

# *Community Development Foundations of Community Education:*

## ***Introduction;***

There are many types of social systems which community development intends to focus on a specific type, which community interacts with many other types of systems. It is necessary to differentiate communities from other classification of social systems. There are many ways to define community. Each of the standard definitions may be sufficient in most situation but they vary in terms of the elements included.

Community development which improves the lives of the community has many characteristics which are universal. **Some of these characteristics are:**

- all people affected by change should be involved.
- respect local knowledge and use local talent
- sustainability – people feel more attached to a project they have helped in. They will therefore manage and maintain it better.
- build local capacity – long-term community sustainability depends on developing human and social abilities.
- effective, transparent communication.

## ***Core Foundations for Community Development Education;***

### **1. Community Participation**

Everyone has a valuable contribution to make and community members can join in at any level. Volunteers and community members are integral to the decision-

making, evaluation, provision, participation and direction setting at all levels of the organization.

## **2. Community Ownership**

Members are actively involved in decision-making and have ownership of the centre's activities. A voluntary management committee comprising elected members who live, work or participate in the local community governs each centre. The governance model is developmental, working co-operatively and collaboratively with staff, volunteers, centre participants and the wider community, thus generating a range of community benefits.

## **3. Empowerment**

A process that respects, values and enhances people's ability to have control over their lives is put into practice. This process encourages people to meet their needs and aspirations in a self-aware and informed way which takes advantage of their skills, experience and potential. Change and growth occurs through informing and empowering individuals and communities.

## **4. Lifelong Learning**

Learning is integrated into all aspects of centre activities, thus building and supporting the personal skills, knowledge, abilities and resilience of people. They develop the health, wellbeing and connection of people and their families, through formal and informal pathways in education, employment and self-development.

## **5. Inclusion**

The diverse contributions that people make are valued, no matter what their background or varying abilities. Individual and local needs are acknowledged and

addressed, often through informal interaction. Identifying these needs and issues through a range of methods is instrumental to informing the planning and development of activities and programs.

## **6. Access and Equity**

Centers are accessible and welcoming. They promote a fairer distribution of economic resources and power between people by aiming to improve the social, environmental, economic and cultural infrastructures within their communities.

## **7. Social Action**

Internal and external factors that impact on the local community are analyzed and relationships between individuals, groups and organizations and within the community transformed through collective action.

## **8. Advocacy**

In meeting individual and group needs, Centers act with, or on behalf of, community members.

## **9. Networking**

Linking, forming alliances, collaborating and working with individuals, groups, other agencies, government and business are crucial, with interaction between formal and informal methods to achieve connections within the local communities.

## **10. Self Help**

Individuals are supported in coming together in a caring group environment to share information, knowledge, skills and life experience in order that each participant can reach their own personal goals

### ***CONCLUSION***

Community development does not provide detailed prescriptions appropriate to every community system it supplies, it presents a logical basic for and general guides to the use of open system or democratic structuring, and the application of a holistic approach in efforts to stimulate the building of capacities, and to improve the performance of and in community system. Community development establishes an orientation toward community Systems and human behaviors to be considered relevant in and for this level and type of social organization. It does not purport to give answers to the basic questions of what, why, or how for every community system. It does provide a conceptual platform. Theories of Community Development mostly interest to collect everybody into the same structure to behave in the same manner. Community Development Theory cannot be the same every time, it can divide in state, country, urban, and rural area.