



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract:

I want to present my paper on the topic "Community Development" in the 1st International congress on Science, Engineering and Technology for Academic Industries and society at Dubai. The communities we belong to can help us to be more effective citizens. They play an important part in our personal well-being. They are the source of many creative ideas and solutions especially to the problems that arise because people lack equal power and wealth. They can care for or harm the environment we live in. Communities do not just preserve old links and traditions. They change and grow. Sometimes economic and social pressures threaten to break up the links between people. But people also come together in new ways, undertake new activities and create new more diverse communities releasing new energy and resources. In the modern world one person can belong to many different communities based on where they live their interests or culture or the people that share common difficulties. Tremendous strengths can be found in communities can do for themselves that matters. It is not simply about listening to the loudest voices, or doing things the way they have always been done. It is an approach to achieving social change.

Keywords : Community, Development, Stimulus, Bubbling concerns, Ingredients

Introduction

Community development combines the idea of community with development we discussed earlier the concept of community- a group of people with a shared identity. Hence community development relies on interaction between people and joint action rather than individual activity –what some sociologists call collective agency (Flora and Flora1993). Development is a process that increases choices. It means new options, diversification thinking about apparent issues differently and anticipating change (Christenson et.al.1989).Development involves change improvement and vitality-a directed attempt to improve participation, flexibility, equity, attitudes, the function of institutions and the quality of life. It is the creation of wealth-wealth meaning the things people value not just dollars (Shaffer,1989). It leads to a net addition to community assets, avoiding the "zero" sum situation where a job created "here", is a job lost "there", Putting the two terms together-community development – means that a community itself engages in a process aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental situation of the community. The community is both the means and the end of community development. The community itself takes action and participates together. It is through this action that the community becomes more vital, not just economically but as a strong functioning community in itself. Community development improves the ability of communities to collectively make better decisions about the use of resources such as

infrastructure, labour and knowledge. Economic development is part of community development. Local industry development involves facilitation of relatively small groups of industry people addressing specific issues such as discussion groups or market alliances. This is part of economic development. Economic development involves many of the elements of community development such as participation rethinking action learning etc. However it specifically aims to improve the relative economic position of the community. Flora et. al. (1992) argues that it does not necessarily lead to improved quality of life nor involve "collective agency". Economic development largely aims to improve employment income and the economic base of the community.

Definitions of Community development

"The deliberate attempt by community people to work together to guide the future of their communities, and the development of a corresponding set of techniques for assisting community people in such a process". (Bennett 1973)

"An educational approach which would raise levels of local awareness and increase confidence and ability of community groups to identify and tackle their own problems". (Darby and Morris1975)

"A series of community improvements which take place over time as a result of the common efforts of various groups of people Each successive improvement is a discrete unit of community development It meets a human want need". (Dunbar 1972)

“Finding effective ways of helping and teaching people to develop new methods and to learn new skills this process is however done in such a way as to retain community control and community spirit”. (Frederickson 1975)

“A process of creating special community organizations throughout society which will be responsible for channeling demands to centers of power to distributors of benefits”. (Hammock 1973)

Community Development Process

The key community development is facilitating a community in applying the principles to guide a flexible series of actions that are appropriate for the situation of the community. There are many “models” and frameworks for community development processes. Considerable skill confidence and judgment is needed to maintain an adaptable community- led process guided by the principles of community development.

1. Community Preparedness

Communities need to have some of the key ingredients for a development process- motivation local leadership a sense of ownership. Not all communities are interested in or prepared for undertaking a process of community development. At any one time only a few communities may see the need or have people motivated to organize and lead the community in development activities. Communities may have only a couple of the ingredients for success.

2. Bubbling Concerns

Community development processes develop from a situation where issues and concerns are “bubbling” around. People are concerned enthusiastic motivated frustrated. Private troubles become public concerns as people share issues that matter to them individually. People may begin to see some advantage for them in community improvement. They also may have altruistic feelings of contributing to the welfare of the whole community.

3. Stimulus

Often, a stimulus brings the “bubbling” situation to a head. A local crisis such as a mine closing or business leaving town sparks community action. A local leader a local community group or several concerned citizens may galvanize community action. Outside input

such as a visit by a community facilitator, hearing what another community has done or a visit by local people to a conference may stimulate action. In communities even an impassioned speech may turn concern to action.

4. Initial Organization and Involvement

After a stimulus often the first step is an event that brings the community together – usually at a public meeting or forum. At this point, community representatives may invite a facilitator or resource person into the community to help with suggestions, information and the process itself. Some community members may have a clear idea of what is needed or what they want to do. Others may simply want to do “something” to improve their community but are not sure what.

5. Engagement and Issues Identification

After some initial organization, a key step is activities to engage local people and give as diverse range of citizens the opportunity to be involved. Engagement of people occurs throughout a community development process, but it is crucial to actively foster involvement early in the process.

Material Method

This is the descriptive research paper base on secondary data. The literatures is collected from various journals, books, magazines, periodicals, various reports, publications of recent research papers available in different websites.

Result and Discussion

The outcome of successful community development is communities that are more able to generate wealth, maintain or improve their competitive position, preserve and use community resources and adapt to change (Shaffer, 1989).

Specific outcomes are:

- An expanded, diverse inclusive citizen participation base,
- An expanded leadership base,
- Strengthened individual skills,
- A widely shared understood and agreed local or regional vision for the future,
- A strategic community agenda (i.e. a widely agreed strategic plan),
- Consistent tangible progress toward community goals,
- More effective community organization,
- Better use of resources.



Figure 1

Conclusion

Community development is a process that leads to not only more jobs, income and infrastructure, but also communities that are better able to manage change. Community members can better mobilize existing skills, reframe problems work cooperatively and use community assets in new ways. Principles of self-help and participation guide a flexible process. While there is no recipe, major steps are identifying existing concerns, engagement, self-examination, exploration prioritization planning and action.

Acknowledgement

The key elements or ingredients for successful community development are:

- A slight level of dissatisfaction- motivation and enthusiasm based on feeling that “things could be better”,
- Belief and expectation of self-help- a belief in the future of the community and a conviction that realizing that future depends on the action of community members,
- Local Leadership- committed formal and informal leaders that can enthuse and support others “foster shared leadership” accept criticism and act as local champions for community development efforts,
- Collaboration-a strong culture of cooperation and participation,
- Willingness to experiment and take advantage of opportunities,

- Cultivate Allies- actively seek inform and network with outside supporters,
- Work hard and stay with the process especially when there is a setback,
- Focus on specific actions without losing sight of the “weird and wonderful”.

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