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PORTFOLIO IN CULMINATING ACTIVITY

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WHAT IS COMMUNITY?

A **community** is a group of people who share something in common. You can define a community by the shared attributes of the people in it and/or by the strength of the connections among them. You need a bunch of people who are like in some way, who feel some sense of belonging or interpersonal connection.



A **community** is a social unit (a group of living things) with commonality such as norms, religion, values, customs or identify. Communities may share a sense of place situated in given geographical area (e.g. a country, village, town, or neighbourhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms.


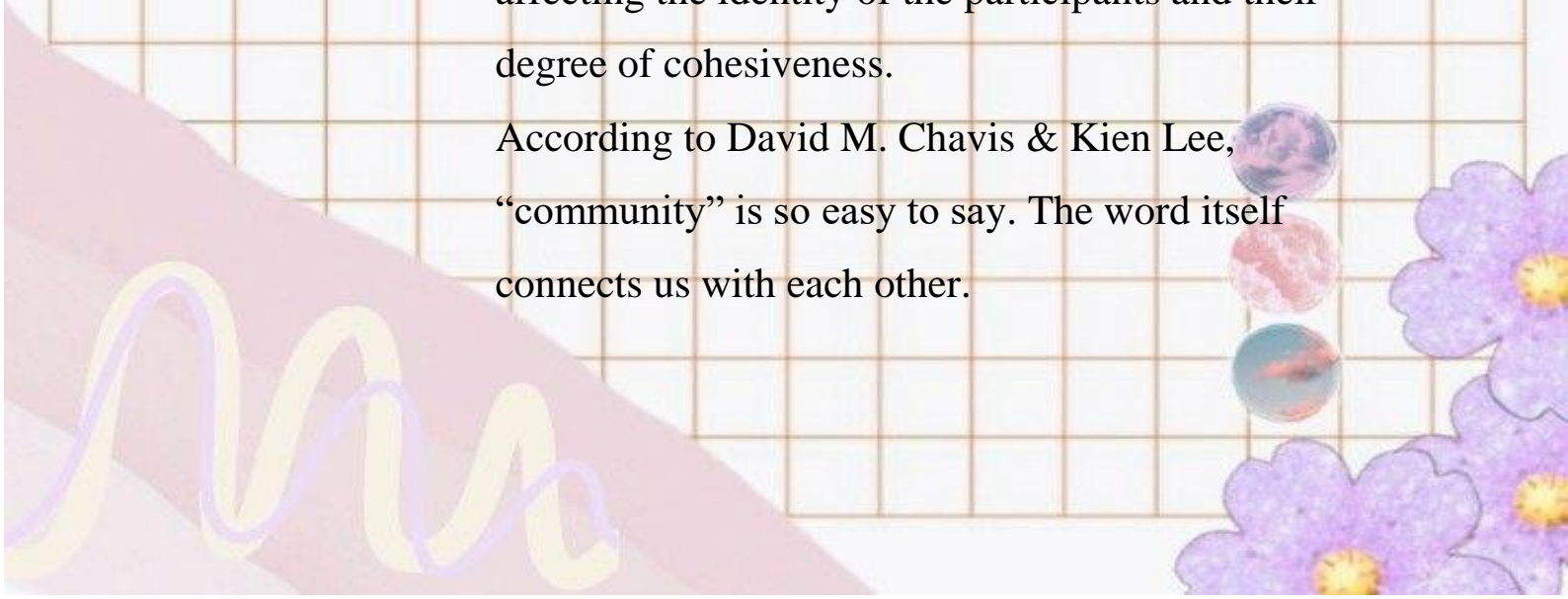


Durable relations that extend beyond immediate genealogical ties also define a sense of community, important to their identity, practice, and role in social institutions such as family, home, work, government, society, or humanity at large. Although communities are usually small relative to personal society ties “community” may also refer to a large group affiliations such as national communities, international communities, and virtual communities. The English-language word “community” derives from the old french comunete (currently “communaute”), which come from the Latin communitas

“community”, “public spirit” (from Latin communis, “common”).

Human communities may share intent, beliefs, resources, preferences, needs and risks in common, affecting the identity of the participants and their degree of cohesiveness.

According to David M. Chavis & Kien Lee, “community” is so easy to say. The word itself connects us with each other.





