

Chapter 9: Promote Knowledge Generation and Capacity Building

Overview

The process of **generating and disseminating knowledge** and **making data accessible** between knowledge generators and knowledge users is essential to turning knowledge into action. **Capacity building and skill development** among stakeholders, local government and others are also vital elements that will help carry this initiative forward.

Generate and Disseminate Specific Knowledge

Generating and disseminating knowledge are facets of an interactive process known as knowledge translation: the process of creating, disseminating, exchanging and applying knowledge in an ethically-sound manner through interactions between knowledge generators and knowledge users.¹⁴

The zero poverty initiative is committed to involving various stakeholders to tackle poverty in Oxford County. In doing so, this initiative acknowledges the need to combine different forms of knowledge – such as scientific, practice-based and experiential knowledge to help make decisions and implement best practice.

Additionally, throughout the zero poverty initiative, various strategies will be used to disseminate information to inform relevant parties about specific knowledge gathered.

Key Point

Combine different forms of knowledge and use various strategies to disseminate specific information to relevant audiences.

Make Knowledge and Data Accessible

The knowledge and data generated from this initiative may benefit individuals, professionals and organizations who have an interest in eliminating poverty in other regions. Therefore, it is important to make the information generated from this initiative easily accessible because it advances the body of knowledge in the area of poverty elimination and provides a stepping stone to those who are working towards a similar objective.

From a local perspective, making knowledge and data available provides an impetus for collaboration between those involved in the Zero Poverty Oxford Plan (knowledge generators) and other interested stakeholders (knowledge users). This form of collaboration is referred to as knowledge exchange and occurs when interaction between both groups results in mutual learning, which subsequently is reflected in the decision-making process.

Making knowledge and data accessible, via the reporting of findings from activities completed, also improves transparency and holds the Zero Poverty Steering Committee accountable to produce its intended results.

Lastly, leveraging existing community spaces or information hubs, such as libraries, can be a conduit to help those living in poverty obtain information about common issues or navigating the local health and social systems.

Key Point

Ensure that knowledge and data is easily accessible for audiences.

Promote Capacity Building and Training

Successful anti-poverty initiatives will require knowledge and skill development among stakeholders and local government. To support this, capacity building activities can be implemented to enhance the skills of those wishing to support the zero poverty initiative's objectives.

Training for service providers could entail cultural sensitivity training, as well as ways to seek more effective integration and synergy across organizations to strengthen service delivery to eliminate poverty. For example, activities could focus on alleviating barriers for people living in poverty who are unable to navigate the programs and services that are available across the County.

For those living in poverty, training could include skill development and opportunities that support people in their efforts to achieve employment and income security. It is important, however, that activities are tailored contextually to respond to the learning needs of the local population.

Increasing the political capacity of local government to adopt and implement evidence-driven policies is an also important facet to eliminating poverty.

Key Point

Ensure diverse capacity building and skill development initiatives are available for stakeholders, including local government.