

BOOK REVIEW

Creating Empowerment in Communities: Theory and Practice from an International Perspective

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This international, interdisciplinary compilation of chapters revolves around the model called the *Dynamic Synergy Model*. Using a human rights perspective, it offers human service providers a mechanism with which to intervene for a variety of population and target levels.

The simple, yet dynamic, model has been applied effectively by contributors across the world to a range of targets. It is utilized as a tool to work with children, with the elderly, and with communities and societies, attempting to bridge the proverbial micro-macro divide. The message is clear: If target of intervention are provided the means to control their own environments and influence their outcomes, benefits to individuals, localities, communities, and society are significant.

Chapter One sets the stage for the book, while Chapter Two clearly describes the Empowerment Model and the Dynamic Synergy Model and their correlations. Human service providers, while cognizant of the effects of human emotion on an individual's self-efficacy, tend not to rely on more elusive concepts. Anme has taken the bold step to speak to the significance of "hope," "faith," and "meaning" in enhancing individual and community empowerment.

Authors of all the following chapters appear to be in agreement that this model has its merits and utilize it to address the issues they describe in the nations they represent. These chapters are written well and exemplify a variety of ways in which the model in Chapter Two can be applied.

It is not usual to find a model of intervention that is general enough that it can be applied to individual well-being as well as to localities dealing with issues such as housing, to communities, and even to the growing field of tele-intervention. The model and book are readable and utilitarian, and their reach of can be substantial.

Some language, sentence structure, etc. may need editorial review, but the substantive content of the manuscript and the effective application of the model (s) provide both tool and examples of intervention.

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