



Participation



5

Purpose: To help participants understand and explore their community.

Participant learning objectives:

1. Understand importance of community
2. Be motivated and able to maximize assets and opportunities available in the community
3. Understand the connection between individual and community

CONTENT	METHODS/ RESOURCES <i>Slides 53-58 can assist with this session.</i>	APPROX. TIME
What is Community?	<p>Ask participants to brainstorm what they think community means? This can be done as a whole group discussion.</p> <p>Provide participants with definitions of community. Explain that when we talk of community, we are either talking about the place where you live e.g., your village, street, town; or we are talking about a specific group of people who share a part of their identity/ have something in common e.g., religious community, sports community, interest community.</p>	5 minutes
Community Mapping Exercise	<p>Resources: Flipchart Markers Creative art materials Blu Tac Reflectors/ safety equipment/ torches etc. if taking a walking tour Smart phones for photographs Notepads/ pens</p> <p>The purpose of the community mapping exercise is to encourage further reflection on what comprises community, what assets are available in the community (both places and people), to reflect on shared and segregated spaces, opportunities for positive engagement, and perhaps what is missing in the community/ what could be improved.</p>	90 -120 minutes

This task works best when participants take a walking tour of their local community/ communities. If this is not possible, google maps can be used to assist participants. Ensure boundaries and routes are established prior to leaving your base and an adequate risk assessment is carried out to ensure the safety of all staff and participants. Before you begin, discuss with participants the neighbourhood you want to focus on – what streets/ area will be visited.

Ask participants to look out for:

- Resources in the area including places/ spaces/ buildings (libraries, shops, community halls, churches, youth clubs, schools, parks etc.)
- People (community groups, diverse groups of people who make up the community, people with influence, skills or talents, sports teams etc.)
- Opportunities to socialise
- Opportunities to get to know others from different backgrounds
- Places which are segregated and/or only used by a specific group of people
- Significant memories/ symbols
- Places where you feel safe/ unsafe

Provide participants with notepads/ pens and encourage them to take notes and/or pictures as they walk.

Once back at your base, divide participants into small groups (4-5). Keep participants from the same local area together. Provide each group with a flipchart page and some markers and/ or creative art materials.

Ask them to complete their community map.

Encourage groups to share their community maps and associated thoughts with the group. Did they notice anything new about their community?

Now ask participants to reflect on their findings and discuss the following three points:

- What are the positive things about living in your area? What makes you proud about your area? Think about what resources/ amenities are available, influential people who live there, how well looked-after it is, how diverse it is as a population etc. Do we utilize these things?
- What are some of the negative things about living in the area? Think about how these things make you feel. Do they make you feel unsafe? Do they affect your own personal well-being? Who is responsible for these negative issues?
- What further opportunities does your community present?

Ask each group to present and discuss their ideas to the rest of the group.



<p>Impact of Community on the Individual.</p>	<p>Resources: Flip chart Markers</p> <p>Introduce the proverb 'It takes a village to raise a child'. Brainstorm with the group – Do you agree with this proverb? How does our community influence us as individuals? How can we influence our community as individuals?</p> <p>Remind participants of the knowledge and skills learned to date – What participation is and why it is important, communication skills, teamwork and negotiation skills, self-awareness, and community/ societal awareness. Explain to participants that utilizing this knowledge and these skills will help them to have a greater influence on their community as individuals or as a group.</p>	<p>20 minutes</p>
<p>Evaluation/ Check-out</p>	<p>Resources: Informal evaluation ideas</p> <p>Choose an activity from the list provided.</p> <div> </div>	<p>10 minutes</p>

