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Intercultural learning (workshop)

Where are we going/where is humanity going?

There can be two sides, it depends from where we see it, we must agree to take a single path, but how?

Dynamic

Each participant is given a different phrase. Do not communicate or enter into contact with others. Look without communicating, imitate others. Get in touch with others.

For 5 or 10 minutes each person will have to do what their sentence indicates walking in the classroom, the dynamic will end when the facilitator indicates it.

11 will voluntarily explain how they felt during the exercise. Then each one will put in a post-it:

What worked?

What I would have liked to do

Reflection

Dialogue is a tool to communicate feelings or thoughts, the dialogue also represents a central tool for the resolution of conflicts but what happens when we can not dialogue?

Can we look for other ways to communicate?

During the dynamic there was the feeling of wanting to communicate, some did not achieve their goal, they were carried away by the emotions of others, such as the desire to hug or have eye contact with someone. The people who had the objective of getting in touch with others, tried in various ways to have contact. They tried to look for others, make gestures with their faces, call attention to people with physical contact and show a simple figure (a happy face).

Movie "No controles":

<https://youtu.be/GX-qyEBwV7k>

With a small scene from this film pay attention to: words - actions

Because the film is Mexican only Spanish-speaking people were able to understand what the people on the scene were talking about.

Reflection on the movie

The scene is about 4 men with characteristics similar to the previous exercise, who want to have the keys of a hotel room to make a Christmas party, while they talk to the head of the keys believing that he is an ignorant person use gestures and words to convince him, but the way to do it is derogatory.

People who do not understand Spanish believed that everything was fine, that they were friends of the head of the keys and that they were talking about the best way with him.

Exercise in a group

Each group formed by people of various nationalities, (Stonia, Bolivia, Italy and Guatemala)

They discuss the words that they say deceptively to foreigners, for example:

American people in other countries such as Guatemala are called gringos, or people who are from other countries and have light-colored hair are canches, in Estonia the Arabs are called Macaque.

Exercise

On the floor several pages with phrases and pictures that refer to the intercultural dialogue, written in different languages, each person takes a phrase and a photo that you guided more.

As a group, each person talks about what the photo and the phrase mean to her. Then each one thinks of a single word that means intercultural dialogue written in a post-it then on a poster each one must put the word.

Reflection

The word that is repeated is: Exchange/Exchange. Definitely there is no absolute definition of "Intercultural Dialogue" because it is open and changing.

Activity “The Derdians”

This game is a simulation of a meeting of two cultures. Find the key to foreign cultural behavior; analyze the effects of meeting with a foreign culture.

A team of engineers goes to another country in order to teach the people there how to build a bridge.

The situation: You live in a country called Dardia. The village you live in is separated from the next city where there is a market by a deep valley. To reach the market you have to walk for two days. If you had a bridge across the valley, you could get there in 5 hours.

The government of Dardia made a deal with a foreign firm to come to your village and teach you how to build a bridge. Your people will then be Dardia's first engineers. After having built that first bridge with the foreign experts you will be able to build bridges all over Dardia to facilitate other people's lives.

The bridge will be built out of paper, using pencils, rulers, scissors and glue. You know the materials and tools, but you don't know the construction techniques.

Social behaviour: The Dardians are used to touch each other. Their communication doesn't work without touching. Not being in contact while talking is considered very rude. You don't have to be in direct contact, though. If you join a group, you just hang on

to one member and are instantly included in the conversation.

It is also very important to greet each other when you meet, even when you just pass someone.

Greetings: The traditional greeting is a kiss on the shoulder. The person who starts the greeting kisses the other on the right shoulder. The other then kisses on the left shoulder. Every other form of kissing is insulting! Shaking hands is one of the biggest insults possible in Derdia. If a Derdian ever is insulted by not being greeted or touched while being talked to, he/she starts shouting loudly about it.

Yes/No: Derdians don't use the word no. They always say yes, although if they mean 'no', they accompany the 'yes' with an emphatic nodding of the head (you should practise this well).

Work behaviour: While working, the Derdians also touch a lot. The tools are gender-specific: scissors are male, pencil and ruler are female. Glue is neutral. Men never ever touch a pencil or a ruler. The same goes for women and scissors (I think it's got something to do with tradition or religion).

Foreigners: Derdians like company. Therefore they also like foreigners. But they are also very proud of themselves and their culture. They know that they'll never be able to build the bridge on their own. On the other hand they don't consider the foreigner's culture and education as superior. Building bridges is just a thing they don't know. They expect the foreigners to adapt to their culture. But because their own behaviour is natural to them, they can't explain it to the experts (this point is VERY important). A Derdian man will never get in contact with another man unless he is introduced by a woman. It does not matter whether the woman is Derdian or not.

The situation: You are a group of international engineers working for a multinational construction company. Your company has just signed a very important contract with the government of Derdia in which it committed itself to teach Derdians how to build a bridge. According to the contract signed, it is very important that you respect the deadline agreed, otherwise the contract will be cancelled and you will be unemployed. The Derdian government has a great interest in this project, which is funded by the European Union. Derdia is a very mountainous country, with many canyons and deep valleys, but no bridges. Therefore it always takes many days for Derdians to go from the villages to the market in the main city. It is estimated that with the bridge the Derdians could make the trip in only 5 hours. Since there are many canyons and rivers in Derdia, you can't just put a bridge there and take off again.