

SPACESHIP SURVIVAL

A FANTASY - SIMULATION

Finding one's Attitudes, Biases and Group Prejudices to People in Society,

Intent of this Exercise

- *To discover one's values in life:*
From the study of the values the group members attach to different professions, they may discover their 'value-system'. E.g. Prestige, service, monetary considerations, personal success, etc...(This discovery of the 'value-system' will come from the analysis of the replies to section (B) of the Spaceship Survival Form).
- *To discover one's attitudes, biases and prejudices towards groups of people by reason of Nationality, Ethnicity, Religious affiliation, etc.....(This discovery may come by analyzing the replies to Section (A) of the Survival Form).*

Target Audience:

All audiences. Note, however, that the 'Spaceship Survival Form' should be adapted to the 'socio-cultural' situation of the participants.

Uses of this Exercise

- Discussion groups
- Value clarification sessions.
- Self-discovery sessions. To find one's attitudes and prejudices towards others

Requirements:

- Writing material for all.
- A 'Spaceship Survival Form' for each participant: (Sample bellow)

1. INTRODUCTION Personal Work.

- Give The Space Survival Forms to all Participants.
- Ask them to fill the form alone and in silence. (*Instructions on how to fill the form are given in the form itself; however, if need be, explain the instructions to the participants by word of mouth*)

Spaceship Survival Form''

Instructions

A spaceship is traveling around the world. It is seen clearly that the earth is going to be destroyed in few hours' time. Within these hours, it is possible for the ship to land

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| _____ | Doctor | _____ | Writer |
| _____ | Cinema Star | _____ | Musician |
| _____ | Coolie | _____ | Scientist |
| _____ | Housewife | _____ | Scholar |
| _____ | Footballer | _____ | Cinema Star |
| _____ | Priest | _____ | (Any other) |

TABLE C. My Personal Choices.

PERSONS CHOSEN & THEIR PROFESSIONS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |
| 10 | |

2. Small Group Work:

- After the participants completed their work, divide them into small groups of four to six each.
- In the small groups, each member will share the choices he has made. Let him explain the reasons he had for his choice
- One of them will act as a Secretary. He will take jottings of what is shared and discussed.
- After the members of the small groups have shared their choices, they will discuss them and finally arrive to a common agreement on the ten people they, as a group, would like to save and the reasons they had for their group choice.
- Each spaceship crew will select a representative to explain their choices and their reasons to the whole house.

3. General Group Work

Sharing:

The group representatives will explain to the whole house their group choices and give their reasons. Their forms may be posted on the wall.

Reflection on their Choices.

After the different crew reports have been given, the participants will reflect on their small group choices and the reasons backing them, and discover what they can learn from them.

To help the crew members in their reflections, we pose here below, a few questions .

1. Were those people chosen because they fulfilled the common needs of the human race or the personal likings of the crew members? Explain.
2. Which choices were easiest to agree upon - nationality, race, religion, occupation, social status, etc.? What do we learn from this?
3. On which choices there was most disagreement among the crew members? Why?
4. Which nationalities, religions, ethnic groups and occupations were not chosen at all? Why? What does this show?
5. What attitudes, preferences, biases and prejudices surfaced during the discussions?
6. Now, imagine that you were of a different nationality or ethnic group, say a Hindu, a Muslim, a Japanese, a Harijan, a Brahmin, a Christian, a woman, etc., guess what changes would you make in your choices? What does this show?
7. While making the final choices, was there any thought of saving the cultural and moral values of the world?

Note: You may add other questions that may help you best for the discussion.

4. Thoughts for a Closing Instruction or Input

- Inherited, atavistic and subconscious cultural biases color our perceptions and choices.
- Inborn prejudices like race, religious, social, ethnic, caste, etc. ,blind us.
- All of us are victims of public opinion
- Advertising and propaganda brain-wash us.
- Our values motivate our choices...
- We rationalize our choices. - First we choose, then we try to find reasons to validate our choices...
- Our preferences betray our 'value-system'
- Values cannot be taught to anyone, we assimilate them by osmosis from society, family background, religious affiliation, nationality, etc.
- We imbibe the values of those we live with, not of those who teach us.
- Humans tend to be gregarious; they are ruled by the crowd...
- Fashions and fads lead us astray...
- We generalize about people and groups...
- Our group belonging conditions our perceptions...
- Basically, all men are of equal worth, all races, all nationalities, peoples of different religions are of equal worth!
- Differences are only superficial and peripheral.
- Patriotism is one of the most blinding and least discerning 'passions'
- As a whole, 'patriotism' is a make belief!
- Ideologies are of man's creation. They are relative, not absolute.
- The only absolutes are God first, and man last.
- Parochialism and politician interests bluff us into patriotism...
- Patriotism basically, should be born from the love we have for the people of our country, not the 'objectification' of our frontiers, of our flag, or of our history...
- It is foolish to die for 'our past history', our 'past glory', the 'traditions' of our 'forefathers' and all such crap!

- Love for our motherland begins at home by loving those closer to us, irrespectively of cast, creed, class or sex.
- Being fellow human beings comes first; political, socio-economic, cultural and religious affiliations come second and last.
- People take first priority, not things, institutions, creeds, ideologies, etc., “Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath”.
- We should be ready to die for the people of our country, not for the country in the abstract! Without people, there would not be country to die for.

5 Closing Prayer

- End in prayer. Bring the main ideas and findings of the session to God in prayer.
- Take the Parable the Last Judgment. Mt 25/11-46
- Our relationship with God is conditioned by the way we relate to others
- The top priority is man! Not traditions, rituals and ideologies.
“Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath!”

(Adapted from: “Education for Justice” of Thomas P. Fenton)