

Community Development, Economic Development, or Community Economic Development?

An Introduction

What is “Community Economic Development”?

Depends on who you ask!

(Phillips and Pittman) “Most practitioners think of community [economic] development as an outcome – physical, social, and economic improvement in a community – while most academicians think of community [economic] development as a process – the ability of communities to act collectively and enhancing the ability to do so.”

Attempts at a definition:

(Green and Haines) “Democratic efforts to build assets that increase the capacity of residents to improve the quality of life in their locality.”

(Cawley) "...a deliberate, democratic, developmental activity focusing on an existing social (/economic) and geographical grouping of people who participate in the solution of common problems for a common good."

(Darby and Morris) "...an educational approach which would raise levels of local awareness and increase the confidence and ability of community groups to identify and tackle their own problems.

Attempts at a definition:

(Dunbar) "...a series of community improvements which take place over time as a result of the common efforts of various groups of people. Each successive improvement is a discrete unit of community development. It meets a human want or need."

(Huie) "...the process of local decision-making and the development of programs designed to make their community a better place to live and work."

(Long) "...an educational process designed to help adults in a community solve their problems by group decision making and group action."

Attempts at a definition:

(Plock) "...the active voluntary involvement in a process to improve some identifiable aspect of community life..."

(Wilkinson) "...acts by people that open and maintain channels of communication and cooperation among local groups."

(Warren) "...a process of helping community people analysis their problems, to exercise as large a measure of autonomy as is possible and feasible, and to promote a greater identification of the individual citizen and the individual organization with the community as a whole.

Attempts at a definition:

(Shaffer) “...the creation and implementation of strategies to promote the economic well-being of the community.”

(Deller) “...the process of identifying and analyzing economic issues and the creation and implementation of a set of specific policies aimed at enhancing the economic opportunities of community residents.”

Common Themes

- process, as opposed to "putting out fires"
- citizen involvement => citizen "solutions"
- educational
- vitality, betterment, quality of life
- economic opportunities
- change

Attempts at a definition:

Community Development:

- building community assets
- building community institutions
- building community capacity

Economic Development:

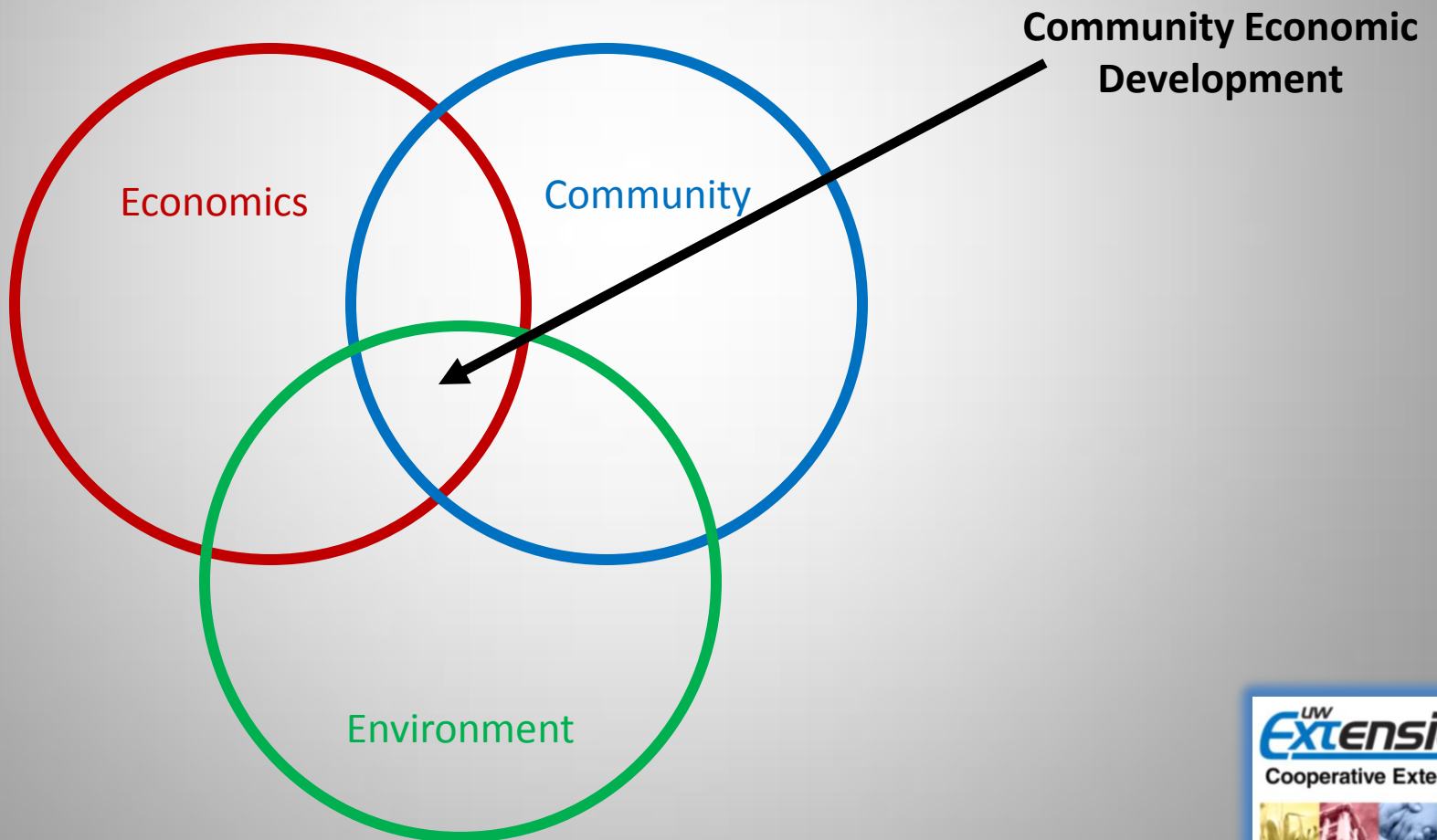
- building economic opportunity
- enhancing economic well-being
- building a resilient economy

