

Participatory Action Management (PAM) Model for Sustainable Development - Experiences of using this Model in Australia and India

Dr. Shankariah Chamala

This paper briefly describes three approaches (Self-help, Transfer of Technology and Conflict approaches) used for community development. The need to bring a more inclusive approach to involve and actively engage all stakeholders from the Local, Regional, State, National and International levels for development is argued. Based on his experience in teaching and research, Dr Chamala has developed a generic Participative Action Management (PAM) Model. This model provides a management framework for true participation of stakeholders based on sound theoretical principles. The paper also discusses the dilemmas and problems that arise in the involvement of stakeholders. A six step collaborative planning methodology has been developed. The PAM model is used in Landcare program. More specifically five irrigation projects were funded (with A \$1.5 million) by Land & Water Research and development Corporation, Canberra and these were required to use the PAM model to actively engage stakeholder participation. Review of these projects validated the usefulness of the model in achieving good results. The stakeholders who were involved in these projects also requested further development of training modules. Subsequently, the Australian Commonwealth Government commissioned a team of academics from The University of Queensland headed by S. Chamala, to develop detailed training modules based on the PAM model. Eleven learning modules with a resource book, a training manual and a participant manual were developed. These were pre-tested in two workshops to incorporate location specific issues and validate the learning activities based on adult learning principles. The PAM model was also used in the Watershed Management program in India. A case study of how The Shankar Rural Development Foundation (www.srdf.in) used this model to involve stakeholders (such as Rotary and Lions clubs, government and other educational and philanthropic individuals and scholars) to bring synergy and resources in Chilver village development project will be presented. The PAM model will bring additional human and financial resources for a collaborative action to solve some of the issues of sustainable development.

Countering Disabling Practices: Fostering strengths in practice with people with a disability

Dr. Lesley Chenoweth

It is a concerning reality that most disabled people face enormous obstacles in accessing services and supports in order to live an ordinary life. In most cultures having an impairment is viewed as an extremely negative experience with resultant exclusion and marginalisation of many disabled people. In western society our frameworks for service delivery to people with disabilities are overwhelmingly deficit oriented and typically involve working at an individual level. More than most populations, disabled people are perhaps viewed as mere composites of deficits bodily, cognitively and emotionally. This paper explores the use of strengths based approaches as a means of countering disabling practices. Strengths perspectives provide opportunities for practice at individual, family and community levels. Several initiatives grounded in strengths perspectives are discussed including circles of support, personal futures planning and emancipatory practice.

Community capacity building: Using a strengths approach in rural communities

Lesley Chenoweth and Daniela Stehlik

The delivery of health and human services and supports to rural communities is an ongoing challenge in Australia. In the last decade, there has been a shift in policy, whereby the relationships between individual/family and community have become the defining framework for providing care. Building community capacity through strengthening individuals and families has emerged as a crucial process for sustainability of rural communities. This paper draws on findings from two case studies of programs in Queensland and Western Australia in which practitioners were deliberately engaged to build community capacity in rural communities. Most particularly, the paper investigates the relationships between community resiliency, social capital and sustainability and critically examines the role of the practitioner in strengthening individuals, families and communities.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS Strength-Based Practice: Turning High-Risk to High-Yield

Dr. Michael D. Clark

Strength-based approaches have gained momentum in the helping professions. This keynote address will outline recent gains made in applying Strength-based practice with clients who are difficult to help. How can helpers practice from a Strengths perspective with challenging clients? This address will feature an international Strengths advocate who will outline the research and practice methods that are being utilized for working with mandated (involuntary) clients. Consider that there is a problem with problem solving. Problem-focused (problem solving) models dominate our work and direct practice staff who use this approach can be easily seduced into the "error of error correction" where more attention is paid to what brought the fall rather than what the family needs to do to get up and get going again. Focusing on the problem and trying to "fix it" creates obstacles in our work. What is wrong, what is missing and what is abnormal keeps our attention while strengths and healthy patterns are passed over and ignored. This keynote address will focus on motivation, possibility and inducing positive behavior change. Our