

BOOK REVIEW

The Handbook of Community Practice

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SAGE Publications Inc., 2012;

ISBN-13: 978-1412987851; ISBN-10: 1412987857

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OVERVIEW

This book is a second edition of the original *The Handbook of Community Practice*. Since the first edition of this book came out, there has been many changes in society, because of the changing in time and age, some theory that may be working before might not be working anymore and new theory keep coming out to outshine one another, this is why the publisher decided to contact Marie Weil to help them make the second edition of this book. Marie Weil is an experienced editor; many of her books are related to community practice, a suitable person for this position. Marie Weil also gives respectful toward the first edition author, Jim Nageotte. Marie Weil together with Michael Reisch of university of Maryland at Baltimore and Mary L. Ohmer of Georgia state University they work together to create this book. In this book you will find out what community practice is and what is their role in modern society. They will also talk about how community practice was used in not only United States but also in other part of the world.

For example in Global North, they were used to in respond to the pressure caused by the Industrial Revolution and in Global south they were used to in reaction against the pressure caused by colonization in an effort to rebuild a communities and society.

This made possible because they had gather a total of 66 authors in an effort to make this book. Many of the authors had experience in working with people from different countries and 8 of them are born or now live in country other than United States. With so many distinguish author working together and comply their work to make this book, there is no doubt that this book is one of the best book regarding community practice. Inside this book you will learn about community practice from many perspectives, from many people, from different nation. They will talk about community practice in the past, present and prediction about the future as well. Reader will have a chance to learn about the theory of community practice in the past and compare them to the present and see how much the world had changed in the past few years. If by any chance you had already read the first edition of this book, it is

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still worthwhile to read this second edition. Because in this second edition they also add more contents, more chapters and fix their previous mistakes or update anything that might have changed over time.

REVIEW

There are a total of 6 parts in this book. I will start review each part one-by-one.

Part I THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY PRACTICE.

This part is much like an introduction of community practice. In Chapter 1 they will explain briefly about community practice and the challenge it has to face in 21st century. In addition to the chapters that already there in the first edition, this edition also added four more chapter to it. In Chapter 2 William G. Brueggemann take on a task of pulling together the histories of community organization, social planning, community development and social action in United States. He provides information on central institution and practice direction in the shifting political and social contexts of each era. Michael Reisch formulates the global focus of the handbook in Chapter 3 through careful analysis of community practice challenges in the global economy that are inextricably related across industrialized and developing nations. Then Chapter 4 moves the global discussion of community practice into the critical arena of social justice and human rights. Michael Reisch, Jim Ife, and Marie Weil want to present these issues differently from the Western historical perspective that has dominated political and social discourse and create an inclusive typologies that can be adopted and use by any community in any region or country. In chapter 5, Robert J. Chaskin examines theories of community that underlie practice and assesses their relevance. He interrogates

and compares current conceptions of community as a political, social, or a spatial unit and the result ing differences posed in relation to people, institutions and networks. Lastly, in the final, the chapter six, Marie Weil and Mary L. Ohmer address the multiple types of theory and means of applying practice theories in community work. They Identify levels of theory needed to address the complexities of community practice, including explanatory and structural theories that related to society and social change. By reading following this order, first they introduce us to the community practice, then giving us an example, followed by other essential information for us to understand the rest of the book. I would say they did a really good job of giving us introduction to community practice in this chapter. The 4 additional chapters that added in this edition really help us further our understanding about the community practice. Other information also helps us prepare for what will be talk about in latter part. Although for people new to this they will be throw in to a sea of word that unfamiliar with, after getting used to it and understand it they will able to quickly pick up the subject and learning about the rest of the handbook more smoothly.

Part II MAJOR APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY PRACTICE

In Chapter 7 they will talk about the evolution of practice models by examine the currently uses 8 models in different part of the world. Chapter 8 will be the history and development of practice models. Chapter 9 mainly focused on an issue with sustainable community development. Chapter 10 and 11 examine contemporary community organizing practice – one compare and contrast s conflict another provided an example and an issue on those practice. For

Chapter 12, they present theory and case examples of planning with community. Chapter 13 will illustrate principal and example of larger-scale planning in communities and cities as well as an issue that came with it. The example in Chapter 12 and 13 are come from both Global south and Global North which greatly help us examine their different and see how each perspective affect their planning. Chapter 14 talks about essential participatory methods that can be adapt to use with many practice setting. Chapter 15 focuses on strategies for social, political, and legislative action. Chapter 16 take on the task of differentiates radical community organizing from other types and show how community practitioners should solve the problem at it root. Chapter 7 addresses the increasing importance and methods of practice in coalitions, collaborations and partnership. That is all the chapters in this part. This part mainly gives us many examples of the community practice and the issues that come with it. This chapter help me greatly further understanding about community practice just by reading the many example of the practice and how people in different region deal it them. This also helps me greatly open my view on other part of the world perspective.

Part III ISSUES, AREAS, AND FIELDS OF COMMUNITY PRACTICE.

In this part reader will engages in diverse issues, areas, and fields of community practice. Chapter 19 explore what needs to happen for organizations to develop cultural competence for effective work. Chapter 20 analyze issues related to multicultural communication and collaboration and documents the principles, skills and practice strategies needed for effective cross-cultural communication. In latter chapter they focuses on fields and areas of community practice up to chapter 27. In

this chapter they talk more a about the different field and area in community practice and given us further information regarding many type of community practice.

PART IV GLOBAL ISSUES AND APPROACHES

As they had already talked about some issue in global scale but that was only on the surface. In this part we will drive deeper in to global issues and practice approaches. They will talk about the major issue that we are facing right now like poverty, social welfare, and human health and so on. They will analyze each issue and find the cause or the root of the problem and how to fix the issue. Although this Part sound easy but the problem is on a global scale, it is something that we had seen for a long time but even to date some of them are still unsolvable. This Part in particular triggers me to think much more than other part. After reading about the issue and listen to their opinion, I also try to come up with my own solution for the problem and try to fix this issue together with them.

PART V COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNITY BUILDING, SERVICE COORDINATION, PROGRAM DESIGN, AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

In this part they will bring us to examine the problem related to community building and connections among community-based organization and address major challenge in service coordination, resource development, and the design of effective programs. In this chapter we will learn about how Community-based organizations operate themselves. We will have a chance to learn about the role that they play in different region of the world. We will also learn the effective method to organize and operate this kind of

organization. In this chapter although not as how as previous chapter, offer me a chance to think and simulate how to run a community-based organization of your own. While reading this part I often imagine how to build an organization that able to help me solve the issues that my community is currently facing. I also has a chance to learn how different nation operate this kind of organization to suit their environment, which I think is a valuable knowledge for people that intended to work in this field of work.

From my experience regarding this book, I highly recommend it to anyone who want learn more about community practice.

PART VI RESEARCH, EVALUATION, AND THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN COMMUNITY PRACTICE.

This part might be the shortest one. In this part we learn about different research that relate to community practice and how to evaluate them. There are many researches from different regions of the world. So when we evaluate them, we cannot use the same standard to judge all of them. We have to taking those region circumstances in to consideration before evaluated them. Another thing we have learned is how to integrate the current technology into community practice. We will learn how to take advantage of the current technology to help us improve the efficiency of the community practice.

Overall this book is one of the best books out there in regard community practice. It teaches us basic from the first chapter then starts to drive deeper and deepen our understanding about community practice. Although the publisher is from United State, the author of this book is from various background and many of them come from different nation or had experience working with international organization. That is why we also have learned about different approach to community practice from different nation based on their circumstance.