Navigating Community Health Through Comparison

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About me

- Kevin Lumbard MS PMP
- I am a PhD Student at University of Nebraska at Omaha
- As a PhD student, how well I am doing is judged by publications.
Social Comparison

Why do we compare?
Finding Communities to Compare With

“The main thing is I am usually looking for a sense of what's familiar. For example, does this project feel like one of these projects. And which aspect of it, is it code, is it the user community, is it the purpose [of the] community? I want to understand the community or different ways in which the people or the tech or the user community are similar or more familiar that let them communicate or develop or use things.”
Finding Communities to Compare With

Build Coarse- and Fine-Grained Comparisons
• Community comparisons are based on similarities.

Rely on History
• Perception is based on personal and community histories.

The One Thing
• Communities narrow focus to compare very specific community components.
Identifying Shared Indicators

“It is a set of discussions where we are looking into the context and looking into the community's life [to] see how they are using the indicators. Whether [they think] it is useful for them or not, whether they think that they are able to balance out their ecosystem better, or they can predict some things that affect the health of their communities, or whether or not they think that they understand the dynamics of their own community better.”
Identifying Shared Health Indicators

Recognize Adoption by Other Projects
• Community members are aware of how other communities are using health indicators.

Use action-centric Indicators
• Use of health indicators leads to adoption of health indicators by other communities which leads to the creation of new action-centric indicators.

Identify Strengths and Weaknesses of Indicators in a Local Context
• Interpretation of health indicators is generally only useful at the individual community level.
From comparison we create uniformity

- Uniformity is helpful for providing a broad or general context for comparison
- Uniformity may miss important regions of health
From Uniformity Comes Competition

- In the absence of our ability to compare we attempt to elevate others to a comparable level.
- We form similar associations so that we can compete.
Key Takeaways - Where Do we Go From Here?

• Ask the Locals
• Orient via Landmarks and Reference Points
• Navigate Familiar Locations
• Build Maps
Thank You!

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[1] https://www.cycle.in/content/articles/happiness-well-being/why-do-we-compare

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