Ten Stones



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N° of pax 2-20

indoors | outdoors

group works

1-2 hours

Purpose

COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING

- awareness of the most important topics for the group
- learning outcomes through questions

Materials

- A4 paper
- pens (1 for each participant)

Preparation

- The question offered to the group to think about at the beginning of this activity needs to be thought through by the facilitator in relation to the group.

Intro

This is a creative activity in finding out what are the main questions a group may have about how to take the resources they get at the workshop offered previously out into life.

This tool is based on the The 10 Stones ancient way of the North American and Ancient Mayan Councils of choosing a question.

Steps

1. (30 min) The facilitator invites the participants to go on a walkabout in nature and reflect on their main questions concerning a theme/challenges relevant and while on the walk to collect 10 small stones.

2. (10 min) The participants gather back together and everyone is asked to write their questions on a sheet of A4 paper in large print so that everyone can easily read it. The questions should be short and easy to understand. It's helpful to not rush the process of refining the questions. Then, place all the questions on the floor in the centre of the circle.

3. (20 min) As a group look at all the questions and put together the similar ones, checking with the author if they feel the question is similar to the other and if not, it stays separate, and so on, until the group is happy with the questions displayed. Some questions may need to be re-written for more clarity.

4. Then everyone walks around all of them, and chooses the 4 that stand out as important to them. Then, each person takes their 10 small stones and on the question that's most important they place 4 stones, on the next most important place 3 stones, then 2 and then 1.



5. After participants count the amounts of stones for each question and write the total figure on each page.The question with the highest count is considered the most relevant question for the group to then discuss or take into another creative process.

6. If 2 or more questions have the same count, the 10 stones process is repeated. Normally 1 question will have a higher count. If both questions again have the same count then both can then be worked with - taken further with different creative and/or discussion processes.

Reflection

- How did you feel during the different parts of activity?
- What next steps or action will you take in regards to the question the group chose as most relevant?
- How do you think this activity can contribute to resilience building?

Comments

This tool can also be adapted for a group to choose a series of activities, or to make any other decision when a number of things have to be decided.