



UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

Citizenship in prevocational education: Professional pride as a source

Leeman, Y.; Volman, M.

DOI

[10.1177/1746197919883252](https://doi.org/10.1177/1746197919883252)

Publication date

2021

Document Version

Final published version

Published in

Education, Citizenship and Social Justice

License

Article 25fa Dutch Copyright Act

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Leeman, Y., & Volman, M. (2021). Citizenship in prevocational education: Professional pride as a source. *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*, 16(1), 17-30.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1746197919883252>

General rights

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

Citizenship in prevocational education: Professional pride as a source

Education, Citizenship and

Social Justice

2021, Vol. 16(1) 17–30

© The Author(s) 2019

Article reuse guidelines:

sagepub.com/journals-permissions

DOI: 10.1177/1746197919883252

journals.sagepub.com/home/esj**Yvonne Leeman** 

Windsheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands; University of Humanistic Studies, The Netherlands

Monique Volman

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Abstract

The practice of citizenship education has predominantly been studied in general education. This article details an interview study of citizenship education of teachers in prevocational education in the Netherlands. We investigated whether and how vocational teachers reflected on their goals and teaching practices in citizenship education. Teachers did not perceive their teaching to be working on citizenship. However, they aimed at developing professional attitudes in their students, emphasising participation and 'doing their work well' in order to become respected and personally responsible workers/employees. In technical education, the development of pride in and shared responsibility for the quality of the students' craftwork was emphasised. These findings are discussed in relation to Sennett's views on the development of craftsmanship as citizenship. We see these views as strategic openings for an alternative to the dominant verbal, individualising and adaptation oriented approach of citizenship education.

Keywords

Citizenship, craftsmanship, social justice, teachers, vocational education

Introduction

In recent decades, the European Union (EU) and the nation states have encouraged the development of citizenship education as a means of promoting social cohesion and the development of a common European identity that includes democratic values (Eurydice, 2005). However, the meaning of 'citizenship' and the interpretation of citizenship education are not unequivocal and undisputed (Johnson and Morris, 2010; Osler, 2011; Pike, 2007; Westheimer and Kahne, 2004). Various approaches to citizenship education have been posited with respect to its aims and positioning in

Corresponding author:

Yvonne Leeman, Department of Education, University of Humanistic Studies, Postbus 797, 3500 AT Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Email: Y.Leeman@uvh.nl

the curriculum. Citizenship education can be given a well-defined place in school curricula, but can also be considered an aspect of school culture that is expressed in how students and teachers interact, in opportunities for participation in decision making and in how subject matter is addressed. Solomon et al. (2001) showed in a review study that an integrated form of citizenship education was the most promising. This can be achieved not only through integration into subjects, organising social service and work orientation projects, but also through integration into aspects of social life at school, such as decision-making processes and caring for each other. In line with Solomon et al.'s conclusions, the importance of having an open classroom climate for citizenship education has been found repeatedly (Torney-Purta et al., 2001).

Citizenship education has been compulsory by law in the Netherlands since 2006. Schools and teachers are encouraged to design site-specific forms of citizenship education that fit their educational concept, denomination and student population. They are assisted in this by the National institute for curriculum development (SLO), which focuses on participation, democracy and identity development. According to the Dutch Education Inspectorate, however, schools do not approach citizenship education in a systematic, coherent and robust way (Inspectie van het Onderwijs, 2014, 2016). Meester-van Laar et al. (2020) point out that this is not surprising considering the unclarity of what the Dutch government expects from schools.

The research literature has a relatively strong focus on citizenship education as it is taught in general education. Our study focuses on prevocational education. In the Dutch educational system students are assigned to one of the several general or prevocational education tracks after primary education, when they are about 12 years old. Schools offer a core curriculum in the first phase of secondary education, which comprises a 2-year period. Students in the general tracks choose a technical, health, economy or cultural profile in the second phase. In preparation for senior vocational education, prevocational education students, then about 14 years old, choose a 'vocational sector'. Each sector reflects a particular sphere of work: technology, care and welfare, commerce and administration or agriculture. Students are taught vocationally oriented subjects and gain practical experience on the work floor and in simulated occupational contexts. Learning is not only focused on mastering vocational skills, however, but also provides them with an orientation to the working world and an occupational field, and aims at exploring a professional identity as part of a student's personal identity (Boersma et al., 2010).

The focus on general education in research on citizenship education has led to an emphasis on verbal expressions of citizenship: debate, dialogue and reflection. In vocationally oriented subjects, different possibilities may exist for addressing citizenship issues. We expected that such possibilities might particularly occur in the authentic work situations that are typical for vocational lessons and environments in prevocational education. Little is known, however, about the way citizenship education is approached in such contexts. As a start to fill this gap, we investigated whether and how vocational teachers reflected on their teaching practices in citizenship education.

