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## Shaping the Future through Community Capacity Development

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This chapter comprehensively examines the critical interplay between community capacity development, tourism development, and sustainability in impoverished communities. Using theoretical and practical insights, this chapter highlights the transformative potential of community capacity development in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future for tourism. Empowering community residents is essential for sustainable tourism because it encourages responsible and environmentally friendly practices. These practices necessitate a multi-stakeholder approach, where each party plays a crucial role in achieving common goals. When working in harmony, this interconnected web of stakeholders can create a powerful force for positive change, driving innovation in sustainable practices and fostering a tourism model that benefits both the present and future generations.

### Introduction

Community capacity development, a bottom-up social change approach (Kelley, 2023) is most accomplished when those affected by challenges have the knowledge and skills to understand their problems and collaborate on solutions (Rothman, 2007). Chaskin (2001) defines it as “*the interaction of human capital, organizational resources, and social capital existing within a given community that can be leveraged to solve collective problems and improve or maintain the well-being of a given community.*”

Community capacity development capitalizes on existing community strengths, respects community values and beliefs, and utilizes diverse local resources such as social services, cultural institutions, educational programs, economic opportunities, and healthcare services (Kelley, 2023). Community mobilization improves a community’s ability to meet its economic, social, and environmental objectives using available resources. This enhances local individ-