

Joana



Brief description of the activity

This activity is about the participant's perception of a story and to see different group dynamics.

Joana

Topics:

Social Inclusion, Anti-Racism, Group Dynamics, Conflict Management, Gender issues.

This activity is about people's perception of situations and is a way to see how different cultures address the same situation.

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Duration:

60 minutes

Costs:

Only related with printing materials, the rest can be created or drawn in a flipchart or board

Location:

Ideally it should be in a room but with the possibility for the group to go outside to make a discussion in smaller groups

Materials:

- 5 characters (coloured wooden pieces)
- 1 bridge (coloured wooden piece)
- 1 boat (coloured wooden piece)
- 1 card with Joana's story
- 25 cards to fill (depends on number of participants)

Staff needed and eventual specific skills required:

One facilitator: it is advised that this person has experience in leading group debate

Participants involved:

Number: 15-25 people

Age: 15-99 (however, discussion topics can be adapted to the group's age/profile)

Steps

Before

Have all the materials printed and ready to distribute. Read the story in order to know how to present it and be ready to explain any part that is not well understood by the participants.

During

Step 1: Read Joana's story to the all group using also the five characters, the bridge and the boat.

Step 2: Give to each participant one card to fill and ask them, at individual level, to list the characters (Joana, the mother, Zé, Victor and Carlos) in order of who you think acted the worst, with the worst behaved character at the bottom of your list, and the best-behaved character at the top of the list. Participants should not talk to anyone else when creating their list. Maximum: 5 minutes

Step 3: Divide the participants in small groups (for example, five participants each), gender and nationality balanced, and ask each group to discuss the differences and similarities of their individual lists. Each group should attempt to compromise and create a new common list for the group. Each group should also decide who among their group members will be the representative later on the plenary. Maximum: 15 minutes

Step 4: Gather all groups in a plenary session and ask each group's representative to share their list in the plenary and after moderate the discussion. Maximum: 20 minutes

Step 5: Debriefing. Maximum: 20 minutes

Debriefing

Ask why the group choose that specific person, what is their fault/ why should they be blamed for it. Make the contrast between the choices of each group on why one group didn't choose the person the other group

chose. Ask why they consider the act of one character worse than the other. Dissemination : Explain that different cultures associate different responsibilities to the same person, some may consider the mother should have helped the decision while others don't consider it relevant.

Do's and don'ts

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Control the group firmly and don't let the debate become personal between the participants. Always keep the focus on the story and say that there are no right or wrong answers, it is all a question of perspective.

Innovative aspects for the promotion of interculture

This activity allows participants to understand better the point of view of different cultures, their priorities and principles by giving their opinion about a specific story.

Annexes

Joana's Story

Once upon a time there was a very beautiful girl named Joana who lived in Amarante with her mother. Every day she crossed the city by the only bridge (of S. Gonçalo) over Tâmega river to meet her boyfriend, Victor, who lived on the left bank. She loved Victor and they were both very much in love. They walked the streets hand in hand so that everyone could see how much they loved each other.

One night a great flood brought down the bridge of S. Gonçalo and the next morning the lovers were on opposite sides of the river Tâmega. They could only wave their hands but they were very sad that they could not meet as they always did.

Joana was crying. She cried, cried and cried because she really wanted to see Victor, but it would take months before the new bridge was built and there was no other way to cross the river. A few days later, Joana saw a small boat ("guiga" in local language) standing on its side of the river

and went there to talk to the owner. "Please," pleaded Joana, "take me to the other side so I can see my Victor". The owner of the boat was called Zé. Few people spoke or knew Zé. Zé thought about Joana's problems and offered to help. "I will take you to the other bank" said Zé and Joana smiled, but only for a short time as Zé continued saying "I will take you to the other bank, if you sleep with me one night".

Joana's smile quickly turned into a scream and ran away in tears. She did not know what to do. She really wanted to see Victor but she didn't want to sleep with Zé. Joana was torn between seeing her boyfriend and having to cheat on him with Zé. She needed to ask someone for advice and decided to talk to her mother to whom she told the whole story. Her mother heard the whole story and, in the end, Joana was waiting for her mother's advice. "Well," said the mother, "you're going to have to make that decision alone, it's your decision alone." The mother did not advise Joana because she wanted her to decide for herself.

Joana was more confused than ever. She seated in a park thinking about all the options she had and decided that what she wanted most was to see Victor ... he would know what to do next. She got up and went to Zé. After sleeping with Zé he kept his word and took her to the other bank. As soon as Joana reached the other bank, she ran to Victor. With tears in her face she knocks on Victor's door and he is shocked to see her like this and wanted to know why she was crying. Joana explained to Victor everything that happened to her and when she said she had to sleep with Zé to see him, he was out of control.

"What?" He shouted "you betrayed me with... Zé". Joana tried to explain but Victor was so furious that he closed the door in her face saying he never wanted to see her again.

Joana was crying even more and she didn't even have her mother to comfort her. She knew where Victor's best friend, Carlos, lived and went to talk to him. When she found him at his house, she told him the whole story. Carlos invited her to come in and have some tea to calm her down and try to help as much as he could. As Joana explained everything

that had happened to her that day, Carlos was disgusted by the behaviour of his best friend Victor. He was so upset with Victor that he went to his house and beat him for having treated Joana so badly.

And so, the story ends!

Individual list (1=more guilty, 5= less guilty)		Small group list (1=more guilty, 5= less guilty)	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	

Bibliography

Adapted from Abigail's tale from Salto's Toolbox by Miguel Pinto.

