

Social disadvantage as trauma: Building relational capacity for youth and families

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Purpose of workshop

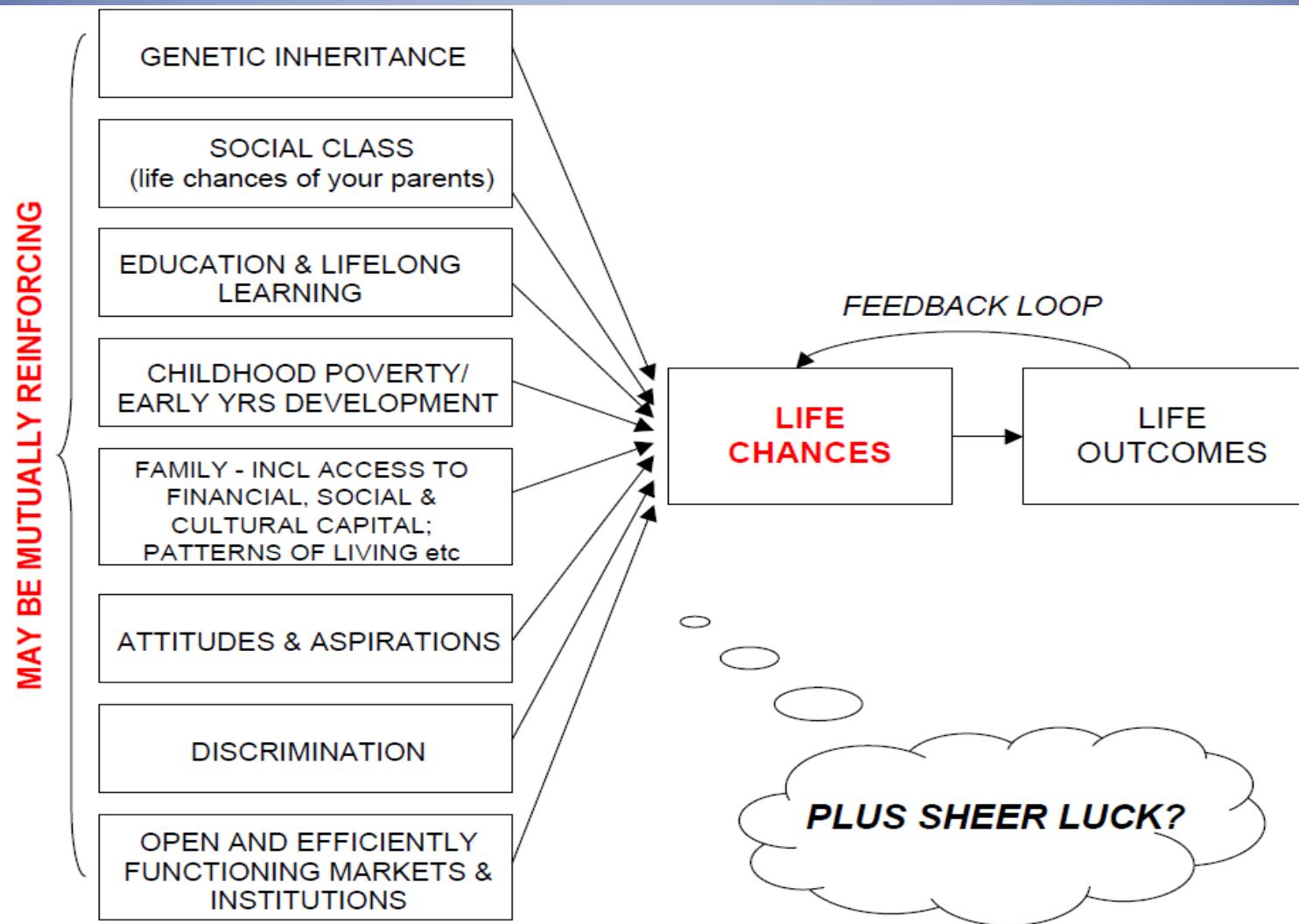
- To examine social disadvantage as a form of trauma;
- To assess relational practice with young people and families who experience social disadvantage, as a way of minimising the effects of, and breaking the cycle of trauma;
- To contemplate community capacity building as an approach to counteract the effects of social disadvantage and resultant trauma sustained;
- To compare and contrast Canadian and Irish perspectives.

Social disadvantage

Social disadvantage is not having some advantage that others have in a society.



