**GLOSSARYOF TERMS**

**IN**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**Web Link:** <http://ced.org.ua/eng/book1/90.htm>

**Activity**

A part of the plan which describes specific actions to be carried out, deadlines, performers  of the action, expected results and the indicators of the results.

**Brain Storming Technique**

A constructive approach to the resolution of different situations. It fosters free and creative individual behaviour, neutralises stereotypes and personal barriers. It enables the facilitator to understand the way participants think.

**Case Study**

A real-life example presented in  narrative form to stimulate the analysis of the described events and phenomena. It provides a better understanding of theory and answers to complicated questions.

**Community**

A group of people united by sustainable relations in order to improve themselves and the world they live in.

**Community Development**

An approach to solving people’s needs which helps  groups of people to build the bonds of trust, unity and cooperation that they need to be able to work together, understand and analyze their problems, and find equitable and effective solutions.

The planned development of all aspects of people’s well-being (economic, social, ecological and cultural).

A process that makes people come together for making collective decisions about the common problems they are facing.

**Community Underlying Pattern**

The underlying structure of human systems which secures the functioning of a system in a certain way.

Beliefs, values and habits that form our behaviour. They  are based upon our world outlook and our understanding of connections between ourselves and other people.

**Conflict**

A situation when internal contradictions, the pressure of external circumstances, or collisions with environment influences people and makes them vulnerable. A highly explosive situation caused by differences in views, tension in relations and aversion to the existing situation.

**Consensus**

A method of making common decisions through the common consent of the group.

**Core Group**

A group of people interested in promoting an appreciable change. They can be members of any community and organization.

**Creating the Alternative**

Participatory reconstruction of the existing pattern into a positive one preceded by the formation of a unified initiative group of people who have a common vision of the future and are committed to work together over the time needed to achieve the vision.

**Critical Mass**

The process of an accumulation which is reaching its critical level and consequently results in the creation of something obviously new. In human systems, *Critical Mass*is built up by a sufficient number of people who think and act in a different way, which allows shifting onto a new level of a local, regional and national system.

The accumulation of energy within a system strong enough to start a chain reaction leading to the quick transformation of the whole system.

**Culture**

The totality of material and spiritual values created by humanity throughout history, including folklore and customs that are closely related to  outlook, religion and morals. Values that the  community relies upon in its development.

**Desirable Values**

Values are broad tendencies to prefer certain states of affairs over others. Desirable values are those that  people think the world ought to have.  They are different from desired values.

**Desired Values**

Desired values are those that people want for themselves.

**Developing a  Practical Vision of the Future**

The process of creating a vision undertaken by a community group in formation. It describes the  future condition the community will try to achieve. The implementation of the vision is the reason why a given community group exists. In that way, the development of the vision answers the question “What is the purpose of existence for this group?”

**Development**

Individual or group growth which brings about positive personal change and positive changes in the operational environment. This term is used to mean processes that allow gradual discovery of hidden potential. Development is not always identical to *change*. The term *change* is used when an object becomes different in the course of time. This difference can be both positive and negative.

A special type of process which allows realizing of the potential of the individual, family or community member.

**Development of a Common Vision of a Sustainable Future**

The assessment of current conditions in relation to the future the community wishes to achieve.

**Facilitator**

A person who helps the community to make development processes more effective, provides technical assistance, and has the skills that community feels the need for, as well as personal experience and sincere desire to help. He/she must be proficient in community development knowledge and skills.

**Facilitating Consultation about Community Realities and Needs**

The process that leads to a systematized description of the actual conditions in acommunity. It also shifts the community into the  area of direct action.

**Formulating Goals**

The description of accomplishments which are necessary for the practical vision to be implemented.  In that way, formulating the goals answers the question: “What must be done?”

**Healing Circle**

A way of creating an opportunity for healing and personal development, according to the principle that healing and development comes from within the person. Creating an environment for the processes which will foster people’s first steps towards the future they dream about.

**Interconnectedness**

The state of a system when all elements are connected among each other in a way that a change in one of the elements will affect the rest of the system.

**Justice**

A principle which implies that every person must be treated with respect as a human being, regardless of gender, race, age, culture, religion, personal beliefs or any other reason. This means that every person must be accorded equal opportunity to participate in the processes of healing and development and to receive a f air share of the benefits.

**Kitchen Table Meetings**

A technique of collecting information which is aimed at attracting people, getting them involved and interested in community development. During the informal kitchen table meetings, the core group members initiate discussions of community development and form the bonds of trust and mutual understanding.

**Leader**

The person who helps the community to assess needs, solve conflicts, evaluate the actual condition of life in the community and determine the ways to improve it. Someone who is able to persuade people to carry out essential work willingly.

**Learning**

The process of accumulating information, knowledge, wisdom, skills and mental abilities which allows building up the potential.

**Learning in Community**

An open cyclic process where participants have the roles of teachers and students at the same time. People learn by developing and develop by learning. This type of learning is present at all social levels: individuals, families, organizations and  entire  communities.

**Learning Plan**

This plan determines what kind of learning people need to perform certain tasks of their program plan. It specifies who needs learning, why the learning is needed,  and how this learning will be carried out.

