

An exploratory study of empowerment mechanisms for vulnerable communities— Three kinds of CSW model analysis

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Abstract

Not only in community work but also in community action, community empowerment has viewed as the most important concept. However, the relationship between the community empowerment and community mechanisms seems less to be discussed. In particular, most of the community in Taiwan is still in a state of stagnation, community-based organizations fail to play a role in helping to change the community. The effectiveness of community empowerment lack of evidence-based practice cannot lead to accumulate relevant research results. This study tries to conduct a field study in two community association which located in Chia-yi County and Yu-lin County. Both of the rural-based communities do not have the self-development capability in community agenda. As a third-party role, the researcher actually enters into the community to observe changes in the community, and start to a series of empowerment process. The whole process of empowerment issues range from the development of community, the link of community resources, and the action of community. In this case study, the researcher hope to use these three modes including the Anglo-American collaboration in national development community empowerment model, ecological and social model CSW process models to analyze. These three models will be discussed to find out the possible approaches to empower Taiwanese communities. Furthermore, more vulnerable communities are subject to appropriate counseling and empowerment so that to promote the community capability to act and to change in the future.

Keywords: community empowerment, CSW, vulnerable community