TYPES OF COMMUNITY



1. **FORMAL GROUP** – is formed when people come together to accomplish specific goals and objectives.
2. **INFORMAL GROUP** – is formed when two or more people come together to accomplish a specific task which is mainly socially geared.
3. **URBAN AREA** – is the region surrounding a city. An area with high density of population.
4. **RURAL AREA** – is an open swath of land that has a few homes or other buildings, and not very many people. A rural area's population density is very low.
5. **GLOBAL COMMUNITY** – are the people or nations of the world, considered as being closely connected by modern telecommunications and as being economically, socially and politically interdependent.
6. **SECTOR** – means relating to the various economic sectors of a society or to a particular economic sector.
7. **SOCIAL SPACE** – is physical or virtual space such as social center, online social media, or other gathering place where people gather and interact.





FIVE COMMON FEATURES OF COMMUNITIES

You can classify every type of community by the purpose that brings them together.

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1. **INTEREST.** Communities of people who share the same interest or passion.
 2. **ACTION.** Communities of people trying to bring about change.
 3. **PLACE.** Communities of people brought together by geographic boundaries.
 4. **PRACTICE.** Communities of people in the same profession or undertake the same activities.
 5. **CIRCUMSTANCES.** Communities of people brought together by external events/situations.
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COMMUNITY DYNAMICS is the process of change and development in communities of all living organisms- including plants, microorganisms, and small large creatures. Populations of an organism will appear in an environment as its requirements for establishment are met.





IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND COMMUNITY ACTION

- **COMMUNITY DYNAMICS** is the change development involved in a community that includes all forms of living organisms.
- **COMMUNITY ACTION** is putting communities as the center of the services development and services delivery. This initiative aims to cater the primary needs of the communities before implementing it. In such way, community action helps the community dynamics of the degree of improvement of the community.

It is important to understand these two because these will propel the success and stability of the communities. They go hand in hand and are proportionally related.

What is community action?



Community action is any activity that increases the understanding, engagement and empowerment of communities in the design and delivery of local services. It includes a broad range of activities and is sometimes described as 'social action' or 'community engagement'.





WHY IS COMMUNITY ACTION IMPORTANT?

Community action is about putting communities at the heart of their own local services. Involving communities in the design and delivery of services can help to achieve a number of objectives, including:

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- **Building community and social capacity** – helping the community to share knowledge, skills and idea.
 - **Community resilience** – helping the community to support itself.
 - **Prevention** – a focus on early access to services or support , engagement in design, cross-sector collaboration and partnership.
 - **Maintaining or developing community enterprises.**
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Role of the Community

The role the community includes community consultation, joint planning, joint design, joint delivery and community-led activities.

Applied Social Sciences

These are social science disciplines, professions and occupations which seek to use basic social science research and theory to improve the daily life of communities, organizations and persons.





What can I do with my degree in Social Sciences?

The occupations listed below are a selection of those which may interest Social Sciences students and graduates from the School of Social Policy, Sociological and Social Research.

Advice Worker – provide information, advice and guidance on a range of topics depending on the role. These topics may include housing, employment, welfare, education, finance and law.

Civil Service Career – delivers public services according to government policies. There are a large number of different departments and so a huge variety of different roles.

Charity Officer – here are a variety of different roles within charities including project, management volunteer coordinations and fund raising.

Community Development Worker – working in a communities and liaising with different agencies to bring about change and improvements. Some work may be targeted towards certain groups of people e.g. the unemployed or the homeless.

Community Education Officer – promoting and coordinating a range of educational options to members of local community.





Equality and Diversity Officer – promote diversity and work to ensure that people are treated fairly not discriminated against for characteristics including race, gender, age, or disability.

Family Support Worker – working with families facing a variety of difficulties and helping them to solve problems and move forward.

Housing Officer – works for local authorities or housing associations to manage rented accommodation including solving problems raised by tenants, organization maintenance, allocating properties and dealing with payment issues.



Housing policy officer develop policies for local authorities or housing associations.

Human Resources Officer – aim to ensure that organizations have a skilled and efficient workforce. They are involved in recruitment and selection, training development, grievance and discipline, and provide advices on employment law.



Immigration, Customs and Border Roles – there are variety of roles involving monitoring people, banned substances and other goods leaving and entering the country to ensure safety and security and to maintain the law.

Intelligence Analyst – analyzing and assessing intelligence data largely for the purpose of security and crime prevention.

International Aid/Development Worker – working and improve the lives of people in developing countries.