Determinants of social advantage/disadvantage



(Aldridge, 2004, p.16)



Approaches to assess social advantage and disadvantage

- Resources and supports (e.g. household income surveys);
- Subjective well-being, happiness and utility (academic and political focus), [Resiliency];
- functioning and capabilities.

(Dean and Platt, 2016, p. 26-27)

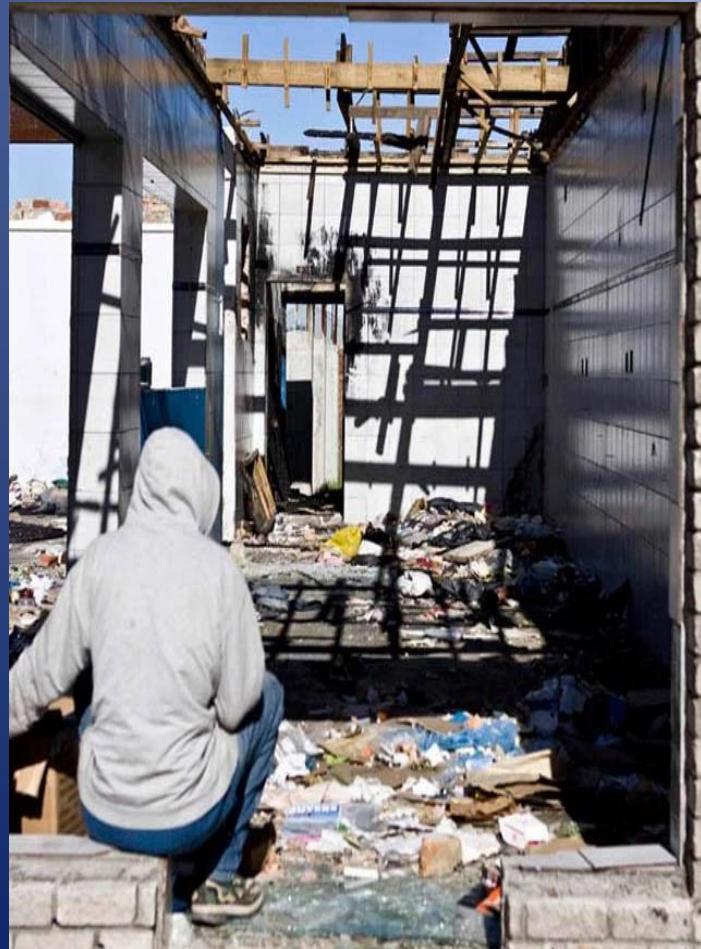
Some effects of social disadvantage

- Poverty (Eurostat, 2016);
- Material deprivation (Eurostat, 2016);
- Unemployment (Central Statistics Office, 2016);

Some effects of social disadvantage

- Child poverty (Central Statistics Office, 2015);
- Educational opportunities (Byrne and Smith, 2010; Williams at al, 2009);
- Health and mental health (Pavee Point, 2015; Mikkonen and Raphael, 2010);

Some effects of social disadvantage



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RidIgL6-e-A&feature=youtu.be>

