

Wilde Ganzen Workshop

Community Participation Best Practice



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Participatory Approach

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation involves the active involvement of individuals in their communities and society, encompassing activities like volunteering, attending events, joining clubs, and building relationships, fostering a sense of belonging and strong social bonds.

Definition:

Community participation is the direct involvement of ordinary people in local affairs, creating opportunities for all members to contribute to and influence the development process and share equitably in the fruits of development.

FORMS OF PARTICIPATION

- ✖ **Volunteering:** Giving time and skills to support community initiatives.
- ✖ **Attending Community Events:** Participating in local festivals, meetings, and gatherings.
- ✖ **Joining Clubs or Organizations:** Engaging in activities and building relationships through shared interests.
- ✖ **Interacting with Neighbors and Fellow Citizens:** Building relationships and fostering a sense of community.
- ✖ **Developing Leadership Abilities:** Taking on leadership roles within the community.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

- ✖ **Fostering a Sense of Belonging:** Connecting with others and feeling valued within the community.
- ✖ **Building Strong Social Bonds:** Strengthening relationships and creating a supportive network.
- ✖ **Promoting Inclusivity:** Ensuring that all members of the community feel welcome and included.
- ✖ **Enhancing Personal Well-being:** Feeling a sense of purpose and contributing to something larger than oneself.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION BEST PRACTICE

- ✗ To foster successful community participation, build trust, actively solicit diverse feedback, and ensure inclusivity and transparency in decision-making processes, while also recognizing and rewarding contributions.
- ✗ Here's a breakdown of best practices and examples:
 - ✗ **1. Building Trust and Establishing Relationships:**
 - ✗ **Regular Communication:**
 - ✗ Maintain consistent and open communication channels with community members, not just when seeking input or support.
 - ✗ **Active Listening:**
 - ✗ Demonstrate genuine interest in community members' concerns and perspectives.
 - ✗ **Transparency:**
 - ✗ Be open and honest about project goals, processes, and outcomes.
 - ✗ **Follow Through:**
 - ✗ Keep promises and ensure that community input is taken seriously and implemented where possible.

2. INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY:

- ✗ **Diverse Representation:**

- ✗ Ensure that all segments of the community are represented in engagement activities.

- ✗ **Accessibility:**

- ✗ Make engagement activities accessible to people with disabilities, language barriers, and other challenges.

- ✗ **Multiple Channels:**

- ✗ Utilize various communication channels (e.g., online forums, community meetings, social media) to reach different audiences.

- ✗ **Language Support:**

- ✗ Offer translation and interpretation services as needed.

3. SOLICITING AND ACTING ON FEEDBACK:

- ✖ **Multiple Feedback Mechanisms:** Use surveys, focus groups, online forums, and community meetings to gather feedback.
- ✖ **Regular Feedback Loops:** Establish a system for regularly collecting and responding to feedback.
- ✖ **Document and Share:** Publicly document feedback received and how it influenced decisions.
- ✖ **Adapt Strategies:** Be prepared to adjust engagement strategies based on community feedback.

4. RECOGNIZING AND REWARDING PARTICIPATION:

- ✗ **Acknowledge Contributions:** Publicly recognize and thank individuals and groups for their contributions.
- ✗ **Incentives:** Consider offering small incentives or rewards for participation, such as prizes, recognition, or opportunities.
- ✗ **Celebrate Successes:** Highlight the positive outcomes of community engagement initiatives.

THE CURRENT SITUATION OF SRI LANKA

The Current Situation of Sri Lanka

The socio-economic structure of Sri Lanka has significantly changed due to the instability of political culture. This has led to unequal household income distribution, particularly in rural areas. Farmers face difficulties during the growing season due to fertilizer crises, while fishermen are unable to fish due to fuel shortages.

The country's dependence on imports is a significant obstacle to recovery, as it relies heavily on tourism, plantation, garment exports, and foreign employment for its foreign exchange earnings. The chances of increasing income from these sources remain open for future discussion.

Social issues include the suffering of women-headed families, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Province where the burden of women has tripled due to the death and disappearance of many men. Women headed households are more likely to suffer abuses like illegitimate remarriage and unwanted pregnancies, as well as other psychosocial struggles.

The country is highly vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks, with extreme weather conditions, increasing droughts and floods, and non-communicable diseases like COVID-19 and Dengue. Drug addiction and suicide are also widespread, with alcohol usage by youth leading to increased risk-taking behaviors such as road traffic accidents.

LESSON LEARNED IN THE PAST ON PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION

Details	Study Findings
Practices	Participatory meetings, teamwork, participation in fieldwork, participation in rural and needs assessments, transect walk, open discussions, community meetings and participatory assessment
Community Participation	In the initiation stage, the participation from the community is very high In the planning stage, the participation from the community is low In the execution stage, community participation is high In the evaluation stage, community participation is low.
Community Contribution	Self-physical - Yes / High Finance - No / Low Technical - No / Low Material - Yes / High Political influences
Obstacles in Practices	Different cast/groups in the communities Lack of technical knowledge among the beneficiaries The conflict between people in the community.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:

Community Garden:

Residents collaborate to maintain a shared garden, fostering social interaction and promoting local food production.



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Community Clean-up Events:

Residents organize and participate in community clean-up events to improve the environment and promote a sense of ownership.



Tutoring Students:

Community members volunteer their time to tutor students, supporting academic achievement and fostering positive relationships.



Advocacy:

Community members organize and participate in advocacy efforts to address local issues, such as environmental protection or social justice.



Road Accident

Suicide attempts

Family Violence

Volunteer activities in the time of need



4. Awareness programs for the youth to live peacefully



5. Awareness and prevention program for the children



6. Awareness on Suicide and prevention program for the youth and students to safeguard their life



Thank you Very Much

