Systemic Community Issues: An Internal (Emic) and External (Etic) Reflection

It Takes A Village Conference
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What is a Village?

“A group of animal dwellings resembling a village.”
What is a Village?

“A small community or group of houses in a rural area, larger than a hamlet and usually smaller than a town, and sometimes (as in parts of the U.S.) incorporated as a municipality.” (Geographic)

“An urban village is an urban development typically characterized by medium-density housing, mixed use zoning, good public transit and an emphasis on pedestrianization and public space.” (Geographic)

“A self-contained district or community within a town or city, regarded as having features characteristic of village life.” (Geo/Social)

What does village life mean?
What is Community?

“A community is a small or large social unit (a group of people) who have something in common, such as norms, religion, values, or identity.”
Types of Communities

**Place**: a sense of place that is situated in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, village, town, or neighborhood).

**Interest**: are groups of people who gather around common norms, values or foci.

**Practice**: are assembled around common areas of work or professions
What Do You Love About Your Community?
What Does Systemic Mean?

“Something that is spread throughout, system-wide, affecting a group or system, such as a body, economy, market or society as a whole”
Lyricism and Leadership: Hip Hop and Community Change
Systemic Structure Destruction

Verse 1: Broken Coaltrain

Poverty gap, gentrify your home
Government check, food stamp
She feeling all alone
Little mama gotta take the bus to third shift
Getting cat called she feeling like she deserves this
Waking up everyday feeling dismissed
Gotta work the three jobs to keep on paying the rent
Keep on making that bread to keep her children fed
Slinging on the side to afford her daily mess
We went from afros and Black Panthers
To MTV, Impalas
To wearing chains, skinny jeans

Draped in vanity
Now Eric Garner screaming 'help I can't breath'
We see the everyday pain of many people in grief
You blaming Marcus Garvey for hate
But y'all the ones who voted for the Alt-Right brigade
You acting pompous and preach
Instead of humbly teach
But everyday living
What you doing for peace?

Hook: Broken Coaltrain

Let the gods sing
Let the masses breath
Teach us self esteem
Don't sell out your dream
Verse 2: Mama Lou

All of our children need an education
To make us a strong, productive nation
But why are the poor and the kids of color
Whose brains have to wait while their bodies get taller
Constantly denied the true opportunity
(pause) To make their mark in society
Until we engage all of our neighbors
In an education for all of our scholars
This achievement gap begins when they are babies
Continues to get wider, now they labelled lazy
Today we have DeVos pushing schools of choice
Choice! For who! The ones with no knowledge or voice?
We know this to be the new name of segregation
Shaking our communities to their foundation
Without the destruction of these chains
Our nation will never make great gains

Hook: Mama Lou

Knowledge is power
Educate and inform
Create a free people
Enlighten and unify
Systemic Structure Destruction

Verse 3: Lotta' Mae

This system that we live in
Ain’t for us living
Their origin, was only given, by forced division
Made us build infrastructure, destroyed our land
Stripped our beliefs, names and said, “you can’t but we can”
Produced the klan, deprived melanin and common sense
Toxic vents, food, society, education. Created ruin of this so-called nation
But when you look at it, who are they really playing? Ha
Well they played monopoly on our backs like we were simple tools
Gained knowledge from us, but then claimed we were fools
That ain’t cool
Unless you see society’s view
Which doesn’t benefit me nor you
But helps this system bring us to doom
It says in the Word His name would become naught
And it did because His true name wasn’t taught
Yahuah, Elohim, Abba, Yah Almighty
The only one that can save us,
Not Society

Hook: Lotta' Mae

Our people are crying
Innocent loved ones dying
This systems structure ain’t for us
We need to unify, fix our minds, and emphasize love.

Outro: Broken Coal Train, Lotta' Mae, Mama Lou

Black Wall Street
MOVE Movement
Brandon Stanley
Daniel Shavel
Dylan Noble
Emmitt Till, JFK,
Martin Luther, Robert Kennedy,
Tony Sullivan, Trinity Gay
Lexington Village

What are systemic issues associated with our village?
Perspectives
What Are Your Perspectives Regarding Drug Abuse Within Our Community?

• Professionally?
• Personally?
Emic (Internal) Perspectives

INSIDER
Drug Users
Drug Dealer
Family/Friends
Counselors/Case Workers
Justice System
How Does Your Emic Perspective Affect You?

• What do you see and hear from day to day?
• What knowledge do you have about our community that most others don’t have a clue about?
• What emotions are evoked as you engage in our community/village issues?
• How do you cope?
• Do you ever suffer from compassion fatigue resulting from your internal perspective?
Etic (External) Perspectives
Broader Society
Employers

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME?
If yes, explain number of conviction(s), nature of offense(s), committed, sentence(s) imposed, and type(s) of rehabilitation required.

I WILL WORK 4 MARIJUANA
These Diverse Perspectives Can Divide the Village
How Do We Bring the Village Together?

• Have you reflected on your own perspectives and the reasons for those perspectives?
• What have you done/can you do, to try and empathize with or understand the individuals you work with day to day?
• What have you done/can you do, to better understand your professional colleagues and their roles in our community? What is their emic perspective?
• What do you do/could you do to take care of yourself so that you can care for others?
Village/Community Solidarity and Agency

• How do we build solidarity among different groups internally?

• How do we educate others about systemic community issues? (Is it your role? If not then who?)

• How do we promote empathy and understanding along with responsibility and accountability village wide?

• What impact could we make if we did so?
What Could the Future Look Like if We Translate Emic and Etic Perspectives When Tackling Systemic Community Issues?
Thank you!