

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND MOTHER VALUES

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ABSTRACT: *Values as principles about what is right and wrong, or ideas about what is important in life can never be divorced from community development and even the whole life. Because values are those factors upon which balance is struck, equilibrium is maintained and the circumstance and context are made peaceful. Values are the other main component and segment of development, particularly communal development, in addition to material component, that have to be joined together with the material. Hence if the joining together is not done, the development will be incomplete, inconsistent and weakened. Despite this status, significance and importance the values have naturally, brilliantly and elaborately, it has been observed that values have been neglected and relegated to the background in community development discourse, theory and practice. The material aspect is more pronounced, promoted, projected and protected to the detriment of the values as an inevitable key factor in the issue of development practices. This makes most of our writings in community development discourse centred around the material like poverty eradication, job creation, and infrastructural development and so on. Therefore, it is in view of this that this paper tries to present values as an important variable in community development discourse, theory and practice for it to be reflected, incorporated, promoted, protected and projected in community development project. This would help tremendously in yielding better outcomes and maintaining equilibrium.*

KEYWORDS: *Community, Development, Mother, Values*

CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The need for community development is widely recognized but there is an inconsistency in the definition, usage and general understanding of what community development represents. The community comes from the Latin ‘communis’ meaning public, shared by all or many. Tounies (1887) perceived community to be tighter and more cohesive entity within the context of the larger society due to the presence of a unity of will. He added that family and kinship were the perfect expression of community but that other shared characteristics, such as place or belief could also result in community (Kularatne, 2009).

However, the concept of development generally implies a positive change in specific direction. Therefore, development means eliminating poverty, unemployment and inequality as well. Later it was recognized not only economic development but also social, cultural and political development and it should be future oriented and sustainable. Therefore, community development means improving the quality of people’s lives and expanding their ability to shape their own futures through improving their access to opportunities to better themselves (Soubotina and Sharam, 2000 cited in Kularatne, 2009).

Hence, community development means a philanthropical gesture or initiative that is made with a view to bringing a change for the betterment of the life of community. Therefore, community development involves an initiative that aims at assisting people to have an opportunity to improve upon their living condition and have a better future for themselves, the fellow individuals and the posterity.

CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY VALUES

Community values are those principles about what is right and wrong, or ideas about what is important in life (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 1995).

Community values can be classified into the following classes:

1. Taboos and abominations: this includes those issues that the community looks upon as evil and abominable and thus they should be avoided and shunned away. If someone is found involved with them he is regarded as villain and or deviant that should be rejected or sanctioned. An example of these is: lying, indecency, cheating, infidelity, disappointment, drug addiction, ignorance and the rest.
2. Attitudes and behaviours: this refers to the good virtues in which one will dispose himself correctly, gently and peacefully. For instance, trustfulness, truthfulness, justice, fidelity, transparency, sympathy, apathy, kindness, time consciousness and the list is on.
3. Beliefs: it refers to those issues that people have faith in, in terms of being useful or harmful.
4. Costumes: this means the manner of dress, dresses and means of physical appearance like hair style and the rest.

CONCEPT OF VALUES

Meaning of Values

Value in plural is values, that means:

- a) The quality (positive or negative) that renders something desirable or valuable or the opposite.
- b) The degree of importance you give to something.
- c) The amount (of money or goods or services) that is considered to be a fair equivalent for something else. E.g. he tried to estimate the value of the produce at normal prices.
- d) The relative duration of a musical note.
- e) The relative darkness or lightness of a colour in (a specific area of) a painting e. t. c.
- f) Numerical quality measured or assigned or computed (Wiktionary, 2018).

Therefore, if value appears in plural (values) it refers to a collection of guiding principles, what one deems to be correct and desirable in life, especially regarding personal conduct. The synonym to the word value is *ethic* that specifically means: a bunch of guiding principles (ibid).

It is imperative to understand that value (in singular) takes different meanings due to difference in relativity and context (as previously explained in a-f above). In plural, (values), it takes only one meaning, that is: a collection of guiding principles, what one deems to be correct and desirable in life, especially regarding personal conduct.

Hence, the question is why this? The answer to this question is due to the phenomenon of factors. The factors are explained below:

Factors Affecting Value Definition

The factors that affect values are those elements that determine the meaning of value in a given context.

“The theory of value consists in analyzing the causes that enable a commodity to have a use, while the theory of exchange value or market value consists in the analyses of price formation mechanisms. The utility or ‘use value’ of a commodity is nothing more than the satisfaction of pleasure a person derives from owning it, while the ‘exchange value’ can be identified via the price of things in money or in units of other goods” (Garcia del Hoyo and Jamenez de Madariaga, 2016).

Considering what Garcia del Hoyo and Jamenez de Madariaga (2016) say above, it could be seen that they talk on value in a different context i.e. in economic context. Thus the factor that makes this effect is economy.

Hence, from the afore-mentioned, value definition is affected and defined by some forces or factors. These factors include: economy, norm, construct, mathematics, time/era, space/environment, belief, purpose and peculiarities.

These factors that affect value definition are, at the same time, the issues that make values relative, contextual, circumstantial and nominal. In other words are what makes values dynamic and notional. For example, what is right in this time/era, space/environment, belief, purpose and peculiarity, may be wrong in another. A clearer example is a mode of dress is correct in a culture and incorrect in the other culture.

