

Where do you stand?

Main Activity

source: Compacito



30-40 minutes



6-12 people

Topic

Human rights, Participation

Objectives

- To deepen understanding of participation
- To develop listening skills
- To develop discussion and argumentation skills



Materials

- Flipchart and pens
- String or chalk
- Paper and markers

Steps

1. Announce to the participants that you are interested in their opinion on some important questions. Explain that you will read a statement and individually they have to decide whether they agree or dis-agree with it and then stand in the part of the room where they see the relevant poster. The goal will be to convince other participants to change their opinion and position.
 - No-one can speak until everyone takes a position.
 - The more strongly you agree or disagree with the statement, the further away from the centre you will stand.
 - No-one can stay on the middle line, but if you cannot decide or feel confused about a question, you can stay towards the middle on one side or the other.
2. Show the participants the first statement and read it aloud. Then ask them to decide what they think and to take a position.
3. Wait until everyone has taken a position. Then ask individuals from both positions why they stood on the different sides. Let them discuss their views. Encourage many different participants to express an opinion.
4. After allowing a reasonable time for discussion, invite any participant who wishes to change positions. If several do, ask them what argument made them change their minds. Continue this process for all the statements.

Jammin
Board



ARTS



NFE



INCLUSION

Debriefing

- How did you like this exercise?
- Was it difficult to take a position in some cases? Which ones?
- Did you ever change your position? What made you do so?
- Were there some statements which were more complicated than others?
- Are there some statements you are still uncertain about?
- Would you like to discuss some issues further?
- Did you learn something new from this activity? If so, what?
- Are you able to participate in decision making in your family? Your class or school? Your community? Any other situation in your life?

Where do you stand?

Jammin
Board



Main Activity

source: *Compacito*



30-40 minutes



6-12 people

Sample statements

- All people, even the youngest, have the right to express their opinion on matters affecting them.
- Young people have no rights to participate in family decision making. Parents know best what is best for children.
- It can be dangerous for children to express their views on school issues.
- Only outspoken people or adults can participate in decision making.
- Every teenager can participate in the school parliament / student council with equal rights.
- Young people who have been in trouble with the law lose their right to participate in any decision making process.
- Not all teenagers have the same right to participate. Poor teenagers cannot participate as much as others.
- To participate at school means to talk a lot in class.
- If one's parents are separated or divorced, their children have the right to express their views in the legal process.