

The article titled “Broadening Participation in Community Problem Solving: A Multidisciplinary Model to Support Collaborative Practice and Research” is essentially a study to develop a model to **improve community collaboration in solving social problems**. The study takes place in the United States of America in the year 2003 where the Center for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health at the New York Academy of Medicine **brings together people from different backgrounds and disciplines who are part of local organizations** to work together to solve community health problems. The goal was to tailor processes for a broad array of people to work towards solving a problem under the Turning Point initiative.

The study conducted looks to analyze the factors and dynamics required for a successful collaboration which empowers citizens and effectively solves a social problem. It also looks to develop strategies to recruit and retain more members from the community at large in contributing to a cause. The article brings out a very important point that every social problem is not only unique but is also inter related with several fields and requires expertise from each field to provide valuable insight, thereby changing the mindset and approach to seeing the “big picture,” i.e., the scope of the problem.

The article is very complete in the sense that it cites the root of the problem and then transitions on to the study. Shortcomings of community collaboration are also stated but the pros far out weigh the cons. Community collaboration is not being used properly as a strategy as the projects are too short term or limited in resources to make an impact. Another point brought out was that people from different backgrounds like contribute in their own domain and leads to a fragmented effort.

The model developed as a result of the study hypothesizes that more than the problem at hand, management of people is also key to achieving optimal results. People who have real influence over a broad array of people should look over proceedings of different phases of problem solving thereby creating a synergy. A democratic approach to managements is key in preventing domination from certain groups of people. A very key concept also brought out from the study was that people involved in community collaboration need to be stimulated and given motivation to tackle a problem in order to come up with creative solutions.

To conclude, results of the study and the overall layout of the article stresses on community collaboration being the key to tackling large scale social problems. People management and stimulating motivation in participants are important aspects to not only achieving success in solving a problem but also give an opportunity to people from different backgrounds and walks of life to learn from each other thereby being the stepping stone to making major breakthroughs. The model built provides a holistic view of the processes and dynamics required in successful community collaboration. It gave perspectives from the community and organizations involved and has provided us the platform to do further research on the topic of broad participation of people in solving community problems.