

INTRO. TO COM. DEV. 2nd PERSPECTIVE

1. What is community?

The word community comes from the *Latin* word, ‘communitas’ which means as common. A group of people sharing common living accommodation and goods. For our purposes, a community is a group of people living in the same area or having the same religion or race. In Papua New Guinea, communities are often family groups which form villages. Many of these communities share a common language, which helps the people identify with their community.

‘How would you define your community?’

2. Different Communities that we belong to

You may come from a village, town or city. Within each of these communities you belong to smaller communities the most obvious being your family. The family is the most important unit in the community - the extended family is the foundation of the community. The family is where you begin your education – to speak, count, walk, build and so on. You learn the values and acceptable behaviours and rules of the group. You take on roles such as hunter, teacher, baby sitter, gardener, cook and responsibilities. You are socialised into becoming a worthwhile contributing community member.

There are many other communities, which we all belong to and each of these has different requirements or roles and responsibilities for the members. Each group we belong to whether it is a church group, a sporting group or a school is a community and has different ways of socialising us to be useful members.

Communities - a sense of belonging

The sense of belonging is important in communities, and is also important in the nation as a whole. The feeling of belonging in a community is helped by a number of things, such as:

- knowing what we expect of others and what they expect of us,
- knowing who our community leaders are and how we can have some say in choosing them, and
- knowing how the community is organised so that we feel safe and secure at all times.

All of these experiences help us to develop a feeling of belonging to our communities.

4. Communities – what we value in a community

When we understand what communities are and what we value in a community we can work to maintain and strengthen these important aspects.

As we will see, development brings change, which hopefully will improve the lives of community members. During any development, we must hold tight to what we value in our community and not let it be lost.

5. What is Community Development?

There are fundamental values and needs which bind people together in a community. e.g. a need for friendship, security, employment, spiritual and cultural values and needs. These valued aspects of community may be challenged by community development – which is a process of change! How communities participate in and manage change is an important part of community development.

Community development is...
change which improves the lives of community members, disadvantages no-one and is sustained and managed by the community.

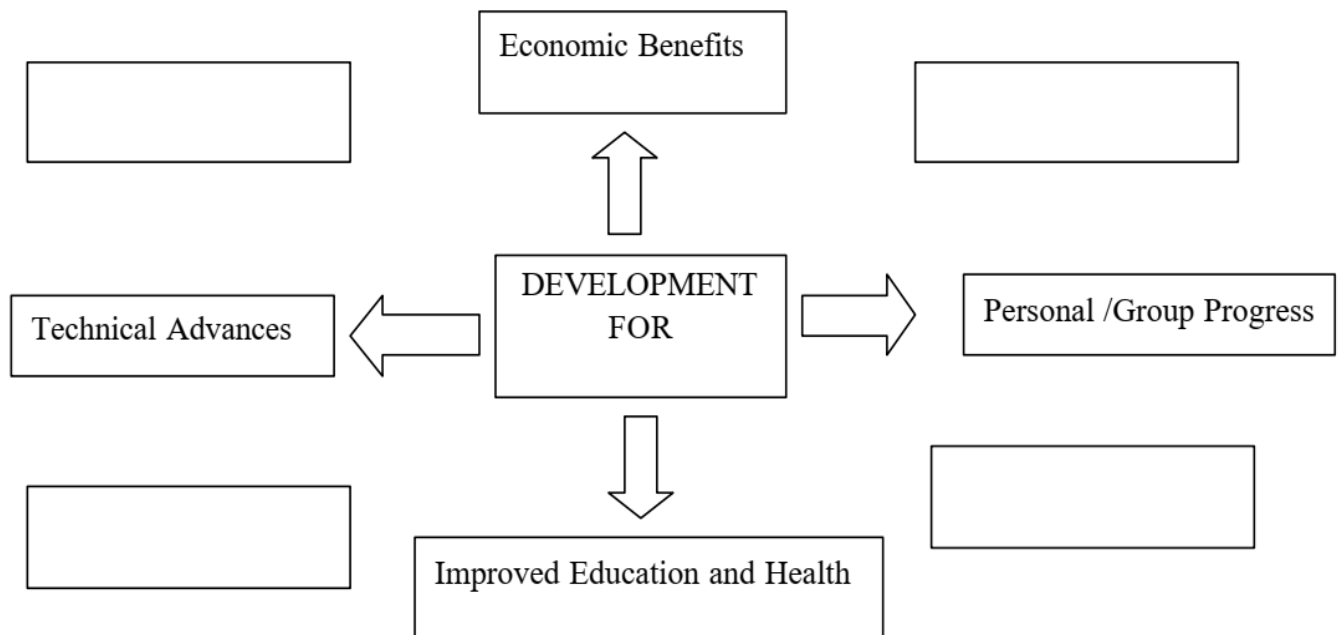
Community development means... the community identifying a problem or need and implementing change to solve the problem or meet the need.