Community Economic Development:

- balancing economic development with social, cultural and environmental desires

Attempts at a definition:

A “Triple Bottom Line” Approach?



Some Background:

“Positive” vs “Normative” Economics

Normative economics speaks to what *should be*...

Positive economics speaks to *what is*, was and will be

Normative is value laden and positive is objective analysis.

- Values vary across individuals and communities.
- The CNRED Educator’s values are secondary to the community’s.

Some Background:

Growth vs Development

Growth implies quantitative change, development emphasizes qualitative improvements.

- ❑ Growth means more of the same ... more jobs, more income, etc.
- ❑ Development means using resources to enhance human welfare
- ❑ Development can include growth, but not necessarily vice versa

Continuing debate over whether growth is a necessary condition for development. Can you have development without growth? Depends who you ask.

Some Background:

Growth vs Development

Growth

- We want more jobs
- We want more businesses
- We want more residents
- We want more tax base
- Any growth is good
- More, more, more...

Development

- We want quality of life
- We want economic security
- We want economic opportunities
- We want resilience
- We want balanced growth

Some Background:

Growth vs Development

So ...

If your community is adding jobs but the average earnings per worker are declining, is that growth or development?

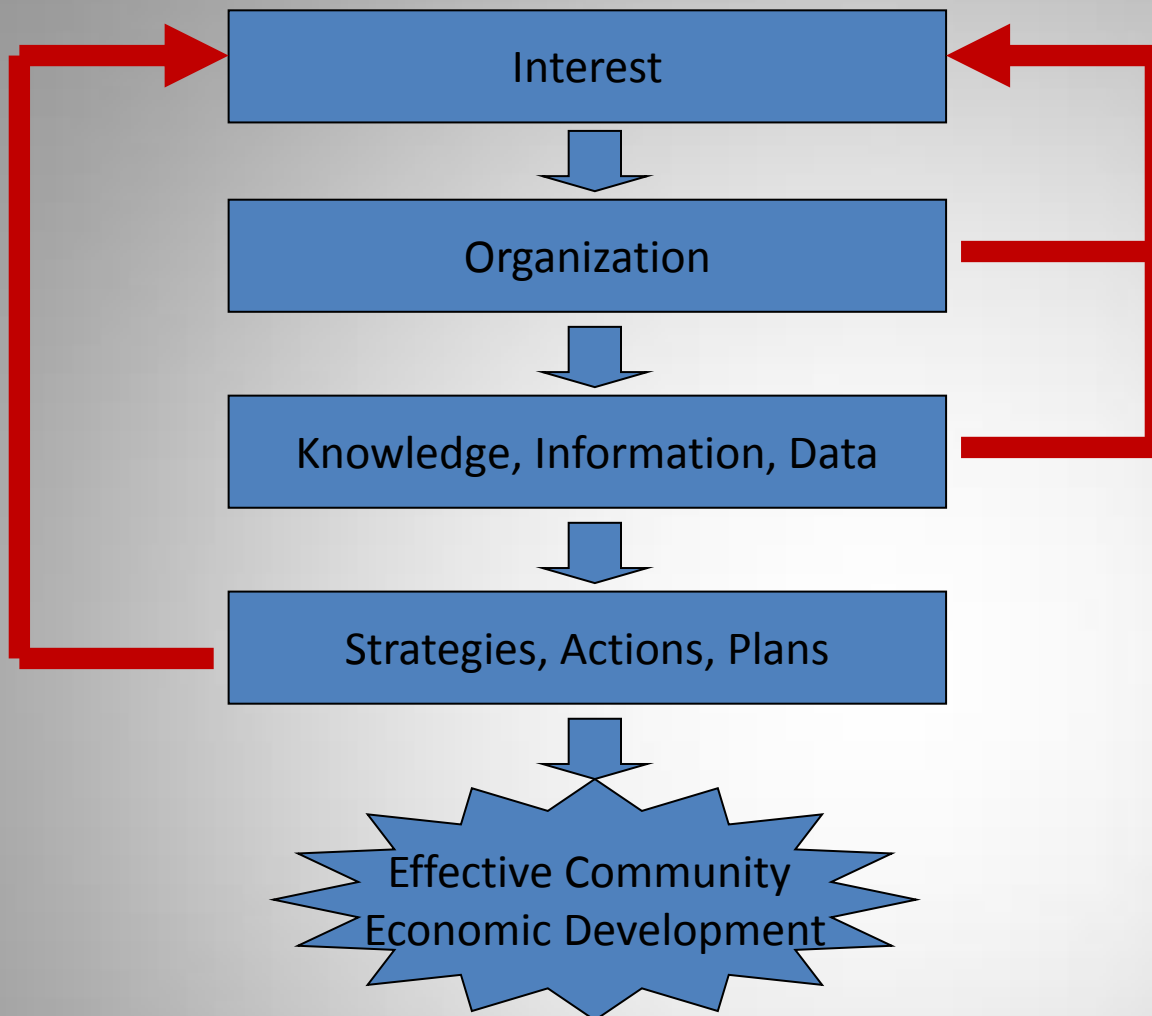
If you work with a local chamber of commerce to provide more effective mentoring services to new local small business owners, is that growth or development?

