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Editorial

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Editors

If we are to be honest with ourselves, we need to admit that communities are incredibly fluid and organic. There is no way we can predict the development of a community and how it will hinge on the social conditions that grow around it. However, this does not happen in isolation (Azzopardi, 2011). We live in a World characterised by ongoing changes and transformations resulting from our digitalisation, internal and external migration, changes in the economic model, travel, environmental and development issues, the impact of social media, and a dire cultural shift (Shaw, 2008). This is also within a context of post-truth that has left us reeling, trying to decipher what is true and what is not, creating a shadiness between an objective state of fact and the emotions that ensue that help swing the pendulum.

Naturally, whilst community is unyielding, and the spirit of community remains of the essence, the dynamics and intersections have fundamentally changed how we understand and conceptualize community (Azzopardi, 2012). Rituals are changing, lifestyles are governed by globalisation, and economic shifts have perpetuated a neo-liberal mindset that has completely remodelled our urban and rural communities. In many ways, this interconnectedness has brought about positive changes and reconstituted how we live and operate as a society. As Helen Keller (1903) noted alone we can do so little, together, we can do so much.

Being part of and owning a transformative community mindset entails active engagement in fostering positive change at individual, communal, and societal levels - a mindset of continuous learning, critical reflection, and empathy.

Individuals play vital roles as agents of change, recognising their power to influence and shape their communities, actual or virtual. Ownership of a transformative society requires a commitment to equity, justice, and sustainability, embracing diversity, valuing inclusivity, and promoting dialogue and collaboration to address complex societal challenges - a collective responsibility to contribute to a more just, compassionate, and resilient world, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive within a context that great things are done by a series of small things brought together (attributed to van Gogh).

This special edition will attempt to do several things but will primarily be circling on the following areas: understanding social change, mental health wellbeing, identifying the catalysts of social change, and attempting to conceptualise community transformations and their effect on wellbeing influenced by a myriad of factors that are brought about through the authors' relationship with the phenomena they present. (Azzopardi & Grech, 2012; Ledwith, 2020). This special edition is another loop in this Journal that should help us understand the ongoing community transformations happening around us reminiscent of the phrase popularised by American civil rights activist and used by Barack Obama in his 2008 presidential campaign: Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

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