Though there is relativity in values concept, there are values that are absolute and universal. An example of these values are truth, trust and justice (being absolutely and universally right and good) and false, corruption and oppression (being wrong and bad absolutely and universally). Hence, these are absolute and universal values that know no restriction of time, space, belief, purpose, notion and circumstance. This leads us to our next segment of the thesis of this paper as follows:

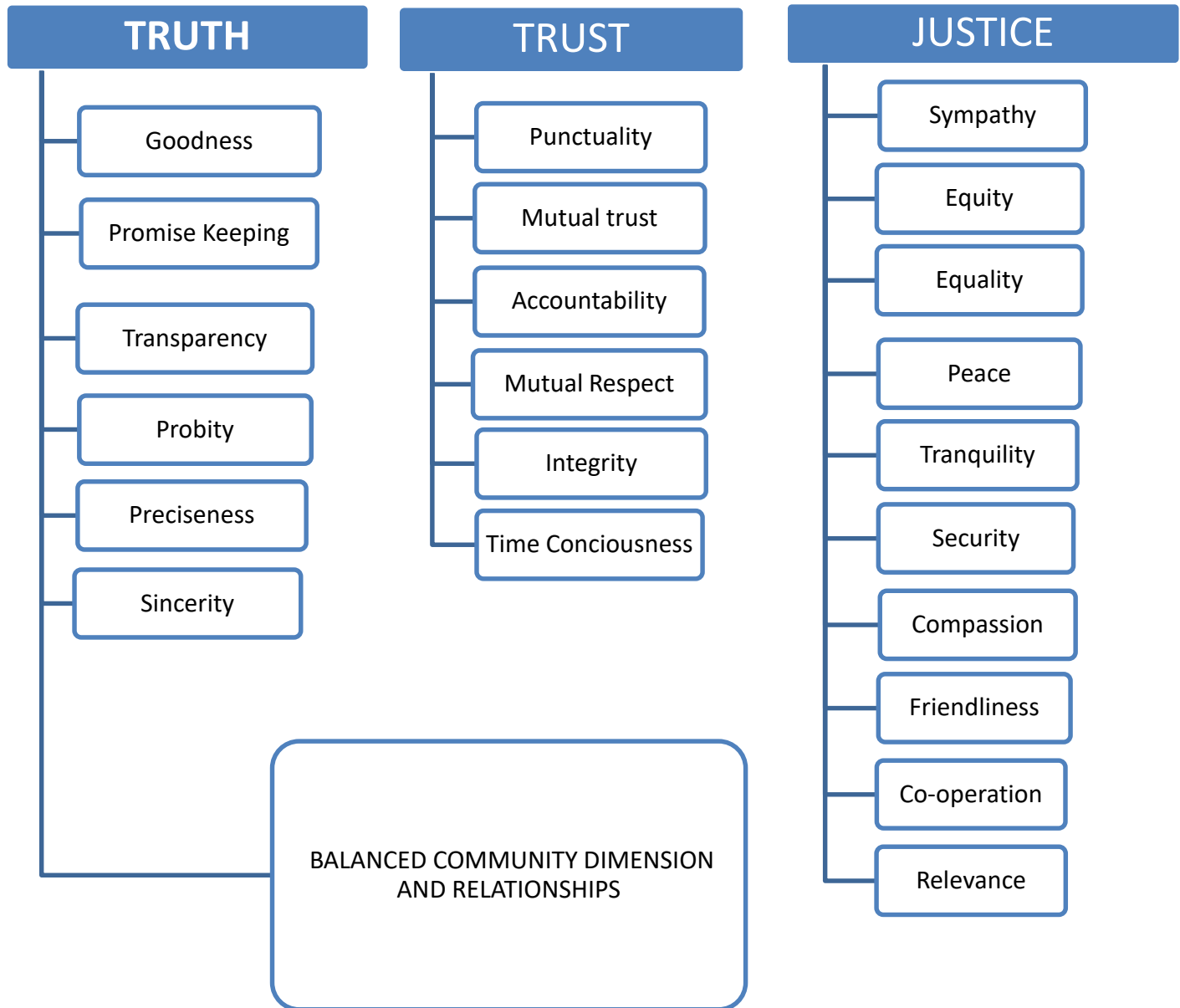
MOTHER VALUES CONCEPT

Mother values are those phenomena and or subjects that are identified universally and totally as good or bad in any given time, space, context, dimension and or circumstance.

Mother values are of two main divisions and or types: *positive and negative*. This is as it is on the table below as an example:

S/N	POSITIVE VALUES	NEGATIVE VALUES
1.	Truth	Lie
2.	Trust	Corruption
3.	Justice	Oppression/tyranny
4.	Legal earning	Stealing
5.	Nicety	Wickedness
6.	Kindness	Ruthlessness
7.	Fidelity	Infidelity

Subsequently, to have working values that are relevant to the thesis of this paper (community development and mother values) we take truth, trust and justice. This is as ingeniously presented in the diagram below:



As it appears in the diagram above, truth, trust and justice are mother positive values that give birth to other positive community values. In essence, the mother values replicate into the other positive community values, which then lead to existence of balanced community dimension and relationships, if joined together with the conventional material community development projects,

it makes and brings comprehensive, consistent and sustainable community development project(s) and better results.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, the relationship that exists between community development and mother values is that of nourishing and lacuna filling. The values aspect should be concerned and merged with the conventional material community development project as a new paradigm shift in community development work, practice, discourse and studies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Going by the previous proceedings in the paper, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. Mother values should be considered in promoting community positive values
2. Community positive values should be specially projected in the practice of community development
3. Projects and strategies on mother values should be developed to boost community development
4. A course on values, mother values and their relevance in community development should be designed and incorporated in curriculum of community development studies in the various departments in universities and other tertiary institutions, as well as community development professional programmes.

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