



COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY

(सामुदायिक मनोविज्ञान)

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Brief History of Community Psychology

Community psychology began to emerge during the 1960s as a growing group of psychologists became dissatisfied with the ability of clinical psychology to address broader social issues. Today, many recognize a **1965** meeting of psychologists at the ***Swampscott Conference*** as the official beginning of contemporary community psychology. Two of the founders of the field who were in attendance are ***Seymour Bernard Sarason and James Gordon Kelly***.

In this meeting, those in attendance concluded that psychology needed to take a greater focus on community and social change in order to address mental health and well-being.

Since that time, the field has continued to grow.

Division 27 of the *American Psychological Association*, Society for ***Community Research and Action (SCRA)***, is devoted to the subject of community psychology.

Several academic journals are also devoted to the topic, including the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, *The Journal of Community Psychology*, and *The Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*.

Rise of Community Psychology in India

In India, the concept of Community Psychology ***emerged as a reaction to the hospitalization model*** of treating mental health problems.

There were very few institutions which provided training to the mental health professionals. The rise in the population of people suffering from mental illness forced the Indian government to look into the matter. ***The Bhore committee (1946) headed by Joseph Bhore*** which caused a dominant change in the national health policy by emphasizing focus on prevention, education and community assimilation. The committee affirmed on having trained professionals, greater manpower, better hospitals and rehabilitation strategies.

- **Dr. Vidya Sagar** involved families in treating patients during 1950s.
- **Professor Durganand Sinha**, father of India's Community Psychology movement made a cross analysis of the Community development Programme (CDP) in his book "*Indian Villages in Transition*" (1969).
- The **Community Psychology Association of India (CPAI)** was established in Lucknow in 1987 at Lucknow University with the goal of helping the communities.
- **The Indian Journal of Community Psychology** which was founded in 2004 documents researches in the area of Community Psychology.

- Books such as ***Working with Communities: An introduction to community work*** written by **H.Y. Siddiqui(1997)** focuses on community work and organization.
- ***National Institute of Education Planning and Administration***, New Delhi organized a conference on "Community Participation and Empowerment in Primary Education in India". The seminar highlighted the efforts of states and their experiences in combining participation in education.

Fields of Community Psychology

The field of community psychology can be defined as the branch of psychology that studies the relationship between individuals and society. While most psychology fields are focused on the individual, community psychology looks to first solve urgent societal concerns before they become individual concerns.

Community psychologists desire to create positive change by addressing pressing issues of social significance.



Prevention and Intervention



Social Justice and Equity



Health Promotion



Community Mental Health



Empowerment and Participation



Environmental Psychology



Program Evaluation and Research