Theoretical framework

Citizenship education and citizenship experiences

Citizenship education goals are often rather abstract. According to Biesta et al. (2009), citizenship education generally does not connect to the citizenship experiences of young people and fails to conceptualise citizenship as a lived practice (see also Haste, 2004; Wood, 2014). Ten Dam and Volman (2007) argue for citizenship education goals to be defined in the social situations that occur in youngsters' daily lives. It is this approach to citizenship education that we build on in this

study. In this approach, students are offered the opportunity to explore various ways of participating in society, and to reflect on their personal involvement and on themselves in relation to others and society. Citizenship education is then connected with the continuous process of identity development and engagement. It concerns the development and repeated revision of youngsters' stories about themselves, the place they want and are able to occupy in society, and the actions and behaviour that follow from this. This is an alternative to the dominant 'deficit' approach to citizenship education; it does not see students as 'lacking' citizenship and implies room for other citizenship discourses than the dominant ones (Colley et al., 2003; Biesta et al., 2009; Nicoll et al., 2013).

Developing a personal identity as a citizen requires meaningful education that builds on youngsters' experiences of citizenship (Biesta et al., 2009; Haste, 2004). In many schools for prevocational education, the curriculum for the upper years has been innovated in the past decades. Authentic work contexts are used more and more. Students' experiences in such contexts might pertain to citizenship. We are interested in whether and how teachers recognise, create and use teaching in these contexts for citizenship education.

Variations in citizenship education

Various types of citizenship and associated forms of citizenship education are distinguished in the research literature, both on theoretical and political grounds and on the basis of empirical research among teachers (Johnson and Morris, 2010; Osler, 2011; Pike, 2007; Veugelers, 2007; Westheimer and Kahne, 2004).

Veugelers (2007), for example, found three types of citizenship education in empirical studies among teachers that he described as adaptation oriented, individualising and critical-democratic. The adaptation-oriented type of citizenship education emphasises the development of social values through transmission and behaviour regulation. The accent in the individualising type is on promoting individual responsibility and autonomous thinking; learning to choose, for example, is emphasised. The critical-democratic type is geared to the development of both autonomy and social involvement; cooperative learning and critical thinking, with the help of research and dialogue, are considered suitable educational practices for this type of citizenship education. For vocational subjects, the first type would aim at discipline in doing one's work well, the second at developing the willingness and ability to make own choices in doing good work and the third type would aim at striving for the public good, including values such as sustainability, democracy and equality/justice in one's work.

Students' understandings of citizenship might differ from those of their teachers, as is shown by Olson et al. (2015). They found three student discourses of the active citizen, namely, a knowledgeable citizen, a responsive and holistic citizen, and a self-responsible, 'free' citizen. Nicoll et al. (2013) propose a focus on local discourses of citizenship, in line with the approach presented in the previous section, embedded in the diverse activities in which young people already engage, and think of educating from such situated citizenship discourses.

In this study, we focus on vocational teachers' reflections regarding citizenship. We question which citizenship (education) discourses resonate with the way they talk about their teaching. Nicoll et al. (2013) also emphasise the discursive and material conditions that support situated discourses of citizenship and citizenship activity. In our case, this points to the necessity to be aware of the backgrounds of vocational teachers (often former workers in the vocation they teach) and of the institutional roles and professional realities that could influence vocational teachers' professional culture and their approaches (Grollmann, 2008).

Citizenship education in prevocational education

The research literature on citizenship education seems to be anchored mainly in general education. Citizenship education is characterised by an almost exclusively verbal approach and is hardly being related to professional/working life and vocations. Some small-scale studies have looked at differences in how teachers in general and vocational subjects approached citizenship.

Leenders et al. (2008) found, through conducting a survey, that prevocational teachers considered social involvement and discipline important goals for their students, while teachers in general education put the emphasis on critical thinking and autonomy. Ten Dam and Volman (2003) showed that social competence, an educational goal related to citizenship education, was interpreted differently in prevocational than in general secondary tracks. The objectives in the academic tracks appeared to be focused on learning to shape your life in an independent and critical way (the art of living), while projects in the prevocational track were aimed at providing students with a 'life jacket', that is, developing the basic social skills that are necessary to survive in society. Similarly, the Dutch Educational Inspectorate (Inspectie van het Onderwijs, 2016) stated in its report on citizenship education that, compared with teachers in general secondary education, (pre)vocational teachers focus more on intrapersonal aims and less on societal aims.

