

Use of Mathematical Theories in Understanding the Affects of Policies and Their Role in Strengthening the Communities: Adaptation of Fisher Information Model

Sandeep Kumar Ganji

Understanding the overall performance of a strategy depends upon the consideration of the parameters of the system and the fluctuations they undergo. This paper proposes that such an understanding of systems behaviour using classical physics is not adequate as the fluctuations no longer remain linear. Hence the author presents an alternative method based on classical measurement theory originally propounded by Fisher. This paper looks at the possibility of this application to social phenomena. For example, on the internal affects of a policy on the system (community or an organization) and its components (people in a community). Every component (entity/people) is understood as an input signal from which data can be collected as an operation of measurement, but each entity can influence the other entities output by applying peer-pressure which is common in communities. The net outcome from such analysis is a deeper understanding of the systems response to a input (here a policy or a event) and our results have shown that the influence of a neighbouring entity on its closest entities are far more effective than was predicted in classical studies.

On the Red Carpet!

Paige Garland

How does it feel to be photographed standing on a red carpet? To be treated like a celebrity? To hold your head high and feel great about your life...your work? This is what Paige Garland, Director of Plan-it Life's experiential learning strengths-based practice session is all about. Experience how we make our staff and clients feel great about themselves. How we support them to achieve their dreams and have fun along the way. Strengths-based practice is the foundation. Our unique inter- disciplinary approach is designed to harness people's potential and foster their motivation to live a meaningful life. All employees of Plan-it Life are utilizing this unique strengths-based approach to shape their own lives, thus fostering organizational integrity and interdisciplinary approaches to service delivery. So, come to her session and discover how we make our motto live: Imagine...hope...create...passion...adventure...inspiration...love...giggle...live! You will have your photograph taken on our red carpet that is our gift to you!

Strengthening Communities through Community Health Impact Assessment

Dr. Sebanti Ghosh

This paper discusses how the Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA) used the PATH (People Assessing Their Health) Process to increase the capacity of a tribal community in Mukutmanipur, West Bengal as they embark on Endogenous Tourism Project a joint initiative of UNDP and Government of India (Ministry of Tourism). The goal of the practice was to help the management committee for the tourism project do the following: (1) develop an awareness of the broad determinants of health & well being; (2) create a unique vision of a healthy community; and (3) develop a tool to help them make decisions about the potential impact of tourism project on the health and well-being of their community. The strategy used was to engage people in a community development approach called the PATH (People Assessing Their Health) Process. The PATH Process, which was developed in north-eastern Nova Scotia, Canada, uses community health impact assessment (CHIA) as a way of engaging community people and organizations in the development of healthy public policy. The process was used in Mukutmanipur in May 2006. The initial result was that the community members were able to critically analyse their situation in relation to the pending tourism project by looking at things in a new way. They also developed a tool that they can use in assessing the impact of future project activities. The process was useful for the men in the community but it also empowered the women, who felt that it allowed them to have a say. As this is a work in progress, long term outcomes are not available. The paper will present the findings from May 2006 to November 2006. The PATH Process has been successfully carried out in six communities in Canada and is now being implemented in India. An important part of the on-going discussion and evaluation will deal with how the process can be translated into other cultural contexts.

The Relationship Between Psychological Strengths and Health and Quality of Life of People over 65 Years Living in the Community With Low Level Support Services

Coralie J Graham and Anthony B Fallon

The potential for spiraling health care costs of the ageing baby boomer cohort has provided impetus for research into all aspects of this group in Australia and other developed countries. This study investigates the psychological strengths that older adults use in maintaining their health and quality of life. The qualitative analysis of the interviews of 10 older adults in Phase 1 of this study has found that a positive outlook, social connectedness, spirituality, and adaptability are important factors. Additionally, the receipt of support services were shown to be important factors to maintaining health, quality of life and the ability for those over 65 to remain independent in their own home in the community. Phase 2 of this study, which is about to commence will provide a quantitative investigation of the degree of the relationship that each of these strengths has with health and quality of life by surveying 1000 older adults. With previous research indicating that a number of these strengths are able to be enhanced with minimal intervention, and their positive relationship with health status, the potential for flow on financial savings in the promotion of health and satisfaction is huge.