

Community Development

Introduction

- Community development has been one of the most significant social forces in the process of planned change during the last three decades.**
- In the past change has occurred without plans or guidance, but today the increasing trend towards planned change enabled large segments of people to participate in the planning and change creating programs which affect their lives.**
- Community development as an instrument of change has become a controversial topic and one hopes this will change the attitudes of policy makers.**

Community Definition

- 1. Community is a master system encompassing social forms and cultural behavior in interdependent subsidiary systems.**
- 2. Community is a social system composed of people living in some spatial relationship to one another, who share common facilities and services, develop a common psychological identification with the the locality symbol. And together frame a common communication network.**
- 3. A community may be organized along residential boundaries, a functional lineament need not demand exclusive territorial precedence.**

Community Definition

- 1. A community is also recognized as social unit, such as a group or association based on common needs, interest, values and function.**
- 2. Then, a community accentuates, in addition to territorial definition, such essential constituents as a common bond, membership in a group, the sharing of common interests and a identity, together with an acknowledgement of the rights and responsibilities of other community members.**

Community Definition

People

- What are the limits of a community in terms of population size?**
- The population size of communities are different from one another. Predictions about the social characteristics of a community cannot be made from its population size alone.**
- Density of population is important. Obviously the opportunities for development are greater where there is a relatively high density than where the population is thinly scattered over a wide area.**
- The important demographic characteristics include the age structure, the sex ratio, the density, and the degree of homogeneity.**

Community Definition

Place

- What natural resources are available to the community?**
- Environment extends beyond physical features to include the whole ecological base of the community.**
- Anthropologists have recently developed the useful concept of a social network, comprising all relationships of individuals. Virtually everywhere this network extends beyond a single community and reaches into other communities, so that one needs to know the types of relationships and links that a community has with county seats, cities, roads, markets, and the wider world generally.**

Community Definition

Time

- How long has the community been in existence, and how long has it been in its present location?**
- It is likely to be easier to interest in development those who feel securely settled in traditional lands than those who are either threatened by others coveting their land, or who regard themselves as temporary sojourners, waiting to return to ancestral lands from which they have been evicted.**
- Providing adequate preparations are made, resettlement can be a great opportunity to improve community life and to accelerate economic development.**

The Nature of Social Change

- There are no entirely stable, self-sufficient, enclosed societies, for all are undergoing some degree of change.**
- Social change which has remained controversial is its relationship to the psychological state of individuals involved. Social change has emphasized the individual's need for achievement, and its relationship to change in different cultures.**
- The concept of accommodation helps to break down the unreal polarity which is sometimes posited between traditional and modern spheres of action. Tradition is simply what people do, and all societies of the world are faced with conflicting values.**

Community Development

- **Community development has gained universal recognition in the last three decades as a substantial force for inducing planned change.**
- **Rapid technological advances have resulted in a series of inescapable social realities, and community development can help adapt to these new realities.**
- **Community development provides the possibility of altering by democratic means,, at times anti-human directions of technology, urbanization towards more human ends.**

Community Development

- **In ideal community development, all members of a given community may express their voice of discontent. Members may learn the dynamics of change so that they may effect changes desired by the community.**
- **It must be emphasized that , while community development is a dynamic force in effecting social change, it will mot magically transmute our present into a Utopian future.**
- **Community organization endeavored to provide a systematic approach to the management and direction at the community level.**

Community Development

❏ Social Development vs. Community Development

❏ Social Development

- ❏ Social development are initiative, adaptive and ameliorative in nature, practitioners of economic, and work in planning economic programs especially in terms of predicting the logical social consequences.
- ❏ Social development must also assist people in adjusting to the social consequences of programs of change.
- ❏ A prominent thrust of social development in serving the adaptive and ameliorative functions is the education of the population so that people will gain an awareness of the changing social conditions they are engulfed in, and will participate more readily in development programs.

Community Development

❏ Social Development vs. Community Development

❏ Community Development

- ❏ Community development is to initiate, give direction to and sustain community action.
- ❏ Community action is initiated in response to real problems, such as perceived by the community members, about which there is genuine concern.
- ❏ Ideally these problems are systematically analyzed so that realizable goals may be elucidated with the aid of the appropriate strategies for attaining them.
- ❏ The central credo of community development is to develop the competence of a community so that it may confront its own problems.