**Monitoring**

The standard program for evaluation of activities which takes into account the vision of the future, goals and principles. It ensures the continuous structural improvement of the program and behaviour of participants.

**Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

A description of the process of collecting data about program components to be used for the benefit of the program. This plan analyzes the correlation of implementation process with the previously determined goals and objectives. It demonstrates successes and first signs of problems, providing opportunity to make necessary corrections in the program. It also provides a general description of  progress in terms of program objectives.

**Network**

All kinds of human relations related to social, spiritual, cultural and economic spheres.

**Networking with Resources and Allies**

The reorganization of community resources by connecting people and their struggle to others outside the process who can provide support, information, ideas, and possibly money, and who can multiply by many times the power and effectiveness of an emerging community development process.

**Norms**

A set of standards for values that are appropriate for certain groups or social layers. They can be used to differentiate  between desirable (ideal) and desired  values.

**Participatory Action Research**

A major tool in community development which helps community members to systematically analyze currents situation in a way that leads to effective action and building relations based on the bonds of trust and unity. It also helps to assess needs, form core groups, plan, implement and analyze the program.

Research and action are participatory i.e. they involve everyone who has a relationship to the issue and everyone competent to solve it.

**Participatory Community Development**

A process/approach which is used by ordinary citizens to assess their own needs, develop decisions and work together to implement them. This process enables ordinary citizens to learn how to effectively cooperate and use such instruments as needs assessment, planning, plan implementation and evaluation. Participatory community development is different from other approaches due to the participation of ordinary citizens in all aspects of work to transform their communities into healthier and more prosperous places.

**Participatory Principle**

Involving everyone who has a stake in the issue and who is to be engaged to resolve it.

**Practice**

Certain types of activities or specific actions that can change depending on the situation (not to be confused with *principle*)

**Principle**

A statement of a fundamental and universal truth. It describes the nature of things as they are, what works and what doesn’t, what must be included, and what cannot be left out.

A definition which is fundamental to a given theory and is considered to be inviolable.

**Program**

Something which is done for community or in the interests of community. Community development is usually defined as something community does for itself. We are combining theses two concepts and define community development programming to mean an organized and sustained process the community does for itself.

**Research**

A process of searching and gathering information about, processing and studying an issue.

**Resources**

Any aspect of community life which can influence the development of the project, its implementation,  and the operation of the organization. This term includes ideas, support, information, relations and people, as well as material resources. Resources are instruments helping us to implement our ideas, accomplish desirable results, or make necessary changes.

**Role of Pressure or Conflict**

The period of relatively intense pressure or impact of a conflict experienced at times by human systems. At this point, the system can either collapse or use the stress to come to a new understanding of the problems and find creative solutions. At these times, human systems are able to make  great progress towards a different future.

**Social Interaction**

A network of human relations formed  through long-term cooperation and relationships.

**Spirituality**

A sphere related to the inner psychic life of individuals, their moral world, coherence of ideas, views etc.    

As an integral part of the human being, it is one of the four components of personality (the other three being the  emotional, physical and mental components).

**Strategies**

Short-term actions designed for the easier achievement of the goal and implementation of objectives.  In order to achieve desirable results, strategies must be regularly reviewed and changed in case of need.

**Sustainability**

Originates from the adjective *sustainable*:  that which doesn’t change, preserving the same constitution and form, constant, uninterrupted.   Sustainability is the continuation of the benefits of an activity, project, or program over time, even after outside assistancce may have stopped.   

**Sustainable Development**

Satisfying current needs without a negative effect on the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.

Community development must become a sustainable process. If personal or community development becomes dependent on  transient factors or circumstances,  it puts  development itself  in danger.

**Tension**

Controversy expressed through thoughts and actions created by the opposition of forces that try to preserve the existing situation and forces aiming for changes. Harnessing tension in the community implies that community development workers start to sense with their minds and hearts that the existing situation is not as it is ideally supposed to be.

**Traditions**

Everything that contributes to the identity of a nationality and makes it different from other people.

Fundamental to traditions are achievements of  spiritual, cultural,  and above all national ideals, which are closely connected to the outlook, religion and morals.

**Transformation**

The most fundamental feature of development in the Universe. Shifting or changing into something obviously different.

**Understanding of Community Needs**

The understanding of tension and discontent of community members. Promoting them to initiate positive actions that will lead to positive decisions.

**Values**

Broad tendencies to prefer certain states of affairs over others. General predispositions to certain principles and beliefs. Feelings that have specific indicators (with both negative and positive signs). The way of estimating preferences of certain states of affairs using oppositional categories such as  good/evil, pure/filthy, beautiful/ugly, natural/unnatural, normal/abnormal, logical/paradox, rational/ irrational, and so on.

**Vision**

A capacity to see ourselves in conditions that are different from the present situation. Imagining (visualizing) a better life in future.

**Volunteer**

A person who works and carries out activities willingly, on her/his own initiative, without pay.

**Wishful (Desirable) Values**

How people think the world should look like.

**Community Development Program, Civil Society Community Roots Project**

**Canadian Bureau for International Education 2002**