Work practice as a context for citizenship education

The work-oriented and professionally oriented practice of prevocational education is in theory an obvious context for the integration of citizenship objectives. Students learn what it is like to be an employee and explore aspects of entrepreneurship. They are also introduced to a particular occupational sector and the associated knowledge, skills and attitudes. In Dutch prevocational schools, students learn in authentic environments in both real and simulated vocational situations. On one hand, this is supposed to facilitate the integration of vocational theory, vocational practice and general subjects, and, on the other hand, to motivate students (Boersma et al., 2010; De Bruijn and Leeman, 2011). We assume that citizenship issues will occur more or less as a matter of course in authentic vocational contexts. However, because an adaptation-oriented focus on qualification tends to prevail in vocational education (Colley et al., 2003), it remains questionable to what extent aspects of individualising or critical-democratic types of citizenship education will be promoted by teachers. Also we wonder whether reflection on the students' relations to others and society, and on their personal involvement – in this case – 'good work' actually occurs. It might also be expected that the type of citizenship situations with which students are confronted will vary between occupational sectors. Working with the elderly during a work-experience placement in a care home will raise different questions and dilemmas than a placement in the building industry. Nevertheless, some issues might be more general, for example, experiencing the tensions between a definition of good work informed by an instrumental perspective to a perspective on public moral values.

Citizenship as doing good work

Our perspective on citizenship education was inspired by Sennett's (2008) approach to craftsmanship that resonates with our wish to broaden the current abstract and verbal focus in citizenship education to a more concrete focus on doing good work in a process of making and co-creation. According to Sennett, 'the desire to do a job well for its own sake' (p. 9) is characteristic of craftsmanship. He suggests that practising with commonality in the process of work and with material difficulties can be a model for learning to deal with frictions and tensions in social life, and that doing 'good work' enables people to imagine larger categories of social 'good'. Sennett also

indicates the social conditions that enable this type of craftsmanship and focus. For example, he characterises the ideal of craftsmanship that was found in medieval workshops as ‘joined skill in community’ (p. 51), and shows how quality and ethical codes of work were transmitted in these communities of masters and apprentices (e.g. care about the right choice of materials and methods of construction). He connects work with a perspective on public moral values and argues that the current economic situation works against this type of craftsmanship. Work is subjected to all kind of pressures, whereas doing a job properly takes time. Flexible work also discourages pride in craftsmanship and can create tension in cooperation with colleagues.

In line with Sennett’s perspective on craftsmanship that participating in the workprocess could be a contribution to the public good, citizenship education might be found in the way teachers are concerned with teaching their students the mores and attitudes of professional practice and guiding them in doing their work good.

This study

To obtain insight into how and to what extent teachers of vocationally oriented subjects are concerned with citizenship education in their lessons, we interviewed 15 teachers from various sectors. We were especially interested in the citizenship goals and approach of teachers who work with their students in authentic learning environments. We assumed that relatively many opportunities to have ‘citizenship experiences’ and thus to work on citizenship education in an ‘integrated’ way would occur. We broadly defined citizenship education as the development of students’ thinking about the place they wanted and were able to occupy in relation to others and society, and of their acting in line with this. The general research question was as follows: ‘(How) do vocational teachers in prevocational education reflect on their teaching practices in terms of citizenship education?’ We formulated the following sub-questions, which structured the data collection and analysis:

1. To what extent do teachers of vocationally oriented subjects in prevocational education focus on citizenship education?
2. What type of citizenship goals do teachers aspire to?
3. What pedagogical approach do teachers use for working on citizenship goals?

Method

An interview study was done to answer the research questions. We interviewed 15 teachers in the upper years of prevocational education about how they prepared their students (age 14–16) for working life and whether they perceived their teaching as citizenship education. A lesson observation always preceded the interviews.

Respondents

The respondents were from four secondary schools that had prevocational departments. We looked for schools that worked with authentic learning contexts. It was also a condition that the school taught all three sectors (technical vocations, care and welfare, and commerce and administration). Our aim was that at least one teacher per sector at each school would participate in the study. At two schools more teachers per sector were interested in participating, which resulted in a research group of 15 teachers. Table 1 shows how they were distributed across the schools and sectors.

Most of the teachers we interviewed combined their lessons with tutoring a 10th-grade class. Their years of teaching experience and the educational levels they taught varied. The care and

Table 1. Respondents: distribution across schools and sectors.

	School A (N=5)	School B (N=4)	School C (N=3)	School D (N=3)	Total
Technical vocations	T1 (Building) T2 (Metal)	T3 (Electro-technical) T4 (Building)	T5	T6	6
Care and welfare	C&W1	C&W2	C&W3	C&W4	4
Commerce and administration	C&A1 (Commerce) C&A2 (Administration)	C&A3	C&A4 (Administration)	C&A5 (Welfare, information technology and economics)	5

welfare teachers were all women, with the exception of one. The technical and the commerce and administration teachers were all men, with the exception of one.

