

Community Development

Community Development is a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative."

Principles of Community Development

Canadians Michael and Julie Bopp described the principles of community development as follow:

1. Harnessing Community Tensions:

For changes to occur there must be a tension in people's mind between the way things are and the way people want them to be. There must be a desire for change and a desire to work together to create the change.

2. Facilitating Consultation about Community Realities and Needs:

As noted in detail below, for community development to work successfully, there has to be awareness about community needs as decided upon by the community themselves, not as decided upon by outsiders.

3. Maintaining Unity and Healthy Human Relations:

It is important to build respectful healthy relationship between members of the group and to work on managing conflicts as they occur so as to maintain a collective vision.

4. Developing a Common Vision of Sustainable Future:

If community development is to work, it must be sustainable and the process must include everyone. Stories abound of development processes failing because the resources or the process were not sustainable or well devised or were done without consultation. We have all seen pictures of computers lying unused because the hardware or software broke or just because people in the community didn't actually see need for computers.

5. Supporting Core Group Development:

It is essential to encourage and support your group. Get to know the people in your group. What are their interests and skills? How much time can they dedicate to the group's activities? Everyone needs to be clear about their capacities and the limits to their time and energy that may exist. Encourage and build up a strong support base so that the group is not dependent upon only one or two people. Make sure the group is as representative of the community as it can be-that means including and listening to the needs of women and children as well.

6. Personal Revitalization and Healing:

Good community development processes provide an opportunity for people to become empowered, energized and to undo some of the harms of the past.

7. Facilitating Learning:

The entire development process is a learning experience. People can become aware of their environment, their social and political reality and can learn how to make the steps necessary to change and improve their situation.

8. Building Effective Organizations:

Formalizing the initial volunteer group is crucial part of the development process. Creating and implementing formal organization structures creates legitimacy and respect for the organizations and lets the community know that you are serious about your endeavours. It helps keep people unified and accountable and is part of the process of developing and implementing plans and activities.

9. Networking with Resources and Allies:

Creating the networks between likeminded individuals who then form a group who then network with other groups in order to learn and share skills and resources and knowledge is a crucial part of the community development process. The most effective groups are those that are well networked and work on co-operation with others in their area. Find out whether your area has a friendship school or rotary club or other group that is already working.

10. Programme Development:

It is important to have a clear programme. An as hoc approach to community development processes will not work. A programme must be developed in conjunction with the community and be about community needs and priorities. They must adhere to realistic timelines and have inbuilt monitoring and evaluation processes so that changes can be tracked. The programme acts as a map to signal where it is the group going.

11. Reflection on the Process: Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and Evaluation is very important as it allows the group to track progress, identify problems, and improve upon community development processes.

12. Protecting the Process:

Community development processes are dependent upon a range of other processes: the good will of those involved, the continuation of funds, a secure political environment, a lack of violence. Once any of these dynamics is disrupted, then negative change and conflict may occur. It is important to have risk management strategies built into your process. Less well developed processes might have fallen victim to the conflict and insecurity.

National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP)

The Government of India has launched the National Agricultural Innovation project with a credit support of the World Bank. The project will run up to June 2012. The ICAR is operating the Project. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate accelerated and sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture for rural poverty alleviation and income generation by the application of agricultural innovations through collaboration among public research organizations, farmers' groups, NGOs, the private sector and the civil societies and other stakeholders.

The India National Agricultural Innovation Project contributes to the sustainable transformation of Indian agricultural sector to more of a market orientation to relieve poverty and improve income. The specific aim is to accelerate collaboration among public research organizations, farmers, the private sector and stakeholders in using agricultural innovations. The project has four objectives.

1. Strengthens the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as the catalyzing agent for managing change in the Indian National Agricultural Research System (NARS) by focusing on: 1.1 Information, communication and dissemination system; 1.2 Business planning and development; 1.3 Learning and capacity building; 1.4 Policy and gender analysis and visioning; 1.5 Remodeling financial management and procurement systems; and 1.6 Project implementation.
2. Funds research on production-to-consumption systems.
3. Funds research on sustainable rural livelihood security.
4. Supports basic and strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural science features

The project will have a strong and transparent governance strategy for efficient working. Institutional and implementation arrangement will be fully streamlined to follow modern financial management, procurement system, knowledge management, and a results framework and monitoring which will ensure continuous progress and achieving the expected output. Systematic economic and financial analysis will be pursued along with close monitoring of environmental and social safe guards. Another major component of the project is a strong institutional learning and capacity building plan for self-renewal of National Agricultural Innovation System. The plan includes comprehensive training need assessment, harnessing modern ICT in knowledge and education dissemination management for agriculture, capacity building to deal with globalize agricultural market and economy, capacity building for visioning and foresight etc.

