

Student Workbook

Overview of the Community

What is a Community?

What words or phrases come to mind when you think about community?

Definitions of the community

Webster defines community “as a body of people living in the same place under the same laws; also: a natural population of plants and animals that interact ecologically and live in one place” (Webster, 1997, p. 163).

Others define community simply as a group of people living together in the same locality.

Communities are people that live in the same area that may or may not have the same interests.

A community can also be thought of as society as a whole (Webster, 1997).

A community is a:

1. A group of people
2. Who interact with each other
3. Who have the same things in common with others in that same community
4. And who share an area for at least some of the time.

Types of community capital:

There are three general types of community capital. They are human, natural, and social capital:

Human Capital- *knowledge, skills, and abilities are possessed by people. “Human capital is the attributes of a person that are productive in some economic context” (Moffatt, 2004). Essentially human capital is the ability of humans to use their skills and knowledge to be productive in society. Knowledge might be a high schools diploma, a college degree, knowledge passed down from earlier generations. Knowledge can be gained by reading a book, listening to the radio, or watching TV. Skills might be the ability to operate machinery or the skills involved in growing a crop. Abilities might include the ability to persuade others to a different way of thinking or being able to implement new ideas. Human capital is the reason that communities are able to solve problems.*

Natural Capital- *The earth’s resources that humans use. Natural capital can be non-renewable resources such as fossil fuels and minerals that are harvested from the earth. Natural capital can also be in the form of renewable resources. Renewable resources include animals, plants, soil and water that are produced and maintained by the environment. Natural capital is basically earth’s resources that humans use.*

Social Capital- *includes all community organizations. Social capital allows members of a community to communicate with each other, manage conflict, and solve problems together. Social capital refers to relationships among a community. Social capital is*

the glue that holds a community together (Social Capital, 2004).

Specific examples of Human capital present in your community:

Specific examples of Natural Capital present in your community:

Specific examples of Social Capital present in your community:

Write a personal definition of community using parts of definitions given in class and using personal experiences.
