

Community empowerment in Taiwan: A dialogue regarding the perspective of empowerment in the UK and the US

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Abstract

The community and the state in Taiwan represent a resource interdependency model. NGOs that lack the personnel to raise funds may channel their activities into programs the government requires. In particular, the state has played a crucial role in intervening in the practice of community work. Policy and the distribution of statutory funding are two major instruments in constructing the state's power.

The empowerment strategies that are transforming can be a means of transforming the power relations between the community and state. At the core of the concept of empowerment is the idea of power. Empowerment can be a process that fosters strength among community residents at the local level, enabling them to participate in making decisions related to issues that they consider important and thus to maintain autonomy.

This article aims to explore and compare significant theoretical and practical aspects of community empowerment in the UK, the US, and Taiwan. The first section reviews the concept and definition of empowerment in the UK and the US. The second section presents the analysis of interview data collected through semi-structured interviews. Six community empowerment organizations were interviewed. The topics of data analysis mainly focused on how the community empowerment organizations defined empowerment and their strategies and examined the opportunities for community associations that receive statutory

funding to exercise their agency in negotiating with the state in order to set their own agendas. The concluding section explores similarities and differences in community empowerment in Taiwan, the UK, and the US.

Keywords: Empowerment, Community, Community work, State