Community development is...
about people participating in their own development and deciding their preferred future.

Community development is
often about getting the patronage of a 'big man' to support his people.

Community development occurs best when... the people of the community are involved throughout the development from deciding what they need and how they want to achieve it.

What do you think development is for? Add your own ideas to this diagram



6. Characteristics of Community Development

Community development which improves the lives of the community has many characteristics which are universal. Some of these characteristics are:

- all people affected by change should be involved.
- respect local knowledge and use local talent
- sustainability – people feel more attached to a project they have helped in. They will therefore manage and maintain it better.
- build local capacity – long-term community sustainability depends on developing human and social abilities.
- effective, transparent communication.

7. Different views on development

One of the great problems with community development is that people have their own view about what is good community development and what is best for their community's progress. This often sees traditional beliefs clash with modern /western values.

Topic 2: Principles of Community Development

Objectives

By the end of this topic students will be able to:

- Describe important principles of community development
- Apply these principles to community development projects.

Scope

This topic is a brief introduction to three important principles of community development:

- sustainability
- participation and
- equity and social justice

These principles are expanded and explained in greater detail throughout this course.

Principles of Community Development

Successful community development depends on certain basic principles being followed. Just as with building a house you must establish a strong foundation or the whole thing will later collapse community development also needs a strong foundation. The principles described briefly below apply to community development in any community and in any context.

Participation

Participation or participatory development is the first basic principle of community development. It means listening to the voice of the people and assisting them to develop their own community, in a way that they want it developed. It means finding appropriate ways to involve people if they choose to become involved. Sustained community development ultimately depends on people participating in their own development from the early planning stages through to completion. By doing this people are more likely to manage and maintain their new development.

Some important principles of participation include:

- listening
- questioning
- respecting local knowledge
- using local talent

Sustainability

The principle of sustainability or sustainable development is a basic principle of community development and often very difficult to achieve. When change is introduced to a community, it is hoped that the community will manage or maintain it.

Sustainability can be achieved with outside support or without outside support.

Whether it is a new primary school library or water-well if it cannot be maintained or managed by the community members it will fail.

Some principles of sustainability include:

- active participation of community members in all aspects of the project.
 - identification of problems/needs
 - planning
 - implementation
 - monitoring and evaluation
- use of appropriate technology that can be maintained and serviced locally.

Equity and Social Justice

The third principle of community development is equity and social justice. What do these terms mean?

In terms of community development the principle equity and social justice means:

- all community members, regardless of culture, religion, sex or age, having the opportunity to participate actively in their community.
- availability for peoples' access to information that is presented in ways they can understand
- fairness in peoples' access to and use of community resources.
- community members not being disadvantaged or denied their democratic rights by any form of community development.

Topic 3: Introduction to Sustainable Development

Objectives

By the end of this topic, students will be able to:

- Discuss the term sustainable development and how it applies to community development
- Discuss and give examples of the different factors which sustain development.

Resources

- Articles in Student Support Material Book
- Readings in Library

Sustainable Development and resource use

For many years people believed that natural resources such as oil, iron ore, and timber were unlimited – that they would never run out. Forests, fisheries, animal products etc., if properly cared for, are theoretically renewable. Other resources are clearly limited. Once used, they can never be replaced.



each student to write down independently what they think the term sustainable development means.

Share definitions with the whole class and develop a shared understanding.

We developing a class definition consider sustainability of activities as well as the sustainability of resources (human and physical).

Read the following section together with the class. Stop and discuss the questions posed. You will need to refer to the National Goals and Directive Principles.

create a lively debate.

any country must take into account present and future needs when deciding how to use its resources. Use of resources should bring satisfaction and maintain a harmony with nature. People need to decide whether the immediate benefits of using resources are sufficient to justify the cost.

