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**The home: purpose, function, work and care  
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## **The home: purpose, function, work and care**

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### **Abstract**

*A human organization can be defined as a group of people with different motivations that collaborate in a common purpose or goal that everyone is interested in, albeit for different reasons. The differences between different types of organizations are likely to be 1) in the common purpose or external mission of the organization, 2) in the degree of involvement of the members, 3) in the mechanisms of coordination of the actions of the members to achieve the common purpose and 4) in the temporal projection of the project. This applies to very diverse entities, such as business companies, social organizations, political parties, churches, sports clubs ... and homes.*

*The purpose of this paper is to develop this explanatory scheme of an organization in general for the particular case of a home. This will take us to the most important elements of a home:*

*1) The common purpose, consisting of providing private goods for its members (and for other people), but above all, providing common goods. That purpose will lead us to the social function of home: the internal function (because its main objective is its members) and the social or external function (because the ultimate recipient of household goods is society). The paper will identify the nature of those goods.*

*2) The process of "production" of these private, public and common goods, which implies the collaboration of all members with diverse commitments and to varying degrees, so that there is no quantitative or temporal correspondence in the different contributions nor, consequently, in the "consumption" of these goods, private, public and common, between members and in time.*

*3) The organization of these processes, combining authority structures and voluntary collaboration, which are present in all organizations, but which have their own characteristics in the home. Two major areas will be identified, which,*

*although having common elements with other human organizations, unequivocally identify the organization of the home: a) the predominance of transcendent motivation directed to the good of other members of the organization and b) the set of activities, visible or not, that make up work at home. It seems to us that here we will find the main differentiating characteristics of the home, with the concept of care as the main component. It is here that this paper refers more directly to the theme of the Conference.*

*4) And, finally, the projection of the purpose of the home on society, which will allow us to define, in some way, what is a "good" home. This will be formulated first in the interior of the home, in what we can call its internal mission, and then abroad, in the external mission. Both missions are also present in all organizations, but it seems to us that in the home, the first predominates over the second, because of the nature of its social function.*

### **Full Paper**

**See Book: "People, care and work in the home"**

<https://homerenaissancefoundation.org/resource/people-care-and-work-in-the-home/>