An Analysis of Six Power Ladders, Wheels, and Progressions

Date and time
Wed 24th Jun 2020, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm PDT

"Join Us"
Co-creating our future stories of Hope & Action
A "glocal" Asset & Strengths Based (un)Conference
June 24-25 2020

HOSTED BY GLOBAL ASSET & STRENGTHS BASED PRACTITONERS

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Capturing the learning:
1. Take a screen shot of your group
2. Write down the names of people:
    2.1. Group One: Bithiah Coleman, Mark Chupp, me, Carla Brisotto, Christina Murphy
    2.2. Group Two: Jess Popp, Maya Cross, Dr. Joe Carson, Magdalena Ugar
3. Discuss the ladders – Leave blank the 3 you do not discuss (see below one ladder per page)
4. Overall reflection questions (if you have more time in your session)

    4.1. What were some of the stories and experiences shared?

    4.2. What were the key themes that emerged from these experiences?

Ladders as helpful tools for critiquing our work.

    4.3. What was your most significant learning from this session and why?

    4.4. Was there anything that surprised or challenged you?

5. Sherry Arnstein's "Ladder of Citizen Participation"

5.1.1. What is its history?

From the 1960s in the U.S.
Developed by a policy-maker who worked in the government. She was interested in the government engaging citizens in community decision-making.

5.1.2. How it has been used by participants?

5.1.3. What is great about the ladder?

Helpful for self-critique.
Impressed that it is still relevant.

5.1.4. What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

Terminology is outdated (misuse of the term "therapy").
Need to consider the element of time; how to move from stories to decision-making and action.
Does not give enough consideration to differences among groups within the community.
In addition, different groups may not be at the same place on the ladder.

6. South Lanarkshire Council's "Wheel of Participation"

    6.1.1.   What is its history?

    6.1.2.   How it has been used by participants?

    6.1.3.   What is great about the ladder?

    Appreciate the effort to present the ideas in a non-linear way.

    6.1.4.   What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

    The diagram is confusing; it is unclear what the relationship is between its component parts.
    It is unclear whether the different dimensions are equivalent?

7. The International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) "Public Participation Spectrum"

    7.1.1. What is its history?

    Categories are similar to the Arnstein ladder.

    7.1.2. How it has been used by participants?

    7.1.3. What is great about the ladder?

    It includes examples.
    Like that it does not imply that the bottom of the ladder is "bad' and the top is "good."
    In the design process, these different steps apply at different stages. Different stages could be simultaneous.

    7.1.4. What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

    Important to be very clear the intention when using this model.

8. The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute's "Citizen Power Ladder" developed by Jody Kretzmann and John McKnight

8.1.1.   What is its history?

Discussed difference from the others – movement from community focus to individual focus.

8.1.2.   How it has been used by participants?

Like Arnstein, very clearly moving upward.

8.1.3.   What is great about the ladder?

Shift from client approach to empowerment is really key—and also really hard. It involves changes in your own language.
Importance of relationship-building.

8.1.4.   What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

Jess—the hierarchical structure (linear) doesn't work really well for us but the general idea applies (helping people transition from victim to producer/cultivator/maker)

9. Deborah Puntenney's "Resident Power Progression"

    9.1.1.   What is its history?

    9.1.2.   How it has been used by participants?

    9.1.3.   What is great about the ladder?

    9.1.4.   What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

10. **"Residents and their Associations: A Power Ladder" Jody Kretzmann, John McKnight, Sarah Dobrowolski, and Deborah Puntenney**

    10.1.1. What is its history?

    Builds on the others but refers to residents rather than the individual.

    10.1.2. How it has been used by participants?

    Like the others, the roles can be simultaneous and complementary.

    10.1.3. What is great about the ladder?

    The concepts are clear and it builds on the previous two ABCD ladders.

    10.1.4. What are its shortcomings and how it could be improved?

    Think that the ladder implies a hierarchy which is inconsistent with some of the group members' experiences with these processes.
    Stakeholder mapping changes all the time because availability and engagement change from topic to topic and change over time, within the same community.