

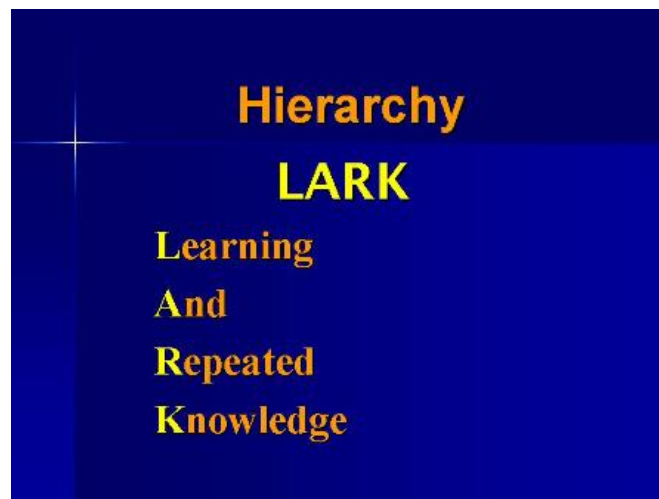
## Chapter 6 The Interactional Approach to Community

*J. C. Bridger, M. A. Brennan, and A. E. Luloff*

### BEHAVIOR OBJECTIVES

After studying this chapter and completing the online learning activities, students should be able to

1. Explain the origins of community sociology.
2. Define community agency.
3. Understand the origins of field theory.
4. Define community development within the interactional approach.
5. Identify the key challenges to the interactional approach to community development.
6. Describe the community action process.
7. Define the "community field."
8. Identify some of the uses of the interactional approach since the 1980s.



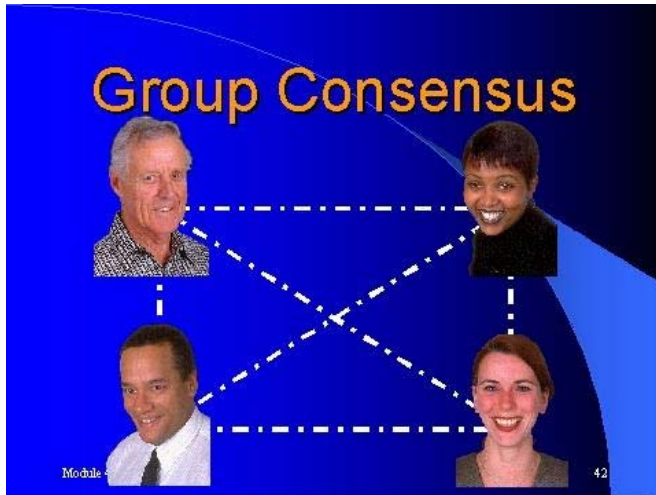
### LARK Activity 6.1

**Step 1. Select the best answer for each of the following questions.**

Robinson and Green  
Introduction to Community Development  
Online Learning Modules

1. The interactional approach focuses on how the behavior of residents is influenced by the environment where community they live. True, False\*
2. The authors of this chapter believe that the interactional approach is equally relevant in rural and urban settings. True\*, False
3. For many people in American society, their “world of work” and “world of residence” is separated. True\*, False
4. Most people share a common territory where they interact with each other on relevant matters even as they participated in extended social networks and relationships. True\*, False
5. From the interactional perspective, community development is basically **NAAAPS- Networks of Actors engaged through Associations in Activities in a place.** True\*, False
6. List several types of interactional fields that are likely to be present in most large communities.
7. Actions contribute to the development of community only when they represent purpose efforts to create and strengthen the community field. True\*, False
8. According to the authors of chapter 6, what is the main goal of development?

**Step 2. Work in a group with four to five members and select the best answer to each question.**





### **SOAR Activity 6.1**

#### **Writing short essays**

**Step 1.** Prepare a short essay of about 200 words, one typewritten page, that describes what the authors mean by “community agency.”

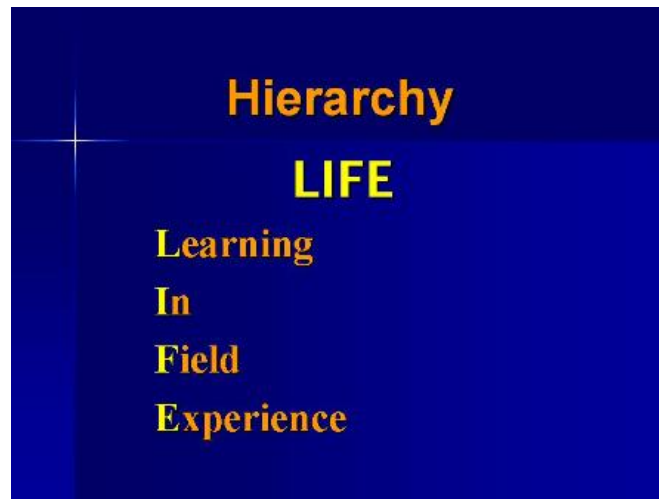
**Step 2.** Discuss your essay with a group of four or five classmates and your instructor.

