

# Preface

The idea for this volume began when a group of scholars, the Community Well-being Research Network, convened in 2012 at Seoul National University. With representatives from throughout Asia, Europe, and the US, ideas began to coalesce around community well-being as applied to community development and societal well-being. This collection of chapters represents the outgrowth of that convening, along with another volume in the *SpringerBriefs* series, *Learning and Community Approaches for Promoting Well-Being* edited by Youngwha Kee, Yunji Kim, and Rhonda Phillips. It is our intent to spur interest in community well-being with both conceptual and applied work.

Several perspectives on community well-being and its relationships to community development are provided. Both these areas are related and highly inter-linked. This collection of four chapters provides exploration of the underlying concepts and foundations as well as applied case studies illustrating the connections between community development and community well-being.

The first chapter, “[Exploring the Intersection of Community Well-Being and Community Development](#),” by the editors discusses the relationships between these two areas and how one impacts the other. Differences as well as commonalities are explored. Several contexts are provided for promoting understanding of the inter-connections across these areas of scholarship and practice.

The next chapter, “[Searching for the Meaning of Community Well-Being](#)” by Seung Jong Lee and Yunji Kim, predominantly focuses on concepts of community well-being. It presents a framework for considering community well-being as an encompassing concept, touching on dimensions of quality of life, happiness, sustainability, and other community concerns. Additionally, “[Searching for the Meaning of Community Well-Being](#)” provides a brief history of the concepts of community well-being from its basis in ancient times to current time.

The third chapter, “[Building Community Well-Being Across Sectors with “For Benefit” Community Business](#)” by Rhonda Phillips, discusses community development from a different vantage point. Looking at community-focused and community-owned businesses, this chapter explores ideas for strengthening local economies via methods and policies to support local business development.

It presents policy suggestions for developing local ownerships programs, and relates these activities to tools and techniques to aid in progress toward promotion of overall community well-being and development. This chapter also seeks to provide illustration of an alternative way of thinking about these concerns related to economic and social well-being, from the vantage point of community well-being and community development.

The volume concludes with the second case study in the last chapter, “[Community Bonding and Community Well-Being, Perspective from a Community Development Council in Singapore](#),” by Leng Leng Thang, Seung Jong Lee, and Youngwha Kee. This chapter discusses the loss of sense of community due to rapid urbanization. Factors such as economic, socio-cultural, and government policies have played a role leading to the demise of community sentiments and attachment. Urban sprawl as a result of government public housing and new town policies have uprooted residents and disrupted pre-existing communities. In Singapore, public housing policies in mass scale—while well recognized for its effectiveness in meeting serious housing shortage—are also said to have caused the loss of community from the prior kampongs (village) style of living and sense of place. This chapter presents strategies and policies for helping to create a greater sense of community and community development outcomes, as desirable outcomes for fostering improved community well-being.

Our purpose in compiling this volume is to promote more scholarship and application at the intersection of community development and community well-being. The potential benefits of more closely aligning these two areas holds much promise for our communities.

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Community Well-Being and Community Development  
Conceptions and Applications

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