

CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

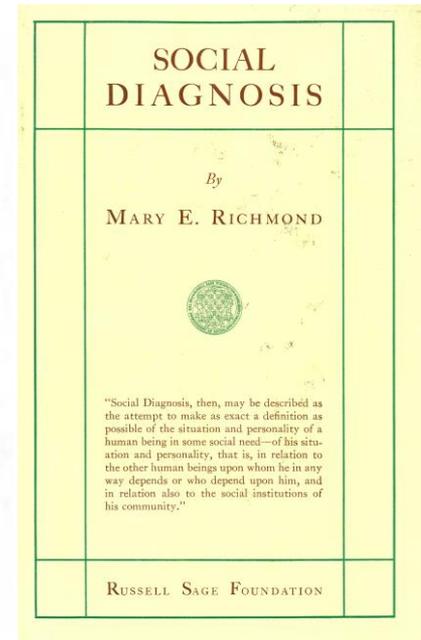
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- Mary Richmond
Charity
Organisation
Society



- Jane Adams
Settlement House
movement



- Community development is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes participative democracy, sustainable development, rights, economic opportunity, equality and social justice, through the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities, whether these be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings.

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

The purpose of community development is to re-establish the community as the location of significant human experience and the meeting of human need.

- Jim Ife 2013

Community development can be variously described as an approach or philosophy, a job or profession, a method and an intervention or political activity.

- Susan Kenny 2017

- “Community development is a living, dynamic and challenging endeavour, sometimes simple and coherent, sometimes complex, contradictory and full of dilemmas”

Kenny 2017

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

- ✓ enabling communities to identify and address their own needs
- ✓ communities have existing strengths and assets that make them part of the solution
- ✓ doing with, rather than doing for.

(NHVic 2017)

LANGUAGE, TERMS... I'M CONFUSED!

- ◉ Community engagement
- ◉ Community capacity building
- ◉ Community building
- ◉ Community strengthening
- ◉ Community governance
- ◉ Community cultural development
- ◉ Health promotion
- ◉ Social determinants of health approach
- ◉ Place based activation
- ◉ Co-design
- ◉ Others?

If you have come
to help me you are
wasting your time.
But if you have
come because your
liberation is bound
up with mine, then
let us work together.

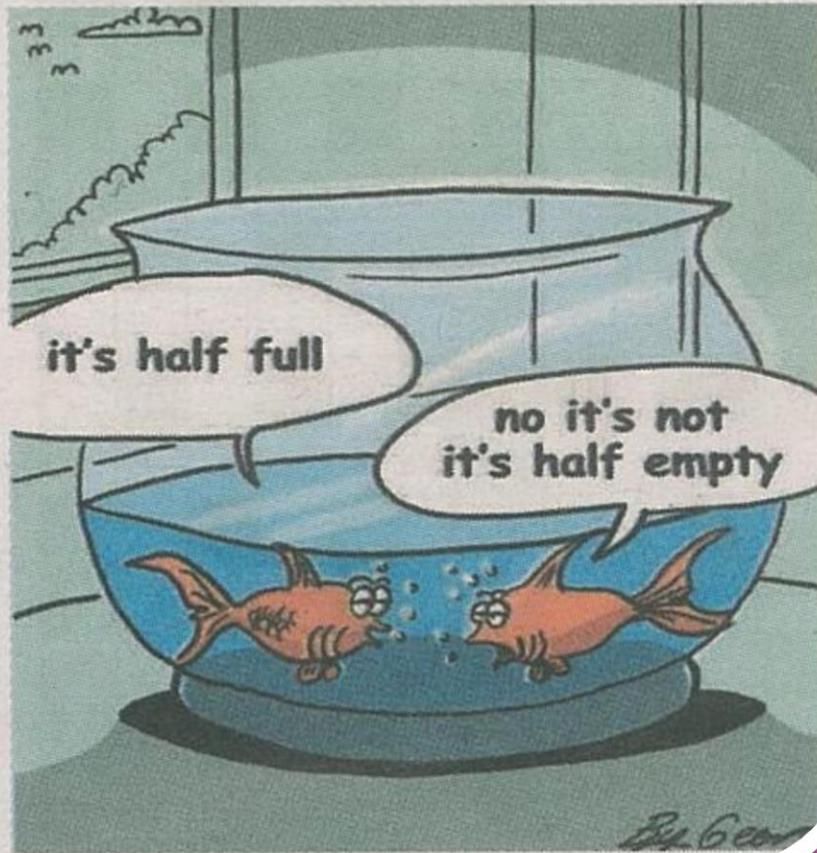
ABORIGINAL
ACTIVISTS
GROUP
QUEENSLAND, 1970s

