Community Development in an Uncertain World

Vision, analysis and practice

Second edition

In *Community Development in an Uncertain World, Jim Ife draws on the principles of social justice, ecological responsibility and post-Enlightenment and Indigenous perspectives to advance new holistic approaches to community development.*

The book explores the concept of community development on a local and international scale in the context of globalisation and postcolonial theory. Students will gain the essential skills and practical understanding required to navigate the existing managerial environment and cultivate new community practices.

This new edition incorporates current research into community development, and includes important new work on 'alternative visions' for a sustainable and just future. It introduces the foundational theories of community development, and explains their importance in shaping solutions to uniquely modern issues. Readers are encouraged to engage critically with the material through the accompanying discussion questions.

Written in an accessible and engaging style, *Community Development in an Uncertain* World is an essential resource for students and professionals in the human services.

Jim Ife is Emeritus Professor and holds an adjunct position at the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University, Perth.

Community Development in an Uncertain World

Vision, analysis and practice

Jim Ife

Second edition





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107543362

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2013, 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published by Pearson Education as Community Development in 1995 Second edition 2002 First published by Cambridge University Press as Community Development in an Uncertain World in 2013 Second edition 2016 (version 6, June 2021)

Cover designed by Fiona Lee, Pounce Creative

A Cataloguing-in-Publication entry is available from the catalogue of the National Library of Australia at www.nla.gov.au

ISBN 978-1-107-54336-2 Paperback

Reproduction and communication for educational purposes

The Australian Copyright Act 1968 (the Act) allows a maximum of one chapter or 10% of the pages of this work, whichever is the greater, to be reproduced and/or communicated by any educational institution for its educational purposes provided that the educational institution (or the body that administers it) has given a remuneration notice to Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) under the Act.

For details of the CAL licence for educational institutions contact:

Copyright Agency Limited Level 12, 66 Goulburn Street Sydney NSW 2000 Telephone: (02) 9394 7600 Facsimile: (02) 9394 7601 E-mail: memberservices@copyright.com.au

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

	st of figures and tables	page ix
Ac	cknowledgements	Х
In	troduction	1
1	Crisis, transition and community A world in crisis The crisis in the welfare state and the emergence of neo-liberalism Community-based services as an alternative	8 9 19 22
2	Alternatives and transitions Transitions Some ways forward Summary	27 27 33 43
3	Foundations of community development: ecological and social justice perspectives An ecological perspective: some key concepts An ecological perspective: is it enough? A social justice perspective: some key concepts Approaches to disadvantage: the limitations of social policy Empowerment Need Rights	44 53 54 55 59 67 70
4	Foundations of community development: post-Enlightenment and Indigenous perspectives Beyond Enlightenment modernity The Enlightenment Beyond the Enlightenment Indigenous understandings Conclusion	74 74 74 82 88 95

v

5	A vision for community development	97
	The promise of integration	98
	Community	100
	Development	108
	Community-based human services	112
	An alternative vision: grounds for hope	123
6	Change from below	126
	Valuing local knowledge	126
	Valuing local culture	130
	Valuing local resources	132
	Valuing local skills	133
	Valuing local processes	134
	Working in solidarity	135
	Ideological and theoretical foundations for change from below	136
	Conclusion	143
7	The process of community development	145
	Process and outcome	145
	The integrity of process	148
	Consciousness-raising	150
	Participatory democracy	154
	Cooperation	162
	The pace of development	164
	Peace and non-violence	165
	Consensus	167
	Community-building	168
	Conclusion	169
8	The global and the local	170
	Globalisation	170
	Localisation	176
	Protest	178
	Global and local practice	179
	Universal and contextual issues	182
9	Colonialism, colonialist practice and working internationally	185
	Guarding against colonialist practice	191
	Working internationally	195
10	Community development: social, economic and political	199
	Social development	200
	Economic development	208
	Political development	218

11	Community development: cultural, environmental,	
	spiritual, personal and survival	224
	Cultural development	224
	Environmental development	238
	Spiritual development	241
	Personal development	243
	Survival development	246
	Balanced development	251
12	Principles of community development and their	
	application to practice	253
	Foundational principles: ideas that inform practice	254
	Principles of valuing the local	266
	Process principles	275
	Conclusion	285
13	Roles and skills 1: facilitative and educational	286
	With head, heart, hand and feet	286
	The problem with 'cookbooks'	287
	Competencies	289
	Practice, theory, reflection and praxis	290
	The language of roles	291
	Facilitative roles and skills	292
	Educational roles and skills	305
14	Roles and skills 2: representational and technical	311
	Representational roles and skills	311
	Technical roles and skills	317
	Two special cases: needs assessment and evaluation	323
	Demystifying skills	329
15	The organisational context	332
	Managerialism	332
	Responding to managerialism: community development as subversive	338
	Introducing community development processes: the power of the collective	340
	Conclusion	347
16	Practice issues	348
	Practice frameworks	348
	Categories of community workers	349
	Values and ethics	353
	Professionalism	360
	Education and training	362
	The use and abuse of power	364

