**Community Development**

The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems." It is a broad term given to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities.

Community development is also understood as a professional discipline, and is defined by the International Association for Community Development, the global network of community development practitioners and scholars, as "a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality and social justice, through the organization, education and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings".

**Scope of Community Development:**

Community development leads members to become more responsible, develop healthy lifestyles, empower, reduce poverty and economic opportunities. Community work takes place in particular geographical areas, focusing on identifying their needs, issues and strategies. It can also be concentrated on a particular area in identifying the problems of the human being or region.

**Career Opportunities:**

Career in community development leads to getting jobs at schools, colleges and universities. They can also expect jobs at public, private and non-profit organizations. A community development degree program draws information from many fields including anthropology, urban studies and political science. There are number of postgraduate programs in community development, like Master’s degree in community development and Ph.D.

**What are the job roles?**

* Community Development Worker
* Development Service Technician
* Social Science Research Assistant
* Housing Program Assistant
* Community Worker
* Community Development Manager
* Community Welfare Officer
* Social Worker

**Difference between Community Development and Community Organization:**

There are many similarities between community organization and community development. But for theoretical purpose it is possible to differentiate between community organization and community development

a) Community organization is a method of [social work](http://swnepal.blogspot.in/2014/05/social-work.html) but community development is a program for a planned change.

b) Community organization emphasizes the processes, but community development emphasizes the end or goals.

c) Community organizers’ are mostly social workers and social change agents, But community development personnel can be from other professions including agricultural experts, veterinary experts, and other technical experts.

d) Community organisation is not time bound. It is achieved step by step according to the pace of the people. But community development is time bound and time is specified for achieving the development objectives.

e) In community organisation people’s participation is important. But in community development people’s development is important.

f) In community organisation governments and external agencies assistances are not important or needed. But in community development external assistance from the government or other agencies is considered important.

g) Community organisation is a method of social work and this method is used in many fields. But unlike community organisation community development is considered as process, method, program, and movement for planned change.

h) Community organisation is used in all the fields but community development is used mostly in economic development and for the development of living standards of the people.

i) In community organisation planning is initiated by the people through their participation. But in community development planning is carried out by an external agency mostly by the government.

j) In community organisation people are organised to solve their problem. But in community development goals have to be achieved and for that people are organised.

k) Community organisation is universal to all communities. But community development programs differ from people to people depending upon whether the area is rural, urban or tribal, and other characteristics of the area.

Even though there are differences, both are interrelated. The relationship is so close, so that community organisation process and principles are accepted fully. Both are like two sides of the same coin. The ideal community development takes places where community organisation method and its various steps and principles are effectively put into practice.

**Community Services:**

When someone performs an action which benefits his or her community, it is known as community service. Some people associate community service with punishment, since it is often offered to small-time offenders as an alternative to fines or jail time. However, community service can also be altruistic, and it is a vital part of many small communities. Getting involved in your community makes it healthier and livelier, and numerous organizations around the world support community service activities.

Things which could be considered community service include tutoring children, building homes in low income areas with Habitat for Humanity, assisting the elderly, socializing animals at animal shelters, being a museum docent, performing habitat restoration, contributing to the operations of volunteer fire departments and emergency services, or helping with civic beautification. In all cases, community service work is performed by volunteers who are not paid for their time. In some instances, the work would not be accomplished without the work of such volunteers, and many small organizations rely on people with community spirit to survive.

For people who are given community service as a punishment or sentence, it can be an opportunity to atone for a crime. Others engage in community service out of a spirit of altruism, or a desire to connect with their communities by helping out. For people who are new to a community, community service can be a great way to learn more about the place in which they live and the people they live with. Community service may also be required for things like high school graduation or membership in an organization, in which case the school or organization often helps to organize community service opportunities.

For people who are not affiliated with an organization, finding community service opportunities is easy. In many cases, an organization which needs the assistance of volunteers has a volunteer coordinator. Contact the organization you are interested in to ask about volunteers, or check bulletin boards around town for organized community service activities. You may find anything from a group of birdwatchers performing habitat restoration in a local wetlands to an association of businesses sponsoring graffiti cleanup.

Many people engage in community service because they believe that it carries rewards beyond the obvious and tangible. Clearly, engaging in things like environmental restoration and civic beautification will make your life enjoyable by making the world around you more pleasant. But community service can also help to ensure that important services like meals for the elderly and volunteer fire departments continue to run. It also helps to build a rich and supportive community of people who know each other and lend each other a hand when it is needed.

**Community Participation:**

A community's members are a rich source of knowledge about their community and of energy and commitment to that community. When public health professionals envision a program to address health issues in a particular community, tapping into the community's expertise and enthusiasm is frequently an essential issue. Genuine participation by community members, including youth, is the key. Community members control the project at the same time that professional partners build the community's capacity to make informed decisions and to take collective action.