### **SOAR Activity 6.2**

#### **Writing short essays**

**Step 1.** Prepare a short essay of about 200 words, one typewritten page that describes what the authors mean by “community action and development.” Give special attention to level of “community action and development” that exists in your home community.

**Step 2.** Discuss your essay with a group of four or five classmates and your instructor.

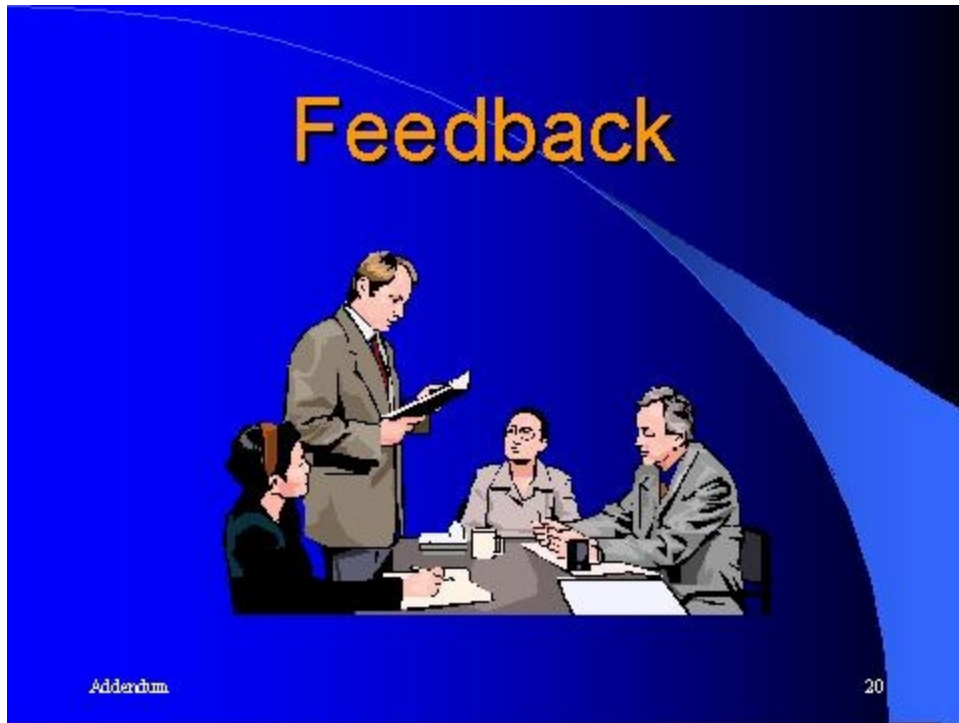


### **LIFE Activity 6.1.**

#### **Assessing the importance of the interactional approach to community development.**

**Step 1.** What are the primary contributions of the interactional approach to community development? Prepare a short essay to discuss with your classmates.

**Step 2.** Is technology a barrier to the changing territorial dimensions of your home community? Why or why not? What is likely to happen in the future? Prepare a short essay to share with your classmates and instructor.




## **LIFE Activity 6.2**

### **A Service Learning Activity**

#### **Assessing the community field in your home town or county**

- Step 1.** Contact the local Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation (Industrial Development), Local Educational Institutions, and Units of Local Government.
- Step 2.** Request a membership list and list of officers from each of the above organizations to determine the number of persons, businesses, and civic leaders and public officials who are engaged with local community and economic development.
- Step 3.** Sort the membership lists into various categories, such as local businesses; regional businesses, civic leaders, public officials, educational institutions, etc.
- Step 4.** Identify officers of organizations by the business or public sectors they represent.
- Step 5.** Use the information tabulated in step 3 and 4 to prepare a diagram [Interactional Wheel] of the community and economic development networks existing in the community or county.
- a. Which sectors are most highly represented?
  - b. Which sectors tend to be underrepresented?
  - c. How can participation be enhanced?
- Step 6.** Schedule a meeting with representatives from the local Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Development Corporation, local educators, and public officials to share the outcomes from your research.
- a. You may want to develop a PowerPoint presentation.
  - b. You will want to ask, “How can our University or College Help Local Community and Economic Developers, and Public Officials Enhance Local Participation?”
  - c. What should be done to deal with apathy and free riders?
  - d. What should be done to deal with diversity and inequality?
  - e. How can we “build social bridges” across areas of interest?



**Feedback**

Module 2

41