MUTUAL RESPECT, MUTUAL INTEREST

- ✓ RELATIONSHIPS!
- ✓ inter-dependence
- ✓ doing with, not for
- ✓ power with
- ✓ self determination
- ✓ Acknowledgement that each has something to offer
- ✓ empowerment
- ✓ collaboration
- ✓ dialogical
- ✓ deeply ethical

STRENGTHS APPROACH

When fish get philosophical



- ✓ recognising strengths, capacities, talents, skills
- ✓ opportunities to learn, change, grow
- ✓ educative
- ✓ Asset Based Community-driven Development (ABCD)
- ✓ Community Capitals framework

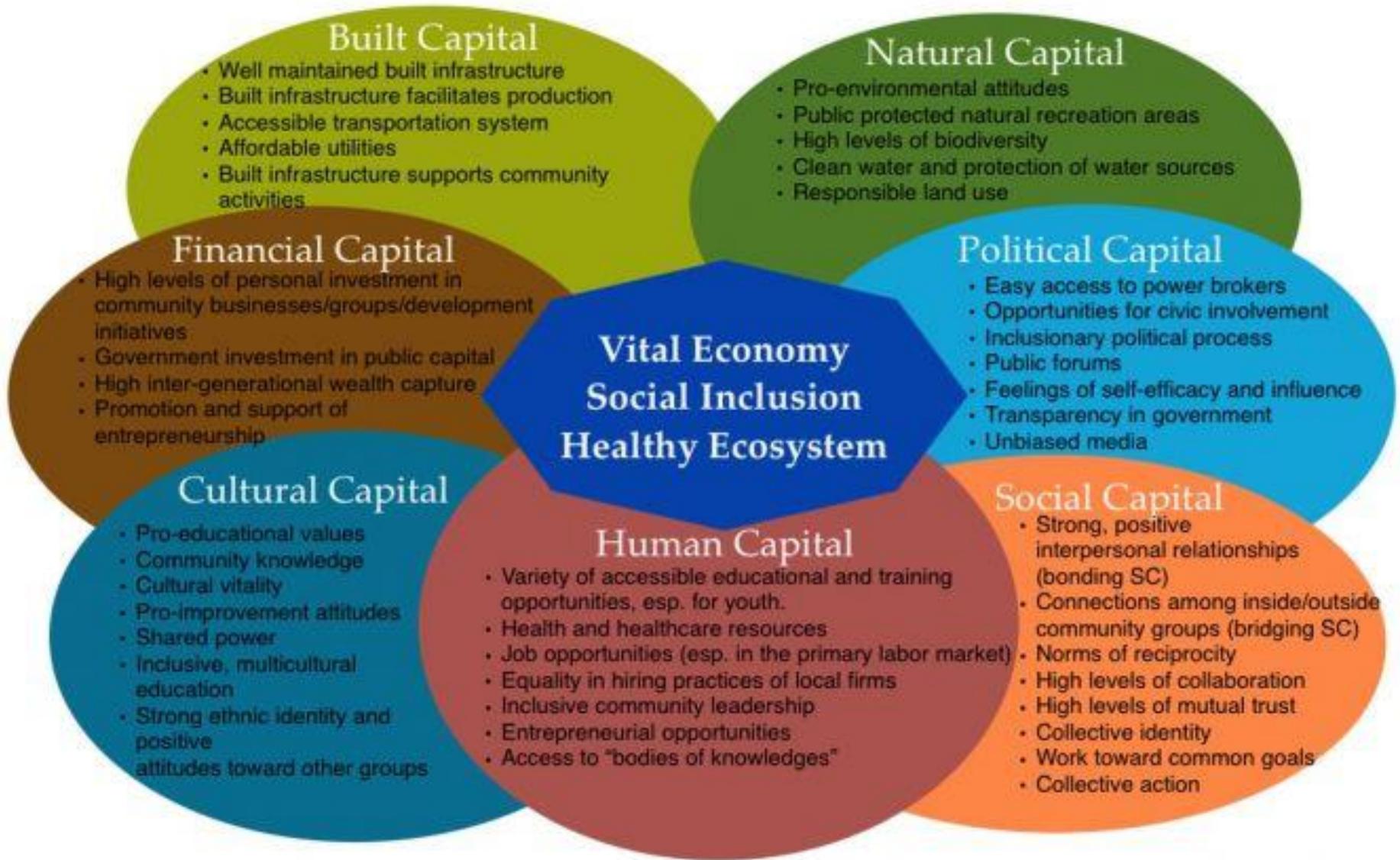


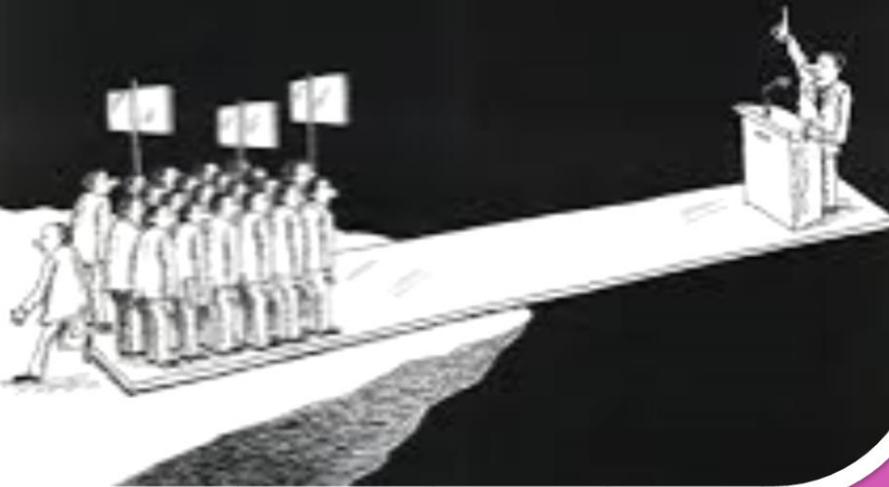
Figure 1. Community Capitals Composition Based on Literature Review

Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

-A Einstein



THE PEOPLE DON'T KNOW
THEIR TRUE POWER.



PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

- ✓ Greek *demos* & *kratos* = the people are in power
- ✓ More active than turning up to vote every 4 years!
- ✓ Citizen participation
- ✓ Community governance

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

**When the people
lead, the leaders
will follow.”**

GANDHI

- ✓ people are experts in their own lives
- ✓ have a right to be involved in the decisions that effect their lives
- ✓ From below, “grass roots”
- ✓ ownership of process... ownership of outcomes
- ✓ full time citizens, not part time volunteers
- ✓ Community leadership/ community “champions”

equality



equity



EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.

