Resilient Communities
Participatory Approach to Community Development
Participant's Manual

Index

Present/Information
- What is a participatory approach?
  - In its simplest terms, a participatory approach is one in which everyone who has a stake in the intervention has a voice, either in person or by representation.
  - Staff of the organization that will run it, members of the target population, community officials, interested citizens, and people from involved agencies, schools, and other institutions all should be invited to the table.
  - Everyone's participation should be welcomed and respected, and the process shouldn't be dominated by any individual or group, or by a single point of view
  - A true participatory approach is one in which everyone's perspective is considered. That doesn't mean that people can't challenge others' assumptions, or argue about what the best strategy might be. It does mean, however, that everyone's thoughts are respected, and it isn't necessarily assumed that the professionals or the well -educated automatically know what's best.
  - Everyone actually gets to participate in the process, and has some role in decision-making

- Why is it important for community development?
  - It provides feeling of ownership that can promote building a strong base for the community
  - It ensures public intervention with more credibility in all the segments of the community project
  - It introduces broader range of perspectives and ideas by bringing in broader range of people
  - It avoids pitfalls caused by ignorance of the realities
  - It can provide opportunity for often disenfranchised groups to be heard
  - It can bring together and establish strong ties among community members who might normally may not have any contact before
  - Better levels of trust between project organization and the community members which can further serve as a foundation for future development and community action
  - It implies respect for everyone in the community, thus setting up a standard for community participation

- What are different methods of participatory approach?
  - There are various methods of participatory approach, but we will be focusing on the major one that relates with community development
  - Quick Discussion: Have you ever participated in one of these techniques?