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Social citizenship and welfare governance under Covid-19

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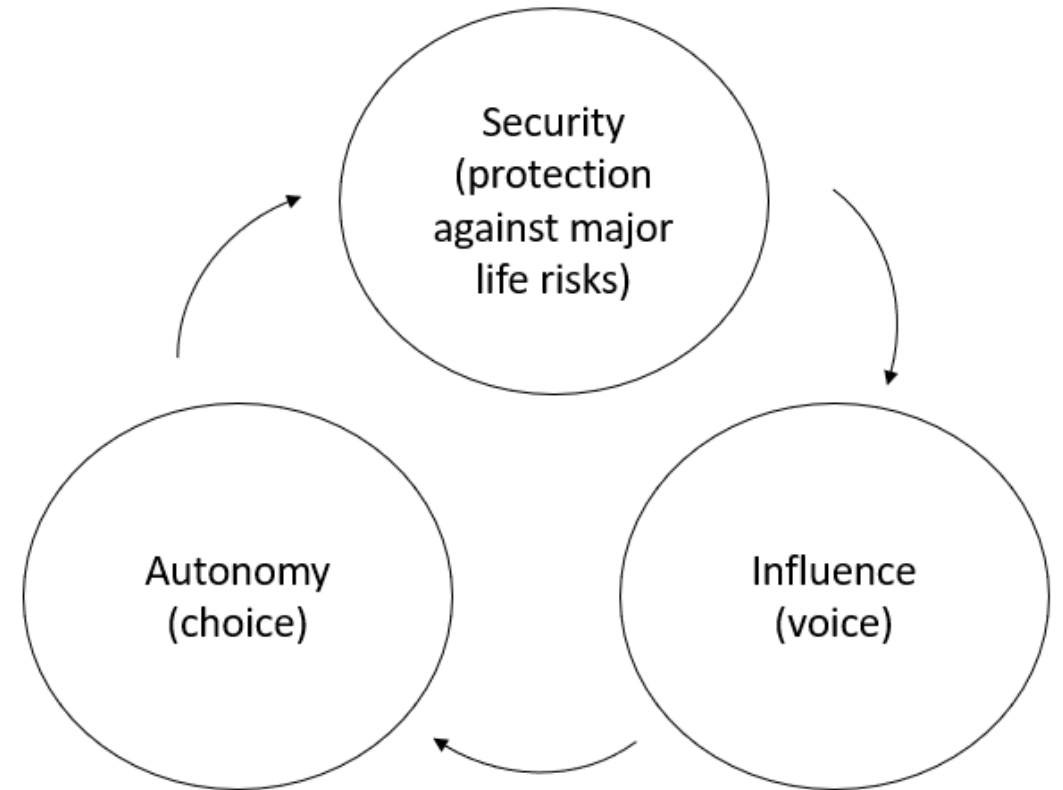
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Social citizenship under Covid-19

... being a full and equal citizen is, basically, a question of **practices**: living a decent life in accordance with the prevailing standards in society, being able to act autonomously, being able to participate in social and political life in the broadest sense, and having ‘civic’ orientations to the political community and to one’s fellow citizens. (Andersen & Halvorsen, 2002: 12–13)



Digital freedom under Covid-19

- In China, “the Health Code”, built on the mobile apps e.g. WeChat and Alipay, has been applied to register and identify people’s health status and traveling history.
- People are required to scan their personal “health code” when entering and leaving their local communities, using public transportation, visiting public venues e.g. hospitals and shopping centers.
- However, the low uptake and poor accessibility of ICTs among persons with disabilities may leave disabled citizens behind in the application of these new technologies, consequently excluding people from full social participation during the pandemic.



The role of DPOs under Covid-19

- **Promote autonomy (choice) and influence (voice)**
 - **Self-help groups**
 - Peer counselling and support («empowerment»)
 - People with the same background, identity or experience can in some contexts provide better support
 - **Provision of social services**
 - **Advocacy work**
 - Provide more systematic feedback to public authorities on the needs and experiences of the citizens
 - Open, limited and professional disagreements can be useful if you want to develop and adopt more relevant and appropriate policy measures
 - Too large emphasis on consensus and conflict avoidance can be counterproductive



Concluding comments

- People in vulnerable situations hardest hit by the Covid-19 crisis
- The consequences of Covid-19 specific measures for persons with disabilities depend on what other disability policies are in place
 - For instance: the usability of the Chinese «Health Code» app depends on the accessibility and affordability of ICT
- Need a focus not only focus on the **security** but also the **autonomy** and **influence** dimension of social citizenship
 - deliberative democracy under Covid-19



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