Prime Minister's Employment Yojana (P M EY)

Prime Minister Employment Yojana for providing self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth was announced by the Prime Minister on 15th August, 1993 to provide self-employed opportunities to one million educated unemployed youth in country. The Scheme has been formally launched on 2nd October, 1993.

Objectives:

The PMEY has been designed to provide employment to more than a million Person by setting up of 7 lakhs micro enterprises by the educated unemployed youth. It relates to the setting up of the self-employment ventures through industry, service and business routes. The scheme also seeks to associate reputed non-governmental organizations in implementation PMEY scheme especially in the selection, training of entrepreneurs and preparation of project profiles.

Educated constitute nearly 40% of the unemployed. Incidence of unemployment among the educated lab our force is 11.8% against 3.8% for educated and uneducated taken together. Further, the incidence is much higher viz. 26.7% among women than 9.8% among educated men. Women constitute 27% of the educated unemployed level of education. Projection made using alternative techniques put the estimate of educated unemployed at 6-7 million in 1992. This is out of an estimated educated labour force of 52 million. Of the mew employment opportunities that are being generated in the economy in recent years, about 45 per cent are estimate to be going to the educated. But, though relatively high, the employment growth of the educated still falls short of the growth of labour force by about 7 lakhs in a year. The trend of a higher growth of their employment is likely to continue with the introduction of modern technologies There may, in fact be a shift towards employment of the educated in the activities which hitherto were the preserve of the uneducated. Hence, the problem of the educated needs a special focus within the overall strategy for tackling unemployment. Prime Minister's Employment Yojana (PMEY) seeks to address itself to this problem.

New Trends in Extension –Privatization

Extension has been, and still is, under attack from a wide spectrum of politicians and economists over its cost and financing. As a result, Extension Systems have had to make changes, by restating the system's mission, developing a new vision for the future, and formulating plans for the necessary transition to achieve the desired change.

At least three scenarios have been suggested by government and farm organizations with regard to privatization of extension:

1. Public financing by the taxpayer only for the kinds of services of direct concern to the general public.
2. Direct charging for some individual services that produce direct return in the form of improved income, with the possibility of differential rates for specific situations or target groups.
3. Mixed funding shared between public and private professional association contributions for services, with delayed return or collective services, such as applied research, training of farmers and agents, and improvement in Extension methods and tools.

Extension service has been traditionally organized and delivered by the public sector all over the world, which led to a situation wherein, whenever one refers to extension, it denoted public extension service. Similarly, whenever private sector is referred to, there is a tendency to consider only the corporate sector in the category. However, private extension has a broader canvas including all relevant private groups than the narrow canvas of corporate sector.

Privatization of extension services does not aim at substituting private sector for public extension service. In fact, privatization has adopted a variety of forms involving different stakeholders. The paper portrays the major stakeholders, viz, private corporate firms, credit institutions, farmer's associations non-governmental organizations and media organizations and analyses their participant configurations.

The success of an extension service depends on the effectiveness of planning at four levels policy, programmes, projects and strategy. Policy and programmes must be decided by the public extension system, while projects and strategy can be formulated by the private extension organizations. When the private extension organizations get involved in providing extension support to farmers, it is likely there will be competition among the various extension providers, which will result in more efficient and demand-driven service. Both technical and allocative efficiency which are basically economic in nature are well take care of by the private extension agencies, resulting in cost minimization, profit maximisation and optimal use of resources, which are warranted in a competitive environment.

Public extension service often views sustainability of programmes only in terms of continuity. Sustainability is different form continuity, which has both ecological and equity dimensions. The private extension agencies, especially NGOs and media organizations provide valuable service in ensuring sustainability of programmes in terms of the above two dimensions.

The private extension system in India offers the following services for farmers – terms of sharing, augmenting and supplementing the public extension efforts besides offering unique and innovative initiatives, which the public extension service can also emulate. Some of the Services are:

1. Cost sharing by farmers' groups
2. Cost recovery on selected services offered to farmers
3. Contracting services to small groups
4. Paid extension services for affordable farmers
5. Value addition by agro-processing firms
6. Consultancy services (both technical and managerial)
7. Privatised service centres for farmers
8. Self Help Groups of farmers
9. Information support through media organizations

Private extension system can offer a variety of services for farmers in a competitive environment which the public sector may not be able to. Hence, it is suggested that public sector extension may limit its activities only to regulatory and enabling functions, and should mainly focus on educational activities, which are unattractive to private sector delivery.