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment 978-1-107-54336-2 — Community Development in an Uncertain World Vision, Analysis and Practice 2nd Edition Jim Ife Frontmatter <u>More Information</u>

Internal and external community work	365
Long-term commitment	367
Support	369
Passion, vision and hope	374
Questions for discussion	378
References	382
Index	397

viii | Contents

Figures and tables

The vision of community development	page 112
Integrated community development	201
Social development	201
Community economic development	209
Political development	219
Cultural development	226
Community work practice roles	293
A framework for community workers	349
An ecological perspective	47
Accounts of social issues	56
Perspectives on power	63
Types of need statements	70
Categories of community workers	350
	Integrated community development Social development Community economic development Political development Cultural development Community work practice roles A framework for community workers An ecological perspective Accounts of social issues Perspectives on power Types of need statements

Acknowledgements

The ideas represented in a book like this have many sources, and it is impossible to acknowledge – or even remember – them all. I have never been comfortable with the idea of 'intellectual property', as ideas can never be owned, but are shared, and are constantly being reconstructed in dialogue with a wide range of people. This book has been influenced by a large number of colleagues, friends, students, community workers, activists and authors at various times stretching back over more than 40 years of involvement with community work. I began working on the first edition of this book more than 20 years before the publication of this edition, so there have been many influences on its ongoing development. The book has been an evolving project and many people have, knowingly or otherwise, contributed to it along the way.

There are some people who have contributed significantly to this book, and who need special acknowledgement. First, my wife, Dr Sonia Tascón, has been a continuing source of support and inspiration at both a personal and an intellectual level; I owe her a tremendous debt, and her presence in this book is strong.

It is important to acknowledge Dr Frank Tesoriero, who took over the third and fourth editions of this book's predecessor while my academic and practice interests moved more into the field of human rights. I am grateful to him for undertaking this work, though Frank has had no role in either this or the previous (2013) edition. I am also grateful to the many colleagues throughout Australia and overseas who encouraged me to take up this project again in 2012.

Other people I wish to acknowledge, whose influence on the early editions and/ or on the present edition has been particularly important, are, in alphabetical order, Jacques Boulet, Linda Briskman, Ingrid Burkett, Love Chile, Phil Connors, Jo Dillon, Wendy Earles, Erica Faith, Lucy Fiske, Vic George, Amanda Hope, Ann Ingamells, Adam Jamrozik, Sue Kenny, Nola Kunnen, Mary Lane, Louise Morley, Robyn Munford, Rob Nabben, Jean Panet Raymond, Stuart Rees, Gavin Rennie, Monica Romeo, Dyann Ross, Rodney Routledge, Evelyn Serrano, Pat Shannon, Lynda Shevellar, Joanne Stone, Peter Westoby, David Woodsworth and Susan Young.

The section in chapter 4, on Indigenous contributions to community development, was read by Auntie Sue Blacklock, Gillian Bonser, Carmen Daniels, Paula Hayden,

х

> Helen Lynes and Cheryl Kickett Tucker, who provided important feedback. Their contribution is particularly valued.

> I wish also to acknowledge the generosity of students and colleagues at the University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Victoria University (Melbourne), who over the years have shared ideas and helped to create enriching climates to explore issues of community development. Beyond the traditional university, Borderlands Cooperative is a special place of shared scholarship, learning and activism, with a wonderful community development library, which has provided me with a particularly stimulating environment in which to develop ideas. Earlier editions were particularly influenced by friends and colleagues at the Greens (WA), Amnesty International and the International Federation of Social Workers.

I am also grateful to Cambridge University Press, for their continuing enthusiasm for the project and their support throughout the process. My association with Cambridge University Press goes back over 17 years now, and it has been a very professional, positive and trouble-free relationship that I have come to value highly.

Finally, this book is dedicated to my daughters Julia and Bronwyn, my stepchildren Trent and Isabel, and particularly my grandchildren Ben, Emma, Joe, Hamish and Phoebe. It is, I hope, a small contribution towards creating a better future for them and for all those who will inherit the world that my generation has so comprehensively trashed and stripped of its communitarian traditions.

Jim Ife Buderim, Queensland 2016