Instruments

In the interviews, we first asked the teachers about their goals and approach to the vocationally oriented subjects and situations, because we expected that implicit or explicit citizenship goals would be mentioned. (What do you want to achieve and what do you do in your lessons aimed at preparing students for vocation and working life?) We also asked whether they were satisfied with working in an authentic learning environment and why they were or were not because we hoped in this way to find out what teachers thought was important when preparing students for vocation and working life. We then specifically asked about attention to citizenship, without first defining the concept. (Do you work on citizenship education in your lessons? If so, how?)

Prior to each interview we observed a lesson given by the teacher. A report was made of the lesson, describing the teachers' and students' activities. The observations offered the interviewer a glimpse of the context that the teacher would be talking about. They were also used as a basis for specifying questions during the interview. (For example: 'We just saw that . . . What did you want to achieve by this with this student?')

Analysis

Complete transcripts were made of the interviews. We then selected relevant fragments. In the part of the interview on preparing for vocation and working life, we selected fragments in which the teacher made comments about the students and their development in relation to other people and/or society. We interpreted these as implicit statements about citizenship education. The second part of the interview in which citizenship education was discussed explicitly was analysed completely. These fragments and parts of the interviews were then coded in two rounds:

1. The first round of analysis was aimed at sorting the material:
 - (a) What *explicit statements* do teachers make about citizenship education? (research question 1).
 - (b) What *citizenship goals* do teachers mention? (research question 2). All goals pertaining to the relation of students to other people and society were included.
 - (c) What do teachers say about their *pedagogical approach* to working on citizenship goals (*how* do they work on citizenship education)? (research question 3).

2. In the second round of analysis, we looked for patterns in
 - (a) Teachers' explicit reflections on the attention they paid to citizenship education (research question 1).
 - (b) The citizenship goals teachers formulated (research question 2). A number of sensitising concepts (Blumer, 1954; Strauss and Corbin, 1998) derived from the literature were used: adaptation-oriented, individualising and critical-democratic citizenship; focus on discipline versus making own choices versus striving for the public good; focus on social competence versus autonomy and critical thinking; focus on the economic domain of citizenship; focus on citizenship as doing good work.
 - (c) Teachers' statements about the way in which they worked on citizenship education (research question 3).

In this round of analysis, the two authors identified patterns independently. These were discussed until consensus was reached.

3. Finally, we went through the transcripts again looking for additional examples or counter examples of the patterns named.

Results

Focus on citizenship

With our *first research question*, we wanted to investigate to what extent the teachers focused on citizenship. Not a single teacher spontaneously mentioned stimulating aspects of citizenship in the part of the interview on preparing students for their vocations and working life. Most of them, however, did name goals connected to the development of the student in relation to other people and society.

The answers to the explicit question about whether and how teachers spent time on citizenship education differed greatly. One teacher thought it was a self-evident aspect of education – 'Citizenship, that's what all teaching is about' (c&a5) – and explained how citizenship and working in her sector were connected: 'They are all students who will later have to survive in society; how do you get on with each other and with other people . . . to be a good person in this . . .' Other teachers said they had never thought about citizenship education (c&w4), while some said they knew more or less what was meant but did not do anything about it (c&a1).

Citizenship goals

With our *second research question*, we wanted to find out which citizenship goals teachers aspired to, also when they did not see those goals as citizenship goals themselves. Both in their answers related to their goals in preparing students for a vocation and working life and in answers to 'attention to citizenship' questions, the teachers mentioned educational goals that pertain to the relation of the student to others and/or society. While citizenship education scarcely featured in most teachers' vocabulary, they did clearly consider their students' upbringing to be part of their social and societal task. Most of the teachers saw it as their mission to 'help their students find a place in society that suits them'. In addition to subject knowledge and skills, they thought this required the development of self-knowledge and self-reflection, and the development of an attitude to working life and to a vocation. They discussed with their students the place in society to which they aspired

and their actions and behaviour following from this, conversations that we consider to be aimed at identity development. We will discuss the main themes the teachers brought up.

Self-knowledge and self-reflection

In the context of preparing students for their vocations and working life, the teachers mainly saw their task as helping students to discover what was suitable for them so that they could make a wise choice for the future. They thought it was important for students to choose an occupation they enjoyed and that suited their aspirations in life. This involved questions such as: Do I want to do this for my whole life? Are there career opportunities? How can I combine this occupation with my personal life? In view of this, the teachers wanted their students to develop self-knowledge and, in particular, insight into their capacities and interests, and to relate this to the expectations of a specific sector. In the construction trade, for example, you must be able to measure meticulously and have spatial perception. ‘Speaking clearly, explaining things well, fitting in and taking the initiative’ are necessary in an occupation in the sport and recreation sector, according to teacher c&w4. In the metal sector, shift work is required, and the electro-technical sector involves direct contact with the customer. Teachers encouraged students to think about whether they want to and are able to do this.

