Community involvement in health development: an examination of the critical issues / Peter Oakley

Abstract
A critical examination of the many conceptual and practical issues that need to be understood before the concept of community involvement in health development can move from theory into practice. Noting the widespread conviction that successful development requires community participation, the book challenges readers to consider why the concept has so very rarely been translated into a fundamental principle of formal health care. Throughout the book, examples of experiences in different countries are used to show how community involvement, when properly understood, planned, and implemented, can work to accelerate health development. The book opens with an historical overview of changing theories of the development process that led to the view that participatory development is the most reliable route to better health for all. Readers are also given a list of the main reasons why previous development strategies, linked to the notion of community involvement, met with so little success. The main part of the book is devoted to a step-by-step analysis of practical problems that are likely to arise when a health service seeks to enlist community support as a fundamental principle of its health development activities. Points covered include characteristics of communities that can influence their successful involvement in health activities, the impact of different support mechanisms at both national and local levels, and the sweeping changes in health service training required when the commitment to community involvement is taken seriously. Readers are also given a review of methods for developing community involvement in health in particular situations, followed by a discussion of indicators that can be used in evaluation and monitoring. The final chapter outlines an agenda for the future development of community involvement in health, including a summary of conditions that must be met in order to foster the adoption of this essential health strategy on a larger scale.
These measurements overwhelmingly overlook structural issues. This compartmentalization of acculturative experiences offers no insights into processes and interactions involved in acculturation. Finally, theorists' own histories also play an important role in theoretical development. The field of acculturation has been dominated by white males of European descent, who often do not speak immigrant languages (Gans, 1997). It is important to keep these limitations in mind as we proceed with a critical examination of the prominent acculturation schools of thought, namely unidirectional, bidimensional and interactive acculturation. Unidirectional Acculturation.