Community Development

Democratic Participation

- Participatory democracy is the means of approaching the democratic ideal which should be the focus of community development.**
- Citizen participation is not analogous to democratic participation, but is a means towards realizing the democratic ideal by establishing a new power base at the community level.**
- Simply stated, citizen participation via community development can lead towards democratic participation, only when the present power structure has been challenged and replaced by a genuine democratic process.**

Community Development

Context of Community Development

- Community development is a viable means of facilitating the great change and then responding to the consequences.**
- Attention may be focused on the organizational and super-organizational level. Most community members inactive onlookers, or it may focus on the neighborhood level where substantial community participation is attainable.**
- Community development is process, method, program and movement.**

Community Development

Types of Community Development

Process

- Community development as a process is a systematic approach to change in which each of the phases of the process may be sufficiently defined and measured in accordance with specified criteria.

Method

- Inherent to this perspective is a teleological underlining of means and ends, or the methods appropriate to achieving specified goals.

Community Development

Types of Community Development (cont.)

Program

- In community development, often program of activities is formulated and followed. Planned programs may be multipurpose or may focus upon one community interest.

Movement

- The inference is to community development as an ideology which celebrates the principle of progress. The advantage of perceiving community development as a movement is precisely its danger.

Community Development

☛ The Elements of the Community Development

☛ As a unit of action

- ☛ The community may vary in size, in the extent, in the function of the territorial definition and so forth. All this serves to illustrate the complexity of contextual variables that intervene in any community development endeavor.

☛ Local initiative and leadership

- ☛ A fundamental precept to community development is the involvement of members in the developmental process, which includes defining the needs, taking the necessary action for satisfying these needs, and the ultimate execution of the resultant programs, as formulated by the members.

Community Development

☛ The Elements of the Community Development

☛ Use of local and outside resources

- ☛ It is the responsibility of community development practitioners to discern which resources must be imported, where they are available, and how they may best be integrated into the development process without diluting the determination and strength of the community.

☛ Participation

- ☛ Community development process must assume, assuring that all individuals and groups may be accommodated into the developmental process.

Community Development

■ The Elements of the Community Development

■ Organized comprehensive approach

- Community development needs to recognize the ideal of attention to those issues which are least situation-bound, which affect the greatest proportion and range of people, and which may be responded to which reference to the vast range of resources within the community.

■ Democratic accomplishment

- Community development tends to avoid overly hasty change and emphasizes decisions and actions based on consensus and on the broadest possible participation of community members.

Community Development

■ The Roots of Community Development

■ Education

- The term “community development” was defined and adopted in 1984 to replace the earlier term “mass education”.
- Governments were preoccupied with problems of establishing and maintaining law and order to enhance trade with the metropolitan.
- This reappraisal had the effect of extending education far beyond the sphere of the conventional school system, and to a large extent determined the emphasis which has been placed on community development as essentially an educational process.

Community Development

☛ The Roots of Community Development

☛ Social Work

☛ Social-work process has often been regarded as belonging more specifically to community organization than to community development.

☛ In the setting of the community, the helping process of social work enables people to learn how to determine, articulate, and establish in some scale of priority their needs; to learn the art of working together to meet those needs and to solve community problems; to become better able to handle community situations; to get things done by organizing their resources and acquire that confidence and desire to cooperate further which comes only from the discovery that needs can be met by working together.

Strength & Weaknesses

☛ Strength

☛ Community development agents to subscribe to gradual change. It can take generations to change a people's value system, especially so in the less developed, more traditional context. And emphasis on consensus and citizen participation further delays task-oriented structural changes. Community development, with its predilection for a psychological orientation towards social change at the expense of socio-economic change, is largely a method of social service.

Strength & Weaknesses

Weakness

- The most severe criticisms of community development is that it is a subtle tool of those in power, who use it to maintain their vested interests. This is based on the observation that community has had little influence on the socio-economic structure, and indeed there is much to substantiate this. A brief investigation of the foundations of such a challenge is the sincerity of community development.**

Potential

- A process and program orientation towards community development pays equal attention to a bi-dimensional, integral view of change, embracing both the idealist view and the materialist view.**
- A holistic process-program view towards community development holds the potential of becoming a powerful force in effecting psychological and socio-economic change.**

Summary & Conclusion

- **Community development is not, as is sometimes suggested, a new phenomenon that started in the 1650's, it is an outgrowth of earlier experiments and concepts in education and social work, both of which have much influenced contemporary thought and practice.**

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