Three teachers had a broader view of reflection. One of the commerce and administration teachers (c&a3) indicated that he tried to broaden students’ horizons:

I want them to know that the world is bigger than the town in which they live and the road to school and the TV and the computer. I want to convey to them that they can influence their lives, that everything doesn’t just happen to them, which is how many students at this educational level experience their life.

A care and welfare teacher (c&w1) wanted to make students a little more ‘worldly wise’. Finally, a commerce teacher (c&a1) emphasised a critical attitude towards oneself and being able to justify choices, for example: ‘Why do you always want to have the very latest fashion?’

Work attitude

In prevocational education, according to the teachers, much attention is paid to developing a positive basic attitude to work. The teachers work on this in the vocationally oriented lessons. Regardless of the sector, they named goals such as developing motivation for work and reflecting on the importance of working and earning money. Working neatly, taking responsibility and showing initiative were also mentioned across the sectors. The same holds true for daring to stand up for oneself, being willing and able to collaborate, and more specific attitudes and skills such as ‘accepting the authority of a manager’ and ‘not losing your temper when people tell you what to do’. Some of the teachers made a connection between students’ attitudes in work situations and in society in a broader sense. They connected a decent work attitude with, for example, behaving decently in traffic, or made a connection between communicating at work and communicating in everyday life. For others, such as one of the care and welfare teachers (c&w1), reflecting on one’s own behaviour during a work experience placement should be explicitly restricted to the attitude to work. She believed that students of this age were still so focused on themselves that a broader type of reflection was not possible.

Professional attitude

Besides this general work attitude, the teachers in all the sectors emphasised that students should learn to respect some specific occupational norms. They needed to know the norms, for example,

regarding appearance, language use and attitude towards the client. As a mechanic, one takes out one's earring. As a caregiver, one always stays pleasant and friendly, even if one is angry, and one always tells the person one is caring for what one is going to do. Commerce and administration teachers work on motivation and appropriate behaviour in the work environment of a shop or office. A technical teacher (t5) emphasised that students must develop the skill of deliberating in a team. Another teacher (t3) explained that students must be able to deal with conflict situations at work ('daring to say something about an unsafe situation in the workplace'). Goals that can easily be interpreted as citizenship education goals were thus seen by the teachers as professional goals.

Goals related to acting in a socially responsible way were also mentioned. The technical teachers mentioned environmental awareness: knowing what the consequences of using tropical hardwood were (t1); taking energy saving into account (t3); using materials economically and separating and disposing of rubbish properly (t5). Teachers in the technical sector in particular emphasised that it was important that students could and wanted to carry the responsibilities associated with the occupation in connection with one's own and other people's safety (when working with dangerous substances or with machines), planning (completing work on time) and collegiality (clearing up your own mess, working in a team and helping each other). One (t5) said, 'They set off with a mechanic in a van and don't come back until half past four and have to spend all day with that person'. Another teacher related how he taught his students that they must be prepared to tackle everything and 'not stay sitting in the van when it needs unloading' (t1).

The care and welfare teachers also mentioned that they taught their students to be careful about safety and the importance of collegiality. In this sector, hygiene at work and the confidentiality of sensitive information (c&w3) were specific forms of acting in a socially responsible way. The commerce and administration teachers mentioned environmentally aware behaviour, such as separating waste paper and dealing with confidential information, such as not revealing to the outside world the knowledge that one has about a company as a bookkeeper and in the human resources department guarding staff privacy (c&a2). Taking general responsibility for the work was also mentioned, with the idea that the quality of one's work has consequences for the company one works for (c&a1, 2, 4).

Some teachers who had worked as craftsmen or women before they went into teaching emphasised that it was important for students to learn to enjoy doing their work well. These were mainly technical teachers. For these teachers, 'professional pride' was an element of the professional attitude they wanted to instil in their students. An important aspect of professional pride concerned quality norms for the work in that particular occupation. The teachers wanted to develop those norms in their students by reflecting with them on the quality of their work. Their students were invited, for example, to give their work a mark and to give their reasons for the mark. The teachers and sometimes fellow students were then involved in determining the final mark. One teacher (t6) said about this collective development of quality awareness:

They learn about their own qualities by first looking at their neighbour and copying what the neighbour has done, realising that the neighbour has also made some small mistakes. Then from the compliment while the other boys are there, 'that they weld well'. Or you hold up the welding to a small group of students and ask, 'what mark would you give him?' And then take it further by saying, 'I think it's a magnificent piece of welding for someone who hasn't ever really welded before. He gets an 8 from me'. Then they run off in all directions with 'yes, we want an 8 too'.

