

Dialog 2, Handout I

Characteristics of Inclusion

Small Group Discussion Questions

What is inclusion?

What are the indicators or signs of inclusion?

Who tends to experience exclusion and why?

What role does inclusion play in community health?

What experiences have you had or heard about relating to inclusion? (As an includer or as a person who was included)

Whose responsibility is inclusion?

What supports or resources would you need to be more inclusive?

What resources or supports would an organization or community group need to be more inclusive?

Are there, or should there be, limits to inclusion?

If so, what are they?

If not, then why?

Dialog 2, Handout II

Definitions of Social Inclusion

Definition # 1

"Inclusion recognizes, promotes, leverages, and values the unique background experiences and differences of all individuals by creating an environment in which they want to stay as active participants – an atmosphere of safety, equity and respect where barriers that exclude individuals and communities are considered and removed."

- Canadian Community Economic Development Network

Definition # 2

"Inclusion is both a process and an objective. As an objective, it suggests the possibility of social norms and institutions that allow diversity to be celebrated, and that enable all peoples to shape a society based on respect justice creativity, anti-oppression and self-determination."

- The International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers

Definition # 3

"Social inclusion is described as a feeling of belonging, acceptance and recognition and is intertwined with issues of diversity, equality, opportunity and democratic participation."

- Edmonton Social Planning Council, 2004

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there a definition that you prefer over another?
2. If so, why?
3. If you were to create your own definition what would it be? (Feel free to use all or parts of the definitions provided)
4. If you are happy with one of the definitions provided, explain why.

Dialog 2, Handout III

The Cornerstones of Social Inclusion

Thinking of examples from your own life, identify a 'real life' example of inclusion in each of the areas described.

Why does the example fit in this area?

Does it also fit in any other area?

Does true inclusion require a person to find belonging in all the areas described?

1. Valued Recognition

Conferring recognition and respect on individuals and groups. This includes recognizing differences, not equating disability with pathology, supporting initiatives that are sensitive to cultural and gender differences and extending the notion to recognizing common worth through universal programs.

2. Human Development

Nurturing the talents, skills, capacities and choices of children and adults to live a life they value and make a contribution both they and others find worthwhile.

3. Involvement and Engagement

Having the right and necessary support to make/be involved in decisions affecting oneself, family and community, and to be engaged in community life.

4. Proximity

Sharing physical and social spaces to provide opportunities for interaction, if desired, and to reduce social distances between people.

5. Material Well being

Having the material resources to allow individuals and families to participate fully in community life.

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