If you create and run a Badgerville Leadership program, is that growth or development?

Are all communities ready for economic development?

In the simplest sense, no.

- Economic development within the community presumes that certain local institutions are in place and functional (e.g., leadership, citizen participation, viable local business organizations, etc.).
- In the strictest sense, community development is a necessary but not sufficient condition for economic development.
- Asset building (e.g., skills and capacities of individuals, associations and institutions within a locality) lays the foundation upon which economic development is built.



There must be a balance between the **process** of community economic development and the quality of the **content** of the educational programming.

As Cooperative Extension Educators we aim to improve the level of understanding of issues and options through enhanced knowledge while helping the community move forward via effective decision-making.

In the end we aim to help the community make more informed decision: information is research based knowledge and making the decision is the process.

Summary

**Community Development → building community assets & institutions.
Economic Development → creating economic opportunity.**

Community Economic Development is a blending of the two by recognizing that economic development is impossible without a solid community development foundation.

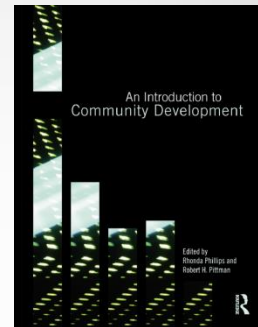
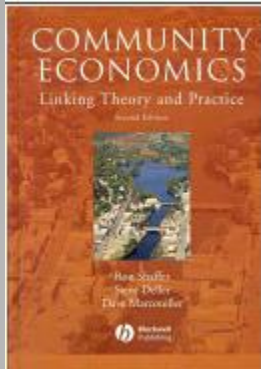
Development and growth are not synonymous; development focuses on notions of quality of life broadly defined.

Cooperative Extension Educators must take care to distinguish between normative and positive economics; the outcomes must reflect the values (normative) of the community, not the Educator.

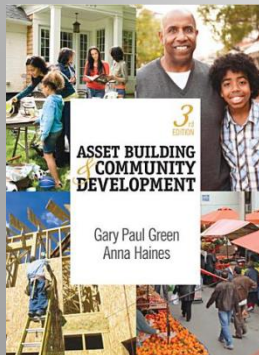
Recommended Readings

(Three books you should have on your shelf.)

Shaffer, R., S.C. Deller and D.W. Marcouiller. (2004).
Community Economics: Linking Theory and Practice.
Blackwell: Oxford England.



Phillips, R. and R.M. Pittman (2009). “An Introduction to Community Development.” Routledge: New York.



Green, G.P. and A. Haines. 2011. Asset Building and Community Development. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, California.
(Revised and expanded 3rd edition).



Additional Readings

Smith, M.T. (1984). "Becoming a Good and Competent Community." In P.R. Porter and D.C. Sweet (eds). Rebuilding American Cities: Roads to Recovery. Rutgers University Press.

Lackey, A.S., R. Burke and M. Peterson. (1987). "Healthy Communities: The Goal of Community Development." Journal of the Community Development Society. 18(2):1-17.

McDowell, G.R. (1995). "Some Communities are Successful, Others Are Not: Toward and Institutional Framework for Understanding the Reasons Why." In D.W. Sears and J. Normal (eds) Rural Development Strategies. Nelson-Hall Inc., Chicago, IL.

Summers, G.F. and K. Branch. (1984). "Economic Development and Community Social Change." Annual Review of Sociology. 10:141-166.

Daly, H.E. (2003). "Sustainable Economic Development: Definitions, Principles and Policies." In N. Wiza (Ed) The Essential Agrarian Reader. University Press of Kentucky.

Lapping, M.B., T.L. Daniels and J.W. Walker. (1989). "Rural Economic Development and Community Development." In Rural Planning and Development in the United States. Guilford Press, New York.

Shaffer, R., S.C. Deller and D.W. Marcouiller. (2006). "Rethinking Community Economic Development." Economic Development Quarterly. 20(1):59-74.



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