team trained to include this perspective.
3. From the evaluation there are some urban qualities that we can positively value because they support everyday life, but we need a comprehensive analysis from a gender perspective to understand the impact of these qualities in people's lives.
4. As a general trend, we can confirm that the spatial needs of everyday life are not taken into account in regional planning. In the case when regional planning contemplates these needs, it is because a circumstantial situation rather than the product of a holistic project.

Regarding the spatial qualities, we have observed that not all the situations are absolute; a neighborhood or a space can have aspects that favour and aspects that hinder everyday life. The quality of proximity is the most fulfilled in the different neighborhoods, followed by vitality, diversity, representativeness and autonomy.

In relation to the space evaluated, we observe that the indicators of neighborhood and everyday life network are more accomplished in an urban compact fabric with mixed uses and located in a central part in relation with the municipal services, than a sprawling and peripheral fabric, such as neighborhoods in the suburbs and other neighborhoods with a lack of activities and mostly single use areas. The urban form is determinant of the characteristics that favor everyday life, however, by itself it does not guarantee a satisfactory development of everyday life. For example, in some neighborhoods that have all the spaces of relationship, facilities and retail stores needed for the development of everyday life, we have identified that the lack of autonomy (due to the maintenance and design of the streets) and the perception of the neighborhood prevents people to use freely the everyday life network.

It is also interesting to see that the spaces of relationship and everyday life facilities in a compact and mixed use neighborhood are not in worst conditions than in a single use and peripheral neighborhood. This difference is due to the existence of spaces of relationship and facilities that favour the everyday life. This confirms that despite the existence of deficient urban fabrics difficult to resolve, such as isolated neighborhoods and suburbs, it is possible to create an everyday life network that connects with the spaces of relationship or facilities in a positive environment and improve some aspects

of everyday life.

At the same time, a space of relationship or facility that have the qualities of interior design may not respond to the everyday life of the environment if the access to facility does not respond to the spatial qualities needed. This is because the interior space of the facility is as important as the characteristics of its environment and everyday life network where the facility is located. The proposed qualities to mainstream gender in the management (multi-scale, interdisciplinary, participatory) are even more difficult to accomplish because they have not been incorporated in an integral way within the institutions. Team work, collaboration between different departments and neighbors' participation are issues addressed, however in practice gender mainstreaming is a big challenge because planning is still segregated from other disciplines.

The Audit has allowed identifying some common aspects, but each case has a specific physical, social and functional context; in order to apply a gender perspective in the design and management of spaces there are no closed prescriptions, since it is essential to have a holistic analysis of the context.

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