Legal Careers – providing legal services to clients.

Local Government Careers – developing policies and delivering local services.





Mediator – working with people who help them solve conflicts and disagreements.

Police Officer – work to make communities safer by maintaining the law and preventing crime.

Prison Officer – are responsible for maintaining security in prisons and supporting the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Probation Officer – work with offenders and aim to reduce rates of re-offending and protect the public.

Psychologist – there are a range of different psychologist roles but broadly they help clients to improve their psychological well-being.

Psychotherapy, Counselling and Mental Roles – supporting people to overcome a range of psychological or emotional difficulties.

Social Researcher – could work for universities or research/market research organizations. Social researchers manage research projects including collecting and analyzing data and presenting the results.

Social Worker – social worker with people in the community who need support, for example, the elderly, children who are risk, people with disabilities or mental health difficulties.

Substance Misuse Worker – supporting clients to overcome their problems with drug, alcohol, and solvent misuse.

Teacher/Lecture/Education Roles – there are variety of opportunities within education from primary schools to universities.



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Victim Care Officer – providing help to people who have been victim of crime, including supporting them during court proceedings.

Volunteer Coordinator – managing the recruitment, training placement and retention of volunteers.

Youth Offending Officer – working with young offenders with the aim of reducing rates of re-offending and supporting young people to achieve positive outcomes.

Youth Workers – working with young people to provide support, raise aspirants and breakdown barriers to achieving. This is done in a variety of ways including through recreational activities, organization projects, mentoring and liaising with other agencies.



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LESSON 1: IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY DYNAMICS AND COMMUNITY ACTION

A community is a socially operative whole. A body of people bound to a common social structure which function as specific entity and which is unique from each other. The fact that they live in the same norms and within the same social organization, they have the sense of belongingness.

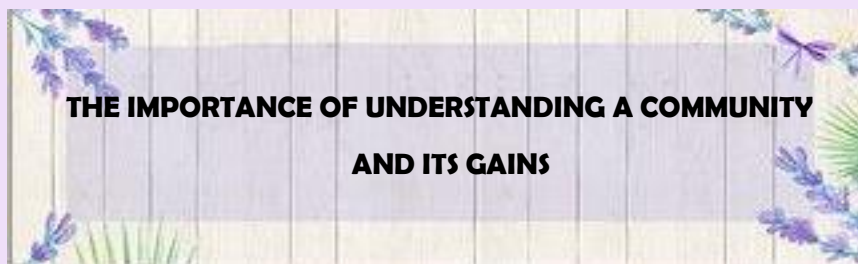
Community Dynamics is a natural phenomenon because community changes and develops. The people living in a community stimulate growth, improvement or modification within the system process. A community that is dynamic shows progress growth. But we must take note that communities have problem and the people within the community are affected. It is through voluntary acts and community participation that people can help each other.

Community Action is an activity which motivates people to help other people because of the understanding to be engaged and this is empowered through the delivery and partnership of local services. It can be describe as ‘social action’ or ‘community engagement’. It is helping the



community to move and develop its local services. It involves the community design and deliver services that can help to achieve community resilience, capacity building, prevention, and maintaining and creating wealth.

Your career is very important for the development of your community. It is where you spend your life working to help others and the community you are in.



Community situation vary. Each has its own context and realities. Those interested in working with a community must first have a clear picture and good grasp of the entity they are trying to address. It is in appreciating the features and elements of a community that engagement processes and actions become relevant, acceptable and appropriate. Without a deep and wide knowledge of a target community interventions may emerged as exclusive, inappropriate, or totally insensitive to the members of the community. What are the other gains you can drive from understanding a community?



There are many ways to understand and appreciate a community but there is no substitute to immersing and living with that community. Social development workers, social workers, social action people, and community organizers cannot escape what we call in Tagalog as “palubog” or “pagbabad”. It is more than exposure; it means immersion. It is a process of living with people in order to feel, smell, and think like them. This practice is captured by the thinking of chinese philosopher Lao Tzu(700 BCE) who said:

“Go to the people. Living with them , learn with them, learn from them, love them. Start with what they know; build with what they have”.

The getting-to-know stage or phase is the “see” or “masid” option in the “see-judge-act” method originally coined by used Cardinal Cardijn in 1925. This process is the same as the “observe-judge-action method” mentioned by Pope John XXIII in his (Christianity and Social Process), which is part of the church’s social teachings.