What are some of the benefits and costs associated with developing the timber and oil and mineral resources

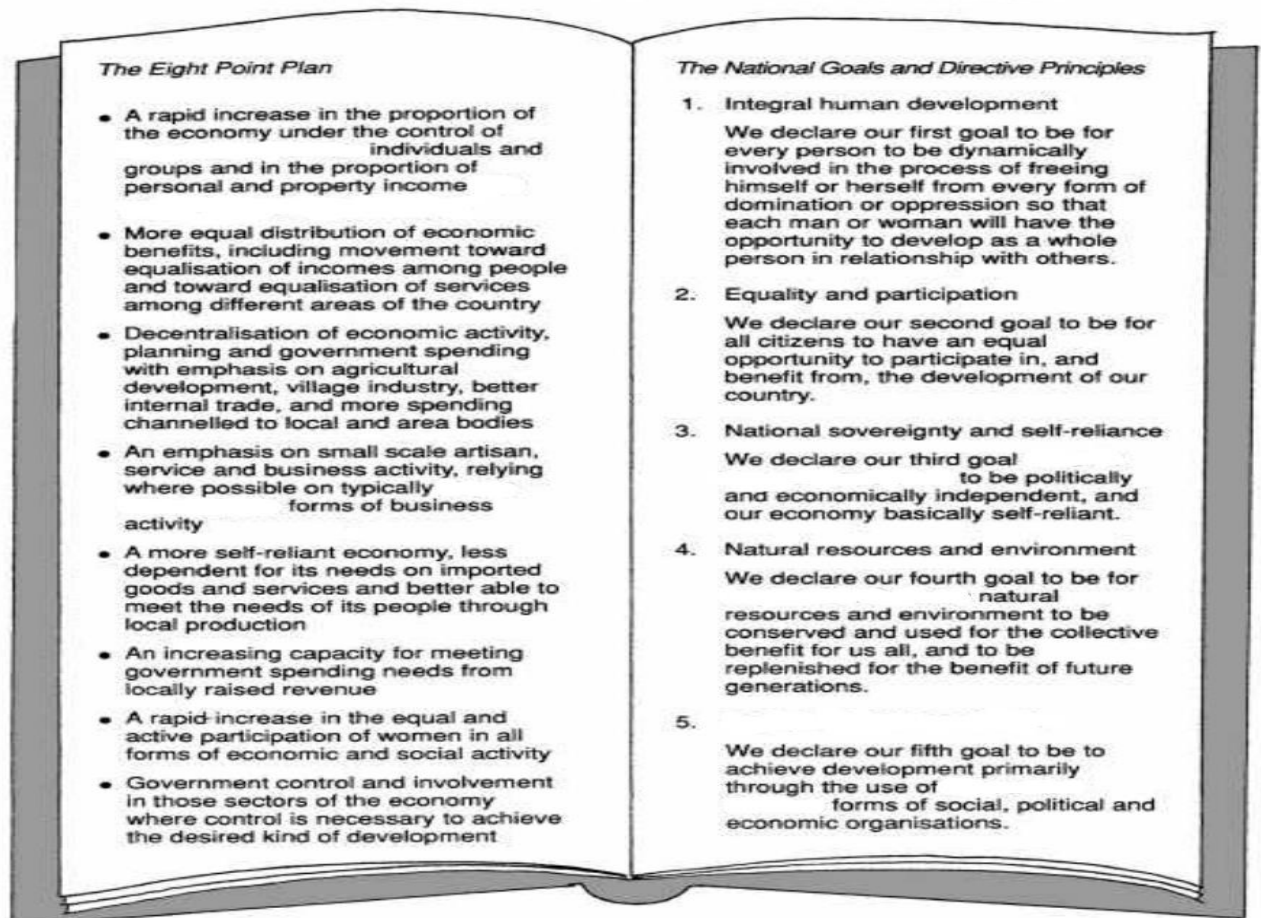
Development goals

It is important for individuals and societies to have clear development goals, which state exactly what they hope to achieve.

Some years ago not long after independence, an **Eight Point Plan** and the **National Goals and Directive Principles** were written. The Eight Point Plan was basically a set of economic and social development goals for a rural emphasis on development, and the creation of self-reliant rural communities.

The Eight Point Plan and the National Goals and Directive Principles are set out below.

The Eight Point Plan and National Goals and Directive Principles



Factors which sustain development

Social Factors

Social Structures which sustain development

This stresses social structures and needs of society. This type of sustainable development puts basic human needs first as the most important function of sustainable development.

