Social Participation as an Upstream Strategy in Disaster Risk Reduction

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Upstream-Downstream Paradigm

- Enhancing adaptive capacity is a dynamic, cyclical process across phases of disaster management (Kickbusch & Sakellarides, 2006; Norris et al., 2008)

- Prevention / mitigation and preparedness are upstream

- Response and recovery are downstream … but recovery transitions upstream again

Defining Community Resilience

• Many definitions – and some common elements
  ➢ bouncing back after a traumatic event
  ➢ adaptive capacity to respond, learn from, and recover from a disruption
  ➢ build back better – ie. bounce forward

• But what makes one community resilient and not another?

• How can communities be supported upstream to build adaptive capacity for downstream adaptive response?
Asset Approach

- Lens that focuses on assets that contribute to adaptive capacity (e.g. attributes, skills, resources, characteristics, networks, etc.)

- Acknowledges complexity of health and multi-level factors that influence it (e.g. social determinants)

- Theory of Salutogenesis …factors that contribute to health, create meaning in life (Antonovsky, 1996)

(Morgan & Ziglio, 2007)
**EnRiCH Approach**

- **EnRiCH** was developed in response to a need for more empirical evidence of the effectiveness, feasibility and appropriateness of community resilience interventions.

- Community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative with 5 communities in Canada.

- Focused on inclusive engagement and collaboration to enhance resilience among high risk populations.

- **Asset or functional capability-oriented approach** (Morgan & Ziglio, 2007; Kailes & Enders, 2007)
EnRiCH Functional Capabilities Framework (CHAMPSS) 
(O’Sullivan et al., 2013) (www.enrichproject.ca)

- 7 categories of functional capabilities:
  - Communication
  - Housing
  - Awareness
  - Mobility / Transportation
  - Psychosocial
  - Self-Care & Daily Living Tasks
  - Safety & Security
EnRiCH Community Intervention

The EnRiCH Community Intervention was designed as a template for communities to tailor to their own context and priorities.

1. Asset/Need Assessment (focus group using SIM format)
2. EHRIT Orientation and Networking Session
3. Online Collaborative Planning Task (8-10 weeks)
4. Table Top Exercise

The EnRiCH Manual is available in (english /french*) at http://enrichproject.ca/publications-and-resources.html
The EnRiCH Community Resilience Framework for High-Risk Populations (O’Sullivan et al., 2014)

- Adaptive Capacity is the centre – focal point
- 3 Drivers of Adaptive Capacity (empowerment, innovation, collaboration)
- 4 Strategic Areas for Intervention (awareness / communication, asset/resource management, connectedness / engagement, upstream-oriented leadership)
- Embedded in community culture and complexity

Important advancements in global disaster risk reduction in the past 10 years

Sendai Framework (UNISDR, 2015) recommendations include diverse citizen engagement, investment in social infrastructure, monitoring of indicators, ‘all-of-society approach’ to resilience through sustainable development

But ...

What does ‘all-of-society’ mean?
How does it work in practice?
And what might help or hinder this approach?
• Disability is socially constructed
• What about capability? Or vulnerability?
• Does it matter whether you see yourself as capable or vulnerable?
• How do others see you?

In an all-of-society approach ... social participation is key

• If we are perceived as capable – empowerment and opportunities for participation are more likely
• But what if we are not seen as capable? ... how do we leverage opportunities to engage?
Purpose:
To identify common discourses in disaster management and mainstream media, and then to exploring capability from the perspectives of persons living with functional limitations, through the lens of asset literacy

Phase 1: Discourse Analysis of Emergency Management Planning Documents
Phase 2: Media Analysis of 12 Canadian Disasters
Phase 3: Photovoice initiative in 3 communities (Wang & Burris, 1994)

O’Sullivan, Généreux, Roy, Petit, Lane, Franco, Persell, O’Brien, Glossop, Kennedy, Carignan, David, (2016-2019) Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Council (SSHRC)