Implications

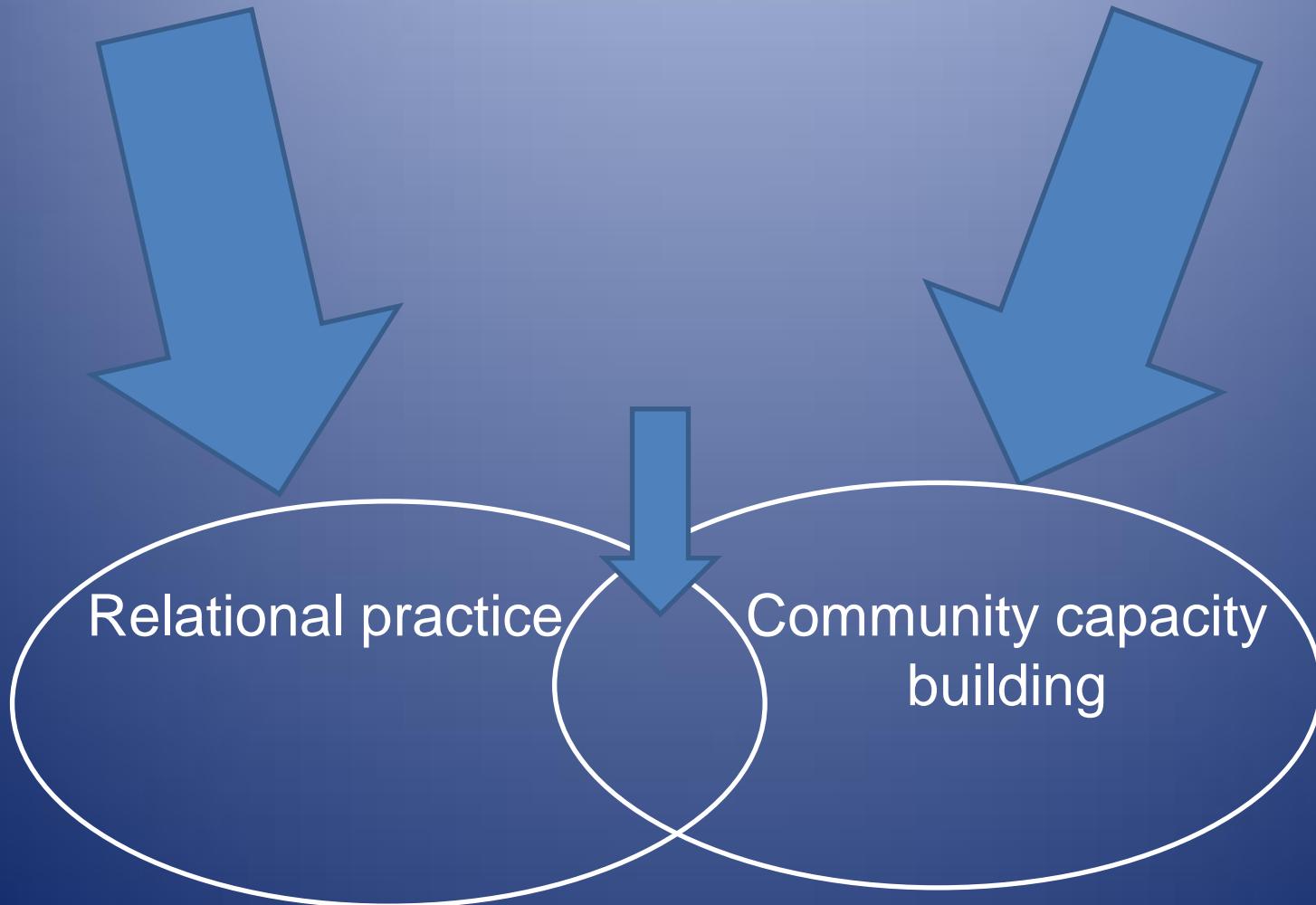
Social disadvantage is a sustained disruption within ones ecology, which can impact on growth and development at the individual, family and community level.

Social disadvantage as a form of trauma

We suggest that the experience of persistent social disadvantage can be interpreted as 'trauma'.

'Trauma' can be subtle, prolonged, and, because of that, become a part of our being.

Two-pronged approach to counteract the effects of social disadvantage and resultant trauma sustained



Relational practice

'Relational practice is a dynamic, rich, flexible, and continually evolving process of co-constructed inquiry. In this type of inquiry, meaning emerges within the 'space between' the individual, family, or community.'

(Bellefeuille and Jamieson, 2008, p. 38)

Community capacity building

'Capacity building is achieved by increasing the personal and collective resources of individuals and communities, to help them develop the skills and knowledge they need to respond to challenges and seize opportunities that come their way.'

(O'Doherty, 2012, p. 47)

Truth and reconciliation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK302Ai5e>

Ng

The Heart Beat – Comaka

I see you drumming and singing, trying to understand more about the heart beat of the first people.
I hear you singing a song that helped so many people for generations.

I can see it on your beautiful face, the happiness of holding the drum and really feeling the power a drum has for us all. It really makes me happy knowing that you have some knowledge to teach our future children, the traditions that are precious to our people. You must keep learning and continue to share the knowledge for generations to come. So come to the sacred circle of the heart beats.

Confidence: working in a way that increases people's knowledge and confidence.

Influence: working in a way that encourages and equips communities to take part and influence decisions.

Community empowerment

Inclusion: working in a way that recognises that discrimination exists, and promotes equality of opportunity and good relations.

Co-operation: working in a way that builds positive relationships across groups.

Organisation: working in a way that brings people together around common issues and concerns.

Working from the inside out.....

Traveller Primary Health Care Programme (Ireland)



Offaly Traveller Movement

Recap: Purpose of workshop

- To examine social disadvantage as a form of trauma;
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Scaffolding
by
Seamus Heaney

Masons, when they start upon a building,
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;
Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.
And, yet, all this comes down when the job's done
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.
So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me,
Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall,
Confident that we have built our wall.

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