IACD - Social Inclusion Group work Discussions   Sept 8th 2021

How can we more effectively promote inclusion in our community development practice? Please share tips and strategies

- Information and knowledge sharing: Share with the community qualities of community development. A lot is being done by the government that communities aren't aware of.
- Begin with what the community knows. They are a great resource. They share what the project is.
- Tailor-make projects to fit the community. Blend your program to the community culture. e.g. focus on and link to existing project like bees etc
- Ask communities what should be done with the issues they raise. Don't push or force
- Letting the group know the negative impact of excluding groups
- Include those who had been marginalised in your intervention
- We work with the community, not for them
- Understand the culture and beliefs - how do they understand your intervention?
- Factor the indigenous knowledge. The ideas must come from the community.
- Use of locally available resources for the sustainability of project
- Prioritise the most marginalised- e.g. women as they are the most marginalised
- Engagement of people
- Dialogue with communities
- Being intentional in participation. Not just saying that we are inclusive but thinking of all the logistics needed. Thinking about being an intentional invitation.
- Clare gave an example of the **All Our Rights In Law** process around gathering views on a new human rights law for Scotland - opening up an invitation which made it easy for people to participate where there are, in the way they wanted to engage. (BSL interpretation, specific outreach to marginalised and seldom heard groups, resources available for grassroots community groups to host their own sessions)
- We had a discussion about challenging 'norms' - in particular cultural situations - such as challenging racism. How about working with faith communities - where there is conflict between religious groups - especially where there are barriers to inclusiveness?
- Visit the communities: Identify persons who have challenges accessing social services and let them define what is required, then talk and work with local governments who are often not very consultative
- Dual approach (TWIN TRACK): Address specific needs of people who are excluded AND try to change the environment more broadly so that people can participate
- How to avoid social engineering? Should we introduce an issue that does not pop up? Good Community Development should include and involve all parts of society
- Recognition
- Community Engagement/ Awareness creation
- Stakeholder Identification
- Social Inclusion Action Planning
- Show respect for the community culture