Chapter 10

Ecology of the Community
Learning Objectives

• Define a community and explain its five functions.
• Describe how a community influences socialization, including physical, social, and personal factors in the community.
• Explain how the community serves as a support system, including the preventative, supportive, and rehabilitative services it provides.
• Describe how mesosystems (community links to family and school) influence and care for people with economic, health, social, and disability-related problems.
• Explain the value of volunteerism for the community.
• Define child advocacy and explain how the community protects children who are maltreated.
Community: Structure/Functions

• 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 is a socializing agent because it is where children learn the role expectations for adults as well as for themselves.
Community Organizing

- Six stages of effective community organizing
  - Assess the community
  - Create an action team
  - Develop an action plan
  - Mobilize to action
  - Implement
  - Evaluate
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gemeinschaft</th>
<th>Gesellschaft</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mutually dependent</td>
<td>Independent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caring</td>
<td>Contractual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal</td>
<td>Formal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimate</td>
<td>Associative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusting</td>
<td>Mistrusting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kin</td>
<td>Employers/managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>Employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
<td>Business associates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special-interest groups</td>
<td>Achievement objectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collectively oriented</td>
<td>Individually oriented</td>
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The Community as a Learning Environment
The Community as a Support System
Community Agencies

Public

Private

Families

Combination
La Mesa Verde Community Project

- **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
Caring Communities: Programs for Families

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

Activity:
- Form small group.
- Assign a topic.
- Review and discuss the section
- Report back with 2-4 main points
Economic Assistance

• 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
Health Care: Do we all have an equal chance?

• View segment: Unnatural Causes

• Heath Disparities Local: Children’s health protection Act

http://www.unnaturalcauses.org/
Social Support

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

#### Table 10.4 Key Federal Assistance Programs for Children and Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poverty</th>
<th>Child Health</th>
<th>Support for Families</th>
<th>Special Child-Care Needs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</td>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>Child welfare services</td>
<td>Foster care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment compensation</td>
<td>Maternal and child health services</td>
<td>Social services block grant (Title XX)</td>
<td>Adoption assistance program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security survivor or disability benefits</td>
<td>Children’s health insurance programs</td>
<td>Child and adolescent service system program</td>
<td>Child abuse prevention and treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control</td>
<td>Income tax deduction for child-care expenses</td>
<td>Family violence prevention and services</td>
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<td>Veteran’s benefits</td>
<td>Child nutrition</td>
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<td>Child nutrition services programs</td>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>Subsidized child care</td>
<td>Head Start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other services: child care, educational, health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless assistance</td>
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</table>
Mesosystem Influences

- Community services, such as childcare, 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.
Advocacy

• Children’s Defense Fund
• Child Welfare League of America
• National Congress of Parents and Teachers
Environment

- Global Warming

An Inconvenient Truth

- Global warming: Causes and effects

Earth's temperature has risen about 1 degree Fahrenheit in the last century. The past 50 years of warming has been attributed to human activity.


Most of the world's emissions are attributed to the United States' large-scale use of fossil fuels in vehicles and factories.

Some predictions for local changes include increasingly hot summers and intense thunderstorms.

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Source: Environmental Protection Agency.
Education

• Full funded system