Review of: "Working on the Root System of Social Connections in a Community"

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Thank you for entrusting me to review this interesting article. Basically, the essence of the article is community development by exploring the transformative potential of the surrounding environment as an important unit in changing society. This article is approached with the metaphor of a forest root system, an analogy of a complex network, overlapping, forcing each other, breaking through, and supporting each other as a strong foundation for growth and development. According to the authors, who advocate asset-based relational strategies, this article underscores the importance of cultivating community relationships for a sense of belonging, mutual support, and collective well-being. In conclusion, grassroots initiatives create sustainable and inclusive communities to address complex social challenges.

Here are my comments and suggestions.

First: This article moves away from references to "best sellers" and many discuss the future of humanity, such as Jane Jacobs, Alexis de Tocqueville, Robert Putnam, and Julianne Holt-Lunstad. This concerns lonely people in cities, the quality of health, and the decline of social capital in today's Western societies. This means that this article tries to provide insight as well as solutions to overcome the waning of social relations in society. The approach used is a forest metaphor where wood grows close together on the ground, but the roots overlap to strengthen the development of the trees in the forest. This analogy is very interesting for human development, which cannot actually be separated from other humans. Even though they seem separate, let's say lonely, they are connected human beings. The main essence of this article is about efforts to build human networks in urban areas where social capital is increasingly decreasing.

Second, the author's views are successively a discussion of "Environmental Effects", "Altruism or Enlightened Self-Interest?", "Products and Processes", "Community as a Verb: Having and Being", and ends with a kind of assumption on "The Hidden Dangers of Projects." This description describes the author's perspective on the future of humans who are increasingly lonely, while being in an inseparable social environment. This is an interesting way of thinking put into this article.

Third, the discussion of the article begins with the subtitles: "The Power of Connected Communities," and "The Root Is in the Fruit," which is used to analyze the problem based on the perspective of "The Voorstad Neighborhood of Deventer," as closed in the last paragraph of the description: "If we are serious about becoming a warm neighborhood in Voorstad, then we must be willing to welcome foreigners and be able to show it; what better way than to wrap our new neighbors' homes in scarves in the colors of our community's football team, hand-stitched by hundreds of their new neighbors?" This

is a statement about how to build social capital in society so that there is no prolonged loneliness in society. The working mechanism in Voorstad displays a cherished life, a process of creating relationships that occurs in the sub-liminal space of the environment, where the flower box becomes the closing story of what is cultivated, the human and non-human root systems. Relationships in the bushes in the environment. When the root system becomes stronger, more diverse, and synchronized, the community becomes more vibrant and produces vitality from roots to fruit. Playgrounds, scarves, and radical acts of inclusion thrive in the woodland life of spring. Like the root system, the human, physical, environmental, economic, and institutional assets used to drive growth in Voorstad were largely invisible during the other three seasons. Ultimately, this root systems approach will also produce better institutions that complement society's capabilities and redistribute resources fairly so that everyone can participate in life together.

Fourth, an interesting conclusion. Well-being is not an individual medical problem, but a social, economic, and political problem. Therefore, improving public health occurs due to collective efforts, not just individual efforts, which means improving health requires building communities, not tagging or linking individuals to activities or projects. The same also applies to security, environmental sustainability, child welfare, and general justice. Many policy implications arise from the growth of grassroots community building throughout the Netherlands. For policymakers who believe that their important role is to support, not direct, the growth of organizational life. However, the question that must be asked of the author of this article is: to what extent can this idea be applied outside the Netherlands, for example, in Germany, Denmark, etc., or in the Netherlands' neighboring countries in Europe? Maybe it is very different from countries in other parts of the world such as Africa, even Asia and South America. This question has the same meaning as the other five basic questions as stated in the author's conclusion.

Fifth, in my opinion, almost all experiences of developed countries such as the West show the same phenomenon, namely the waning of social capital. Humans are increasingly individualistic even though they live side by side. They don't seem to need anyone else, even though that's impossible. In reality, however, humans cannot be separated from other humans. State policies, whether through participatory development between communities or other institutions, have proven to be less effective in building social networks in interconnected communities.

The approach offered by this author is an asset. This is a kind of old saying: "where there is sugar, there are ants," meaning that in a resource center, everyone will automatically approach. However, what if the "sugar" or "resources" are not there?

Once again, congratulations on the author's brilliant thinking in working on the root system of social relations in a community, more specifically in the Netherlands. This is definitely a useful article for many countries that want to try to build a system of social relations in their society.