The teachers wanted their students to learn what 'doing well' was in a vocation or profession, and which values, knowledge, skills and attitudes were involved. Reflection was often mentioned as a goal, with which teachers referred to the development of self-knowledge in relation to work and occupation and to reflection on the quality of one's work.

Adaptation-oriented citizenship?

The teachers appeared to focus mainly on types of citizenship that conform to what Veugelers (2007) calls 'adaptation-oriented citizenship'. Offering students a 'life jacket' so that they could survive in their future profession appeared to be central to their lessons. The teachers emphasised that the students had to learn what was expected in work situations and in the specific sector they were learning about. To do this, students needed to develop the will to participate and the necessary competences to do the job, and learn to adapt to the existing norms, such as: collegiality, taking safety into account, helping prepare materials and clearing up, working in an environmentally aware way, handling confidential information responsibly and working hygienically. Goals such as autonomy in the sense of learning to think critically regarding democracy on the workplace and learning to view one's work in a broader perspective of social relations societal issues such as sustainability were not mentioned. Reflection on the societal meaning of the sector or the vocation scarcely occurred.

Yet, these teachers did not consider themselves to be engaged in 'disciplining' or 'adapting' their students. To begin with, they guided their students in an informal and personal way stemming from personal interest in the student. They wanted to teach them how to be good employees, but also to work on students' self-insight and art of living, for example, how to balance personal life and work. At the same time, acting and behaving in a socially responsible way was an important theme. Working on real-life assignments in authentic learning environments offered opportunities to give substance to this aim, and it was also addressed through activities that were organised by the school, such as assisting elderly people with using a computer or solving technical problems in their household. However, the right to good working conditions, the ethics in doing good work and a critical stance towards efficiency when it threatens quality and the natural environment were not emphasised in this respect.

For the technical teachers who had themselves worked as craftsmen in particular, the desire to teach the students to 'adapt' to the norms of the profession could also be interpreted differently than in disciplining. The way they spoke about their profession expressed their love of it and enthusiasm for the fine items a craftsman could make. They wanted to convey this professional pride, their desire to make beautiful things and to do that well to their students. That professional pride appeared to go further than the quality of the product; it also included the way in which that product was made in collaboration with others and in a socially responsible way. To 'do it well' required discipline, team spirit and collegiality, and the teachers also wanted to impart these to their students. Emphasising discipline, which at first sight seemed to be an adaptation-oriented approach, was on reflection more than that. In addition to (and even instead of) discipline in the sense of 'doing what you are told', it was about learning 'not to give up, even when something is difficult or requires effort'. It was about becoming engaged practically but not necessarily instrumentally. This is the craftsman's norm, which students had to master to become fully fledged members of the professional group. The aspects of pride in professional work that the technical teachers spoke about resonated with Sennett's (2008) 'desire to do a job well for its own sake'. Interestingly, very few care and welfare or commerce and administration teachers mentioned this kind of professional pride in relation to work in their sector. Although in these sectors professional pride might be found in the idea that 'you can mean something to people if you do your work well', we found no comments by teachers indicative of this. These teachers might have got used to a certain adaptation-oriented view of a 'good worker'.

Teachers' approach to working on citizenship goals

With our *third research question* we wanted to find out in which way the teachers worked on citizenship education. The teachers said they worked on citizenship goals mainly by being an example

in authentic work situations and through informal individual conversations about students' future place in society. They did not consciously create or explicate situations that facilitated working on citizenship goals. 'Citizenship themes' crop up in work situations in the (simulated) workplace and in conversations about students' work placements, and teachers respond to those. They also address students' behaviour in specific situations. When there is reason to, they correct them or mention what the norm is. The extent of this and the way in which it is done, however, depends on the individual teacher. One teacher (c&a5) named aspects of the relationships with classmates as relevant to learning citizenship: 'School is about associating with classmates; you're there for each other and make contact when someone is ill, you do something when someone is bullied, you let someone finish what they're saying and listen to each other'.

A striking characteristic that was specific to the approach of teachers who themselves had worked in the vocation was apparent in the interviews. These teachers found it important to address their students as future members of the vocation as 'one of them'. In the way they spoke about their approach to teaching vocational knowledge, skills and attitudes, they almost as a matter of course made a connection between the vocation and social responsibility. While working in an authentic work context, they aimed at the development of students' identity from student to colleague.

In the literature, discussion and dialogue, room for reflection and participation are named as suitable ways of working on types of citizenship goals. The teachers in our study focused on preparing for adult life through real life assignments. They emphasised (self) reflection and correcting individual students in an adaptation-oriented way. The technical teachers, additionally, used instilling professional pride and reflection about the quality of the work produced together with the group of students.