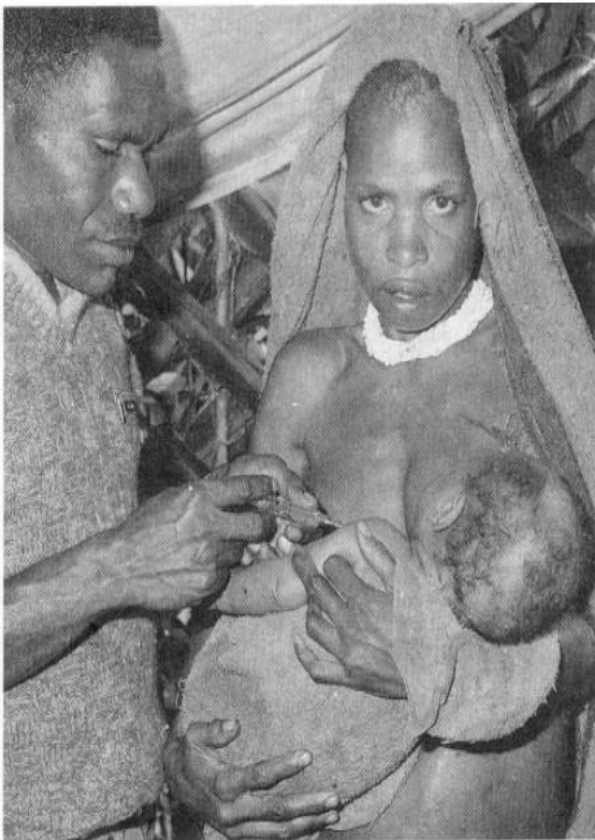
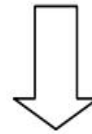
Key elements include:

Grass roots participation of people in all stages of the development process

Meeting basic needs through self-reliance. E.g. having your own garden, self-study. Refer to the Eight Point Plan

The use of appropriate technology and indigenous knowledge

Examples: The development of a community health clinic, which uses traditional and modern medicines



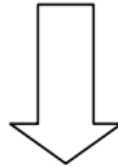
Key questions:

1. *Think of the issues of working together as a community, the importance of organisation and cooperation within a sustainable community development project.*
2. *What social skills are important and necessary in organising sustainable community development activities?*
3. *List examples of social sustainable development from the Eight Point Plan.*

Economic Factors

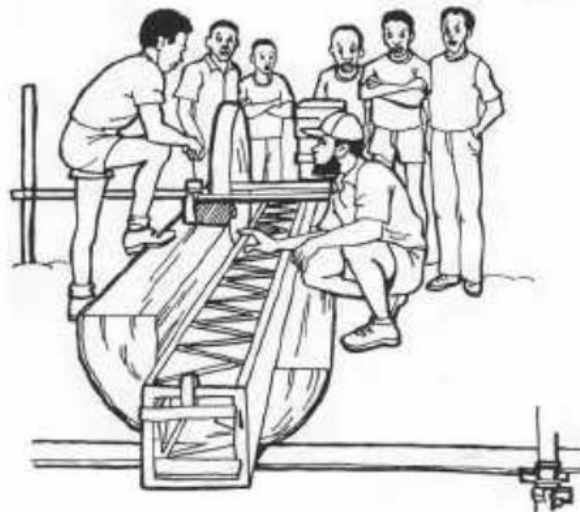
Economic development

Often economists talk about sustainability in relation to the economy but what they are really talking about is sustainable economic growth. This refers to the situation where an economy is growing over a period and surviving times of relative depression. Tied up with this idea of development – people are encouraged to buy and spend more. This consumer activity creates more economic growth and demand. However not everyone in PNG is a consumer in the cash economy.



Key questions:

1. *Often economic growth is measured by a continual rise in GDP per capita. What is GDP?*
2. *Why is GDP an inappropriate measure of wealth*
3. *How can dependency on cash and consumer buying lead to unsustainable development?*
4. *List examples of economic sustainable development from the Eight Point Plan.*



Environmental Factors

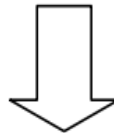
Environmental sustainable development

This type of development puts emphasis on the natural environment and ecosystems and sees their preservation as fundamental to the future of the human race. Any community development project must not harm or compromise future generations use of the environment.

Key elements include:

Ecosystems, the biosphere: the earth as an ecosystem, natural production, carrying capacity, physical laws, natural cycles and humans as important parts of the environment.

Examples: Eco-forestry development, such as, selective logging, eco-tourism, fish farming and butterfly farming.



