

Community Development

New entrepreneurship



HANSE-PARLAMENT
Network for Small and Medium Enterprises



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Community Development????

- What do we mean by this?
 - It is a field of study
 - It is a set of practices
 - It is something which matters in individual people's lives
- But first:
 - What is Community?
 - What is Development?

Community??

- Remember, there is never only ONE community!
 - So, we often use the term 'communities'
- There are two distinct types of community:
 - Spatial or Geographic Community
 - Communities of Affect, or Communities of Feeling

Geographic community

- **By its location (the place)**
 - Varying definitions – local, regional, national
 - Size and scale matter as to how the community functions within itself, and how it holds beliefs and identity.
 - Large scale tends to require simpler definitions of identity in order to encompass diversity
 - Small scale is the level where people actually *interact* with each other
- Geographic communities tend to be made up of multiple smaller communities, nested within each other

Communities of Affect

Communities to which we belong

- *(Mostly) voluntary membership – not born into them*
- *Can reach across a very wide range of things – from vocation to music*
- *We can belong in multiple of these communities at once*

Communities interact

- The two types of communities interact with each other – in multiple ways
 - One ‘community’ might be hegemonic within a wider spatial community
 - Others could become disenfranchised
- Each forms the other, even in their differences
 - communities often use “Othering” to create their own sense of identities
 - i.e. The City versus the Countryside

- Within the field of Rural Community Development, *community* tends to mean a smaller, locally identified community in a certain place, sharing characteristics of deprivation, disenfranchisement or otherwise being discriminated against.
- Because emphasis generally is put on '*development*' which predicts that being lower implies a need to get higher.
- And because 'Rural' communities are measured by the same rules as Cities.

Development??

Development applies to many different fields and aspects of human life

Development can be:

- Economic
- Cultural
- Personal
- Professional
- Lifestyle
- Health
- Etc, etc, etc.

When applied to different aspects of life, Community Development also takes on different forms - and employs different tools.

These could include:

- Education and learning
- Economic development
- Provision of public goods
- Personal development
- Development of community interactions – network building

The public and the personal

- Communities are made up of individual people
- It is the actions of individuals that create the communities and community actions/standards/capacities/achievements

“The World changes one individual at a time”

Discourse and meaning

This is where discourse and the making of meaning come in.

- We create our identities and our communities from the concrete actions of individuals and from the messy stew of acts of representation which swirl around us.
- Thus, we define ourselves and our communities by what we are and by what we are not (or at least what we think we are and are not).

Because this universe of meanings is constantly changing, so too do the meanings and definitions we arrive at.

- Thus, communities are constantly changing too.
- Community is, therefore, not a static category. Rather it is something we grab to understand but risk having that understanding slip through our fingers.

Community is a *becoming*, and only if we can grasp that, can we begin to understand the ways in which communities form, mutate, grow and morph.

Community development?

What does community mean for our understanding of community development?

- It helps explain the diversity and complexity of the field
- It empowers us to find our own unique solutions to unique challenges

Yet, it is always based upon the people we encounter

- to engage in community development involves developing with, for and by people.