Conclusion and discussion

In this study, we examined whether and to what *extent* teachers of vocationally oriented subjects in prevocational education reflected on their teaching practices in citizenship education. We also examined what *type* of citizenship goals were important to how they perceived their teaching and *how* they said they worked on these.

The teachers interviewed proved not to be explicitly engaged in citizenship as a theme. The abstract, verbally oriented goals found in the literature on citizenship education (democratic citizenship, critical participation, etc.) were not part of their daily practice. Also, they had scarcely any knowledge of the formal demands made regarding citizenship education, and the context in which they worked did not demand this of them. The teachers did pay attention to matters that affected the student's relation to other people and society, but they stayed 'close to home' to the youngsters' daily and work-placement experiences, and they did not refer to this in citizenship. They saw their task as being mainly to help students discover what type of job and profession they preferred and were able to do, so that they could choose wisely for the future and develop a number of basic skills and attitudes for that future. To achieve this, they formulated goals in the field of self-knowledge, attitude to work and professional attitudes, which included, for example, active participation and doing your work well, dealing well with colleagues, clients and the natural environment, as well as collaborating with people in various positions of authority; goals that could be interpreted as citizenship goals.

We recognised characteristics of adaptation-oriented type of citizenship (Ten Dam and Volman, 2003; Veugelers, 2007) in the way the teachers spoke about the goals (learning to take part and behave decently, and thinking about your 'place' in society) they aspire to for students. They did not talk to students, for example, about a critical approach to being an employee, democratic decision making about tasks at work or reflecting on the meaning of a profession in society. They did

implicitly talk about social responsibility and the contribution to society of those working in a profession. Some of the teachers, in particular in the technical sector, named the importance of developing professional pride. This was about workmanship aimed at producing 'good work', linked to the understanding that collaboration was crucial in this. This is how a contribution can be made to society that goes further than adaptation and survival. There is room here for a personal contribution based on realism, collaboration, readiness to help, acceptance of responsibility and concern for quality.

The authentic work context was the starting point of the approach that the teachers used. In contrast to what is suggested in the literature regarding citizenship education (Geboers et al., 2013; Torney-Purta et al., 2001), they did not opt for discussion and dialogue but for individual conversations with students when they corrected them and reflected with them on their work, behaviour and attitudes. When asked about their approach to reflection, the technical teachers mentioned teachers and students reflecting together in various ways on the quality of the work, aimed at developing craftsmanship.

This approach of educating their students to 'doing their work well' could fit in with Sennett's broader perspective of citizenship in which craftsmanship forms the source for good citizenship. Following his reasoning, there are many opportunities for citizenship education in prevocational education. This presupposes that attention is not paid only to the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out specific tasks but also to the desire to do a job well for its own sake, being responsible and critical in one's work, wanting to contribute to a good society and participate in staged reflecting on how one can play a meaningful role. This form of citizenship, based in making, co-creation and an awareness of 'good work' in relation to public values and of quality in daily professional action, is not covered by the dominant theoretical and policy conceptualisations of citizenship in (pre)vocational and general education.

Finally, we observed a few obstacles that could stand in the way of this source for citizenship education. It was mainly technical teachers who mentioned the importance of developing professional pride. That could, on one hand, be related (by personal coincidence) to the teachers' engagement with the vocational sector but might also be related to this type of work. Professions differ in social status and craftsmanship. Being proud of one's work is simpler when it is a beautiful piece of welding than with much of the work in the administrative sector, where the direct, concrete result is not always visible. Direct contact with the elderly and sick in the care sector facilitates professional pride, but the low social status of this work can be an obstacle to that pride. Perhaps it is crucial for professional pride that one has the feeling that what one does makes a difference and one can see what one's work means to others and society. The question is whether every type of work, every job and every work experience placement offers this possibility. We also see that the type of professionalism that Sennett describes is under pressure from the way work is organised – protocols, procedures and 'objective norms' increasingly define quality, not the employee.

In spite of these obstacles, we see interesting possibilities for the development of citizenship education in prevocational education. These possibilities lie in a view of citizenship education that is not adaptation-oriented, but aimed at the development of (1) professional pride concerning the contribution one can make to society with good quality work; (2) an attitude that involves responsibility to make that contribution; (3) the skills and the attitudes to work with colleagues in that contribution (in co-creation); and (4) the willingness and tools to remain critical about what 'good work' and 'a good society' entail. Using the expertise of the teachers interviewed, we tried to explicate a work-oriented view of citizenship education that threatens to remain out of the sight of policymakers and researchers. Making explicit the link between teachers' task in students' vocational learning and citizenship development can help teachers in vocational education to realise a citizenship education that connects with their subjects, ideas of good work and their students' situated

citizenship discourses. To conclude, this view of citizenship education embedded in ideas and practices of ‘good work’ and co-creation does not need to remain limited to (pre)vocational education, but could offer openings for an alternative to the dominant verbal approach to citizenship education in other types of education as well.