Key questions:

1. *Why is sustainability considered such a big issue for development?*
2. *What is conservation?*
3. *Why is it important to plan the use of community resources?*
4. *How does this planning contribute to sustainability?*

Sustainable rainforest products

Sustainably harvested rainforest products are goods that can be replenished such as fruits, nuts or oils. These products are collected from the forest in a manner that does not degrade the forest ecosystem. Sustainably harvested products are being examined as an economic alternative to non-sustainably harvested products such as timber.

Sustainably harvested rainforest products

Can you think of examples from your community?

Subsistence agriculture - Although there is growing replacement of subsistence goods with trade items, almost 84 per cent of the adult population of Papua New Guinea continue to depend directly on the environment for their livelihood either through the subsistence production of food and/or for the supplementary production of food crops for sale at local markets (National Statistics Office)

Survey five friends to see if they can name different subsistence forestry products from their province.

Earlier studies have identified uses for 1,035 species of plant for food, medicine, fibres and ropes, stimulants, building materials, personal ornament, art utensils and canoes and rafts. In times of drought and other stresses, these wild forest foods provide the primary source of sustenance for many communities

Who are you and what is your culture?

What are the signs that mark you as being unique from other cultures?

In what ways do you know and practice your culture?

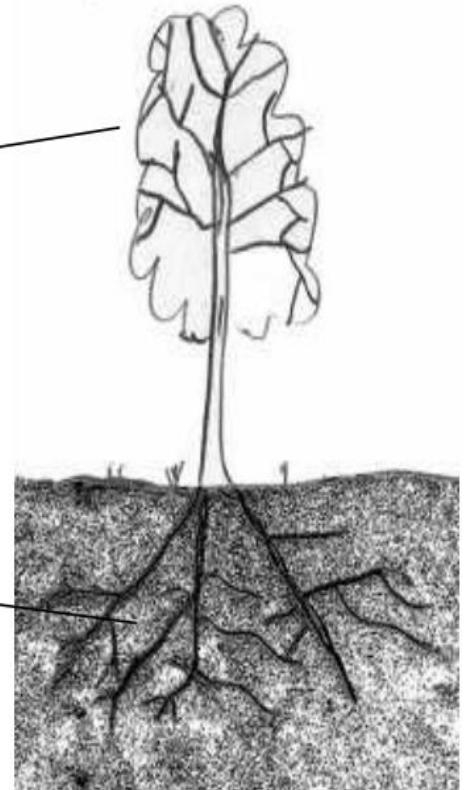
What part of your culture gives you strength?

List five important things that you believe in that are part of your culture that you would protect during any community development activity.

New growth = positive change and good development

Strong roots = strength to change and grow because we know who we are and are strong in our culture. Change is built on the shoulders of the ancestors.

Mango Tree



There are two kinds of logging done. The most destructive kind is 'clear-felling' or **industrial logging**. In this kind of logging all the trees and other plants growing in the forest are destroyed, and the forest will usually not grow back. Anything that was useful to use in that forest has gone forever.

- *List as many points for industrial logging and as many against as you can think of. When considering the points in favour try to think why communities would be forced to consider clearing their forests.*

The other kind is '**selective logging**'. In this kind of logging, the loggers try not to damage the forest too much. They take only fully grown trees, and only cut down the particular kind of trees they want. Some of the large companies do this. An example is the Gogol Timber Concession. Local people who use 'wokabaut somils' carefully should also be encouraged to practise selective logging.

What about our future and our children's future?

Many things might tempt us to cut down the trees for timber, even if we know what it means for the future. We know that we will be given money, and maybe the logging company has said it will provide things like roads, clinics, and schools.

Perhaps our area has not had much in the way of development before.



The decision not to allow the trees in the forest to be cut for timber is a very difficult one. We have to weigh up the advantages of getting a lot of money quickly, against getting a smaller amount of money for a longer time. This is where **sustainable thinking** and practice are important.

There are many trees, plants, and animals in the forest that can be used today, just as the ancestors used them. Some of the other ways that trees, plants and animals can be used are also economic – that is, the products can be exchanged for money.

Forest products other than logs and sawn timber play an important role in community forest enterprises. Minor forest products include resins, oleoresins gums, food materials, oils, essential oils, tannins, fibres, cork, medicines and dye material. Some of the better-known forest products harvested and/or exported have included sandalwood, rattan and dammar hire or Surest gum. The sago palm is of economic importance to the country as a staple starch for many communities and nypa palm has economic potential for alcohol production. The extensive ti-tree forests in the Western Province have been investigated as the basis for a distilled ti-tree oil industry. Other forest dependent industries include insect and butterfly ranching, orchids, crocodiles, deer, fish and cassowary production.