

Chapter 10

Ecology of the Community

*No man is wise enough by
himself.*

Titus Maccius Plautus

Community: Structure/Functions

Community

- A group of people living in the same geographic area (neighborhood, town, or city) under common laws
- A group of people sharing fellowship, a friendly association, and common interests

Five Functions

- Production, distribution, consumption
- Socialization
- Social control
- Social participation
- Mutual support

The Community's Influence on Socialization

The Community's Influence on Socialization

- Physical Factors
- Economic Factors
- Social and Personal Factors

Community

- The community is a socializing agent because it is where children learn the role expectations for adults as well as for themselves.

Socialization Methods

- Modeling by adults
- Values and norms instilled in children
- Enforcement of rules
- Serving as a context in which children can “try out” behavior and experience consequences

Physical Factors

- Population density and composition
- Noise
- Arrangement and types of houses
- Play settings
 - Traditional
 - Modern
 - Adventure

Interaction Patterns

- **Gemeinschaft**

- Communal, cooperative, close, intimate, and informal interpersonal relationships

- **Gesellschaft**

- Associative, practical, objective, and formal interpersonal relationships

The Community as a Learning Environment

The Community as a Learning Environment

- Alternative Schools
- Home Schooling

The Community as a Support System

The Community as a Support System

- Increasing population
- Changing nature of the family
- Increasing urbanization of communities

Macrosystem Influences on Community Services

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- Public Agencies
- Private Agencies
- Combination Agencies

Community Agencies

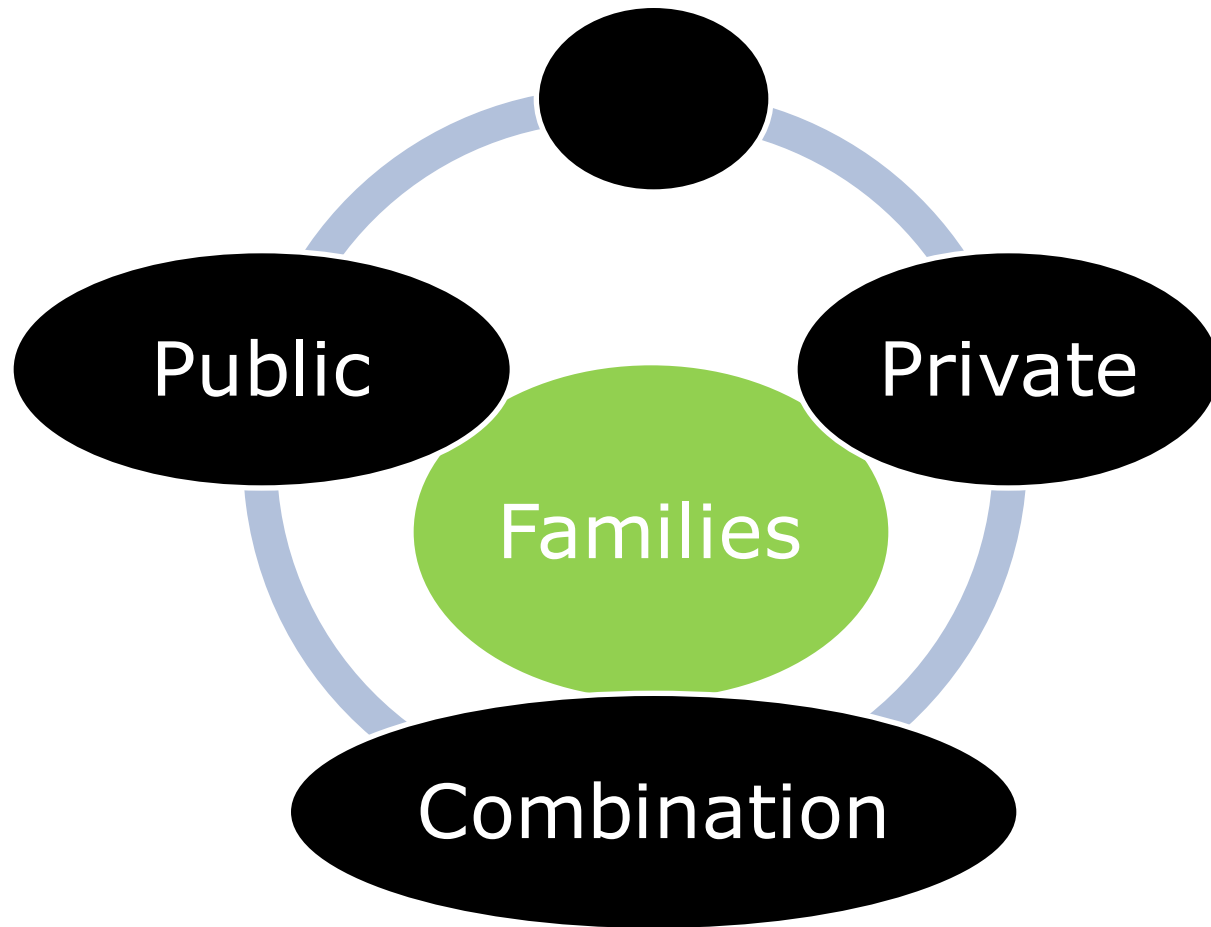


Table 10.3**Categories of Community Services**

Preventive Agencies	Supportive Agencies	Rehabilitative Agencies
Parks	Family and child services	Correction
Recreation	Referrals	Mental health
Education	Economic assistance	Special needs
	Counseling	
	Family preservation	
	Senior citizens	
	Child health and welfare	
	Protective care	
	Child care	
	Foster care	
	Adoption	

Preventive, Supportive, and Rehabilitative Services

- **Preventive**

- Seek to lessen the strains of everyday life

- **Supportive**

- Seek to maintain the health, education, and welfare of the community

- **Rehabilitative**

- Seek to enable or restore individuals' ability to participate in the community

Creating Caring Communities

Creating Caring Communities

- Economic Assistance
- Health Care
- Social Support
- Special Child-Care Services

Economics

- One in six children in the United States lives in poverty.
- These families have incomes below the federally designated poverty guideline.
- Families with children are the fastest growing segment of Americans who are homeless.

Economic Programs

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Unemployment compensation
- Social security survivor or disability benefits
- Supplemental security income
- Veterans' benefits
- Child nutrition services

Social Support

- Child welfare services
- Social services block grants
- Child and adolescent service system programs
- Income tax deductions
- Subsidized day care

Mesosystem Influences: Linking Community Services to Families and Schools

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- Community services, such as child-care, should link with other health, nutrition, social services, and educational programs.
- Head Start is an example of a program with a comprehensive set of service linkages.

Community Involvement: Volunteerism

- Volunteer Groups
 - Tutoring at-risk youth
 - Building homes for low-income people
 - Caring for homebound seniors
 - Working at food banks
 - Donating food, clothing, and household items
 - Helping maintain parks
 - Responding to natural disasters

Community Involvement: Advocacy

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- Child Advocacy
- Advocating for Child Protection

Abusive Families

- Main goal for services:
 - Improve the relationship between parents and children in order to prevent further maltreatment
- Strategies:
 - Support
 - Prevention