Declaration of conflicting interests

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

ORCID iD

Yvonne Leeman  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2424-7695>

References

- Biesta G, Lawy R and Kelly N (2009) Understanding young people’s citizenship learning in everyday life: the role of contexts, relationships and dispositions. *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice* 4(1): 5–24.
- Blumer H (1954) What is wrong with social theory? *American Sociological Review* 19(1): 3–10.
- Boersma A, Dam G, Ten Volman M, et al. (2010) ‘This baby isn’t alive!’ Towards a community of learners for vocational orientation. *British Educational Research Journal* 36(1): 3–25.
- Colley H, James D, Diment K, et al. (2003) Learning as becoming in vocational education and training: class, gender and the role of vocational habitus. *Journal of Vocational Education & Training* 55(4): 471–497.
- De Bruijn E and Leeman Y (2011) Authentic and self-directed learning in vocational education: challenges to vocational educators. *Teaching and Teacher Education* 27: 694–702.
- Eurydice (2005) *Citizenship Education at School in Europe: Survey*. Brussels: European Commission.
- Geboers E, Geijsel F, Admiraal W, et al. (2013) Review of the effects of citizenship education. *Educational Research Review* 9: 158–173.
- Grollmann P (2008) The quality of vocational teachers: teacher education, institutional roles and professional reality. *European Educational Research Journal* 7(4): 535–547.
- Haste H (2004) Constructing the citizen. *Political Psychology* 25(3): 413–439.
- Inspectie van het Onderwijs (2014) *De staat van het onderwijs: Onderwijsverslag 2012-2013* [The State of Education. Education Report 20012-2013]. Utrecht: Inspectie van het Onderwijs.
- Inspectie van het Onderwijs (2016) *Burgerschap op school* [Citizenship Education at School]. Utrecht: Inspectie van het Onderwijs.
- Johnson L and Morris P (2010) Towards a framework for critical citizenship education. *Curriculum Journal* 21(1): 77–96.
- Leenders H, Veugelers W and de Kat E (2008) Teachers: views on citizenship in secondary education in the Netherlands. *Cambridge Journal of Education* 38(2): 155–170.
- Meester-van Laar A, Bertram-Troost GD, Hoogland J, et al. (2020) What’s the problem? Investigation of Dutch policy statements in search of causes of stagnating citizenship education. *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice* 15(3), 197–212. DOI: 10.1177/1746197919833373.
- Nicoll K, Fejes A, Olson M, et al. (2013) Opening discourses of citizenship education: a theorization with Foucault. *Journal of Education Policy* 28(6): 828–846.
- Olson M, Fejes A, Dahlstedt M, et al. (2015) Citizenship discourses: production and curriculum. *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 36(7): 1036–1053.
- Osler A (2011) Teacher interpretations of citizenship education: national identity, cosmopolitan ideals, and political realities. *Journal of Curriculum Studies* 43(1): 1–24.

- Pike MA (2007) The state and citizenship education in England: a curriculum for subjects or citizens? *Journal of Curriculum Studies* 39(4): 471–489.
- Sennett R (2008) *The Craftsman*. London: Penguin Books.
- Solomon D, Watson MS and Battistich VA (2001) Teaching and schooling effects research on moral-prosocial development. In: Richardson V (ed.) *Handbook on Teaching*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association, 566–603.
- Strauss AL and Corbin J (1998) *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Ten Dam G and Volman M (2003) Life jacket and art of living: social competency and the reproduction of inequality in education. *Curriculum Inquiry* 33(2): 117–137.
- Ten Dam G and Volman M (2007) Educating for adulthood or for citizenship: social competence as an educational goal. *European Journal of Education* 42(2): 281–298.
- Torney-Purta J, Lehmann R, Oswald H, et al. (2001) *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-Eight Countries: Civic Knowledge and Engagement at Age Fourteen*. Amsterdam: IEA.
- Veugelers W (2007) Creating critical-democratic citizenship education: empowering humanity and democracy in Dutch education. *Compare* 37(1): 105–119.
- Westheimer J and Kahne J (2004) What kind of citizen? The politics of education of democracy. *American Educational Research Journal* 41(2): 237–269.
- Wood B (2014) Participatory capital: Bourdieu and citizenship education in diverse school communities. *British Journal of Sociology of Education* 35(4): 578–597.