**Review of the Book
“Etică și dezvoltare
comunitară” [Ethics
and Community
Development],
Author: Ana Caras,
Lumen Publishing
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Abstract: The book “Etică și dezvoltare comunitară” [Ethics and community development] by Ana Caras, published by Lumen Publishing House from Iași, Romania, in 2016, brings to the forefront a new perspective on development at the community level. The ethical approach of the paper that was the basis of this volume comes to complete the anthropological perspective and the aim is to evaluate the “effectiveness of the community development program” (Caras, 2016). As projects that take place at the rural level must have an ethical basis, the author emphasizes a number of elements aimed at responsibility, supporting the specific cultural element and the training of the community leaders and members.

Keywords: *social development, responsibility, social justice, Ana Caras.*

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When we talk about development, we bear in mind that the approach must be a multidisciplinary approach. The improvement of the quality of life of community members must be seen not only in a directional way, but must combine economic, cultural and educational elements. The community development presupposes “social change” (Caras, 2016). As people and societies in general evolve, the social development entails the following: involving all the social actors in solving problems related to that community, promoting the idea of participation, identifying, defining and solving issues, the sustainability and developing harmonious relationships among the community members (Caras, 2016).

In order to achieve the proposed objectives, the author Ana Caras highlights a number of models captured in the literature by renowned authors. The community must be changed for the better, and this is where the ethical consideration comes in, as the democratic procedures and helping the disadvantaged members are key to the functioning of the community.

The social change is one of the major themes of the twentieth century sociology (Caras, 2016); the transition from one state to another or the transition to a new state with a desired purpose is made in order to bring satisfaction to all the members involved, whether we are talking about public or private social actors (Arpad, 2019).

When we talk about the villages in the Romanian countryside, a special importance must be given to the standard of living, because, “over the years the rural communities have been studied either to establish the standard of living of their members, to facilitate the access to information, or to raise their standard of living, taking into account the current socio-economic context” (Caras, 2016).

In the author's opinion, the development of the rural area must be based upon the following: “placing man at the center of conceptions and decisions”, “protecting positive values”, “strengthening the community identity and fostering a sense of responsibility”, “promoting the historical particularities”, “encouraging the economic and social diversity” (Caras, 2016). Depending on the specific features of each rural area, the quality of life can be measured, if we take into account a number of classifications related to the modernization of certain structures, but the level of poverty (Caras, 2016) and the access to medical services can be measured as well.

With Romania's entry into the EU, there was an increase of the interest in the disadvantaged environments (Frunză, 2017). This is one of the reasons why NGOs have become involved and they developed strategies to fight social phenomena such as poverty, marginalization, and so on. These organizations have helped to raise the living standards of rural communities.

The effectiveness of the development programs can be influenced by a multitude of factors, but what is really relevant is their capacity for community action, as the basic referent of the community development actions is the very community.

In her approach, the researcher Ana Caras measured the effectiveness of the community development programs from the perspective of the social actors involved. As the ethical consideration is measured, the research aimed to determine the degree of determination and accountability of the members of the rural community, the efficiency of long-term investments in the economic change and the increased development opportunities with the involvement of all members of the community. The research targeted different categories of groups involved in the life of the rural community.

The researcher Ana Caras conducted an exhaustive analysis, while observing the ethical dimension of these programs. As community development affects us all, whether it is carried out at rural or urban level, the work is considered to be a reference for the following sociological research that focuses upon issues related to the social welfare and the standard of living.

The work of researcher Ana Caras is considered to be of paramount importance in terms of development programs at community level. Given the ethical consideration, we believe that the paper focuses upon a side that concerns us all, namely that of being responsible to the current, present generations, but also to the non-present generations. It is important that each of us contributes in one way or another to maintaining the values and traditions and at the same time to evolve, but this evolution must be achieved with a sense of accountability and responsibility. The author Ana Caras manages to capture all these aspects in her work, which is why her approach can be considered not only scientific, but also practical, for all the social actors involved.

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