

The Trends of Community Development Legislation in 5 Countries and the Enlightenment to Taiwan

Ya-Huei Hsu

**Assistant Professor, General Education Center, Overseas Chinese
University, Taiwan**

Abstract

In community development work, whether it is practical or theoretical construction, both researchers and community workers are concerned about the policy issues and new practices, searching for the enlightenment to better application. Understanding the legal system of community work is a direct approach to understand the working structure and systematical design for the community development of different countries. In Taiwan, we are facing the challenge of community development legislation construction, yet the studies on other countries' community development laws and the policy thinking within are still rare.

This paper focuses on the related laws of community development in different countries and tries to understand the core objectives and subjects of community development as national policies. The researcher summarized the core issues of community development policies in selected countries, and then examined the value of community development that has been perceived in national legislation process. Reviewing the nearly two decades of related community development legislations in different nations, this research selected and focused in 5 countries : United Kingdom (Scotland), the United States (federal and state legislation), Canada (national/ Nova Scotia), Rwanda and South Africa, exploring the five selected countries' legal framework and policy trends.

The analytical elements of community development law are considered in four aspects : 1.The analysis structure of social issues and social problems facing or to be addressed. 2.The design of social services. 3.Participation in governance, empowerment, entitlement. 4.The obligation the disclosure of related responsibilities (including social groups, authorities, professional roles). Analysis and comparison of these five countries will contribute to the discuss and enlightenment to Taiwan's community development work and legislation.

According to the analysis results, what Taiwan policy makers need to deliberate on are mainly the legal design of community organizations as a unit of national public policy service delivery, what and how national policies are responding to social problems and issues, the legal construction of professional community development or empowerment organizations and the role of professional workers.

Keywords: Community development, Policy framework, Social issues, Comparative study, Legislative analysis