

GROUP DISCUSSIONS – 26 OCTOBER 2011

THEME 1 – UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Question 1: What is your understanding of community development?

- Bringing positive change
- Improve well-being of people (economically, socially and politically)
- Social functioning (needs)
- Working together/ inclusiveness
- Participation
- Community implementation
- Empowerment
- Skills transfer
- System of action for social change
- Facilitation of social change
- Sustainability
- People centeredness (ownership)
- Proper usage of resources
- Ubuntu
- Improving people lives to ensure sustainability
- Involves change of undesirable to a positive situation
- Identifying community needs and also involving other stakeholders in addressing those needs
- Making the community aware of the resources in order to make themselves sustainable
- Involving the community in the needs analysis and planning for action to address those needs.
- Through a specific process to achieve specific collective goals
- Ability, strength and skills to be identified by the CDP to address the needs as identified
- Process towards liberation that will lead to emancipation
- Integrated approach utilizing all available resources to reach common goals as identified by the community to engender self sustenance.
- Any action that grows to satisfy a social need or desire.
- Move away from dependability to sustainability
- The shifting away from social work to community work
- An investment of social capital and to strengthen the capacity of people or community.
- Impact skills to the community to do things on their own

Question 2: What is it that you do in community development in relation to what you see community development to be?

- Advocacy and lobbying
- Training and infrastructure development
- Mobilization of resources
- Community profiling
- Education
- Information sharing
- Provide financial support
- Needs analysis
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Provide evidence based information for planning
- Capacity building
- Material support to families in need
- Do home visits
- Institution building
- Asset mapping
- Awareness campaign
- Rendering services
- Reduction of poverty through skills development
- Stakeholder participation
- We still follow a welfare approach by giving handouts
- Facilitate resource mobilisation and needs analysis
- We focus on the end result and not on the process
- We analyse and work from what is there and enhance
- Community members must be part of that development for sustainability
- Coordination
- Integration
- People centred development
- Identification of the priorities of their needs
- Organise and linking them to resources.
- Sustainability
- For now is more project driven and
- Indigenous knowledge system of how the community operate
- Most community development practitioners uses the top down approach whilst they should be using the down up approach.
- Working in silos is another factor whilst people should be integrating.
- Provide financial assistance
- Establish common understanding to issues
- Policy and programme development

Question 3: What is the current environment in which you find yourself doing community development?

- Friendly and hostile
- Supportive
- Dynamic and ever changing
- Not well coordinated
- Politically strife
- Not conducive
- Time management lacking
- Limited participation by Youth
- Diverse agenda
- Sustainability a challenge
- Lack of financial resources
- Imposing
- Lack of cooperation
- Poor dissemination of information
- Lack of same understand
- Illiteracy level
- Funding not aligned to development itself
- Auditors instead of community developers
- Operating in silo's
- Duplication of activities
- Political Interference
- Competition
- Lack of integration
- Promotion of welfarism/dependency
- Trying to impress the donor
- Imposing projects to communities not undertaking what they want to do
- Impose departmental priorities
- Planning too much with less implementation.
- Target driven according to departmental priorities.
- Other countries models and copying them not customise them to fit our country
- NO MEANING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
- NO APPRECIATIVE PARTERSHIP
- LIMITED CAPACITY
- LACK OF ADEQUARE RESOURCES
- INADEQUATE IFRASTUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT
- LACK OF ACCESS ROADS
- Draft community development policy to be finalised.
- Disfunctioning due to uneven/unfair distribution of benefits
- There is sense of dependency from outside help
- Hostile environment characterised by entitlement, politically inclined
- Unclear issue - does development cause poverty or vice versa
- Volatile

- Lack of funding for skills development
- Inequitable distribution of resources
- Community development is supposed to be done by the community.

Question 4: What is conducive in your environment for community development?

- Availability of community asserts and support
- Political will
- Passion and commitment from all involved
- Cooperation from communities
- Clear role clarification of stakeholders
- Communities have indegioneous methodsfor self support
- Social cohesion
- Institutional support (seta)
- Support from traditional leaders
- Need for intervention on CD
- Government willing to give funding
- The communities are readily available
- Mutual respect and integrity
- Assets (Physical, Human,Financial,Social,Natural)
- The need for Community Development
- The political environment
- Budget
- PEOPLE ARE THE GREATEST/ RESOUCEFUL ASSET
- INDEGENOUS KNOWLEGE
- ACCREDITED SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS & REGISTERED PROVIDERS
- AVAILABILITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES (LAND WATER etc)
- RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING
- PERMISSIVE/ ENABLING LEGISLATION
- TECHNOLOGY
- SUPPORTIVE NPO SECTOR
- PRIVATE SECTOR
- Political stability
- Acceptance
- Resource availability
- Economic climate
- Group cohesion

Question 5: What informs/where did you get your understanding of community development?

- Theory from literature
- Community structures
- Experience from working with communities
- Cultural beliefs
- Formal/ informal training
- Practice
- Exposure and observations
- Research/ case studies
- Networking
- Personal experience
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Activism during apartheid
- The regulatory framework inform our practice and understanding
- Solidarity economy, faith based organisations
- Some got it from the tool kit
- Others from their Life experiences
- Career
- Community practises informs you from the social work background
- literature
- Through community dialogues
- Practical experience
- Research
- Formal curriculum
- RDP documents
- Mutual learning
- Benchmarking and best practices.
- Political Activities
- INTEGRITY
- HIGHER LEARNING INSTITUTION
- PAST EXPERIECE
- COMMUNITY EXPERSSED NEEDS
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- World health organisation & definition of health
- Own constitution (SA)
- other peoples and own realisations
- study & research
- declarations
- Community
- NGOs, CBOs
- Upbringing
- Work experience
- Literature