

Participation and Community Development

B. Saheb Zadeh and Nobaya Ahmad

Department of Social and Development Sciences, Faculty of Human Ecology,
University Putra Malaysia, 43400 UPM, Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

Abstract: This paper tries to put forward the argument that participation is a vehicle of community development. In order to achieve development in the community, community members should be involved directly in the process of development. Participation is participating in decision making, to choose a community project, plan it, implement it, manage it, monitor it, control it. The paper focuses on the definition of community development and participation in order to elaborate them. The main argument in this paper is: Participation is a vehicle to achieve to development that community members can involve directly in development process. This paper is theoretical in nature and the review is based on secondary materials.

Key words: Community development and participation

INTRODUCTION

The fundamental objective of the study is to deliberate that the process of community development occurs in community where members of community participate in the process of community development. Participation occurs as a community organizes itself and takes responsibility for managing its problems. Taking responsibility includes identifying the problems, developing actions, putting them into place, and following through (Cheetham, 2002). Hence, the role of participation in community development is very important. Community development cannot take place if there is no participation by the community. This paper is theoretical research that method of collection of data is document method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community development could not be achieved without participation. Hence, the next section will discuss the relationship between community development and participation.

Results: Participation is a good thing and important for many reasons. It has some benefits for individuals of community:

Awareness: Public participation also creates an awareness of the problem and possible solutions among the people and thereby equips them as citizens to exercise, relevant to development in a rational manner (Arora, 1979).

Confidence: participation not only may include increased confidence and self-esteem, the chance to acquire new skills, but also leads to greater satisfaction and improved

quality of life (Moriarty *et al.*, 2006). Participation promotion aims at ensuring that decisions affecting the community are taken by all community members.

Find out own potential: By helping people realize their own potential, participation can make citizens feel that the decisions of the system of which they are a part are their own. This process can induce increased popular enthusiasm for the implementation of decisions (Arora, 1979).

Planning: Participation offers new opportunities for creative thinking and innovative planning and development Participation is understood as giving a few influential people a voice in local decision making and planning whereas the most needy and deprived, who may be the majority of the community, are not even consulted, let alone given a part in the process (Johnston, 1982).

Effectiveness: Participation can help us target resources more effectively and efficiently (Breuer, 1999). Participation promotes efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the total process of development (Arora, 1979). Hence, involving communities in decision-making will lead to better decisions being made, which are more appropriate and more sustainable because they are owned by the people themselves (Breuer, 1999). Participation can reduce the risk of project failure and the cost of the project.

Government programmes: The technical assistance in planning and in carrying out the various programmes is provided by the government (Arora, 1979).

Discussion: It's necessary to explain community development in order to elaborate participation.

Community development focuses on the individuals and it stresses on the micro level of society. Community development is concerned primarily with people as stimulators of social action process (Christenson, 1989). Passmore (1971) affirms that community development is a process by which the efforts of the people themselves. Hakanson (1981), Edwards and Jones (1976) concur that community development is a process in which the people of a community attempt a collaborative effort to promote what they consider to be the welling of their community. Also Edwards and Jones (1976) point out that community development should include the involvement of people in the community in an effort to attain common goals. Sharma (2000) views community development as a process by which effort of the people at grass root level is united with those of the government (Ntini, 2006).

The concept of participation is main indicator of community development. Community development defines as a group of people in a locality initiating asocial action process that seeks to empower individuals and groups of people by providing these groups with the skills they need to effect change in their own communities (Christenson, 1989). The central means of community development is "a people's programme with government aid" and not "a government programme with people's aid" that doing things for people (Kamath, 1961). Basic to community development is the ability to mobilize people for involvement through participation. Generally, people who are informed about a community issue and are interested in resolving it feel that they can be more effective in working with group. People of the community should actively participation in community change as discussed by Cary (1970). Participation as a 'means' ensuring local people's cooperation/collaboration with externally introduced programs or processes to facilitate the effective implementation of such initiatives and to achieve a set of objectives; and participation as an 'end' the empowerment of people to take greater responsibility for their development through their acquisition of skills, knowledge and experience (Hamilton, 1992).

CONCLUSION

In community development, members of community have the main role in the process of development and they doing things for themselves. In the process of community development members of community as actors are active. Participation is a process by which people are enabled to become actively and genuinely involved in defining the issues of concern to them, in making decisions about factors that affect their lives, in formulating and implementing policies, in planning, developing and delivering services and in taking action to achieve change (Breuer, 1999).

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