

Community Assets for Community Development Associations with Achievements in Kaohsiung City

Shang-Hou Lee

Associate Professor, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

Cheng-Yu Hsieh

Assistant Professor, Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science

Yu-Tsung Lu

Assistant Professor, Chia Nan University of Pharmacy and Science

Yu-Ching Chang

MSW, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology

Abstract

Any community contains visible and invisible resource, if community workers use these resources effectively, community assets would become a resource base for community development work. This study investigated the characteristics of these assets from a practical perspective regarding community development associations that achieve excellent performance in Kaohsiung City. The community development associations (2006–2010) that obtained credits and achievements in community work were used as samples for this study.

The results of this study indicated that most of the communities encountered problems including financial difficulty, a lack of suitable locations for activities, and a lack of youth involvement. The financial resources for communities and organizations are supported by government budget. In addition, communities that have a more elderly population

present a low employment rate. Regarding the social capital aspect, community leaders and staffs establish excellent relations with the government and political representatives.

This study observed that the older population appeared to be more involved with community development associations than the younger generation did; therefore, governments and organizations associated with the community should encourage all citizens to support community work and organizations. In addition, urbanized communities appeared to present a higher degree of interaction, involvement with community problems, and participation within the community than rural communities did, which revealed that geographic varivation affect social capital.

Keywords: Kaohsiung City, community development association, community assets