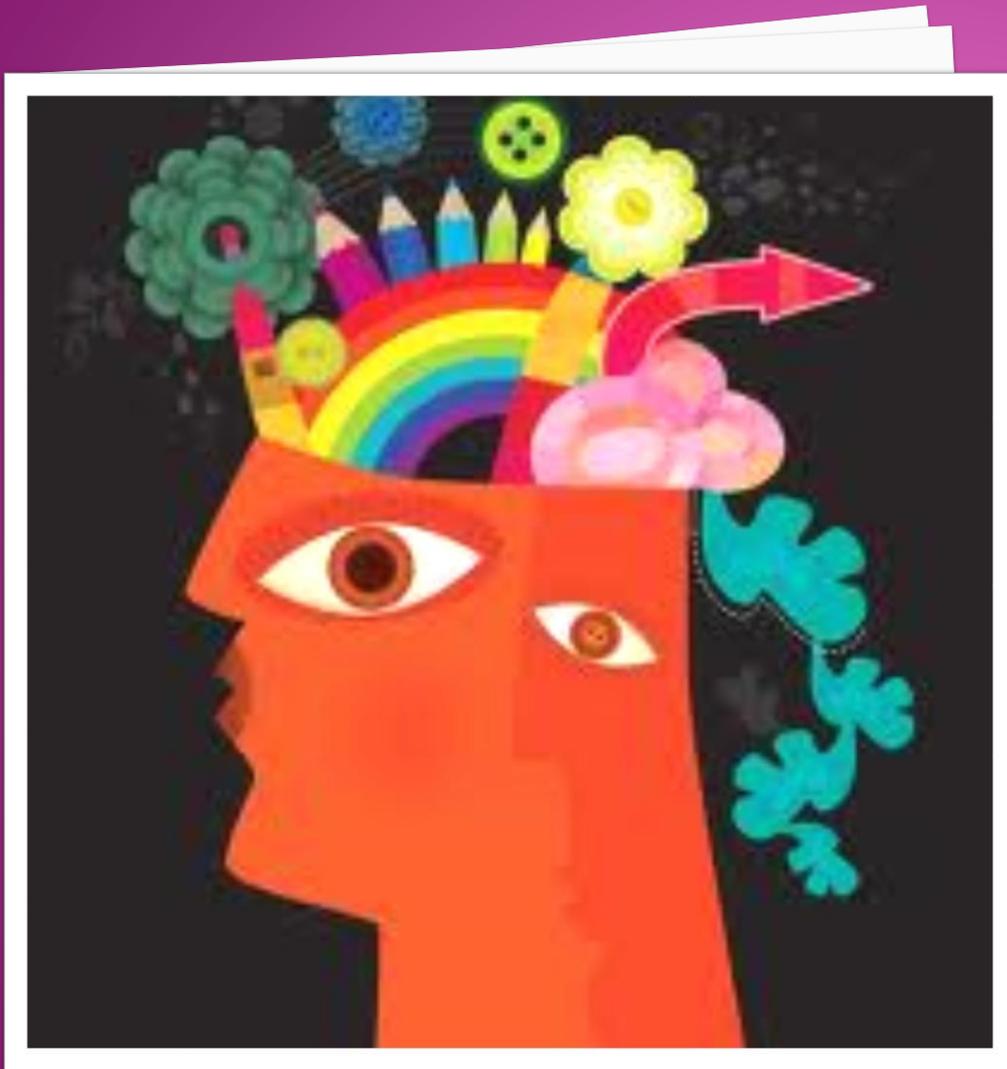


In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.



In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

EDUCATIVE, CREATIVE, INNOVATIVE



- ✓ “Development” = growth, change
- ✓ dialogical relationship
- ✓ life long-life wide learning (mutual)
- ✓ “public pedagogies”
- ✓ formal, non-formal, informal learning
- ✓ curiosity
- ✓ consciousness raising
- ✓ active, experiential
- ✓ transformative

Collaboration

Inclusion

Empowerment

Diversity

Participation

CD OUTCOMES

- There are now a number of studies exploring the positive outcomes of community development.

Impact areas:

- Social
- Economic
- Health & wellbeing
 - Ecological
- Collective efficacy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTEXT

- ◉ community development involves a duty (rather than an act of kindness) for government and other organisations to work towards recognition of human rights - housing, education, health, basic services for example.

Louitt 2012

“Community development is a process by which strategies and plans are developed so that councils fulfil their general responsibility for enhancing the quality of life of the whole community, and which has a three-fold focus in the development of:

- Services and facilities for specially targeted groups;
- Services and facilities for the whole community;
- Broad policies and objectives directed at **well-being, social justice and equity”**

(Hornby 2012, p. 194).

"WHAT AFTER ALL
HAS MAINTAINED THE
HUMAN RACE ON
THIS OLD GLOBE DESPITE
ALL THE CALAMITIES
OF NATURE AND ALL
THE TRAGIC FAILINGS
OF MANKIND, IF NOT FAITH
IN NEW POSSIBILITIES AND
COURAGE TO ADVOCATE THEM."

JANE ADDAMS





Thankyou!