

Empowerment through Raising Awareness: Speaking about the Global South in Workshops and other Educational Events

What goals do we pursue with our work?

The aim of the work is to sensitize adolescents to socio-ecological and political inequalities, injustices and shortcomings and to reflect on their own role in the political-structural network. At the same time, new, alternative perspectives should be shown that allow a change of perspective and enable solution-oriented thinking. With our workshops, we want to present young people with opportunities for action and strengthen their self-efficacy. We initiate these processes in the workshop sessions.

How should workshops be organized?

The workshops are designed to reflect societal plurality as far as possible and to consider, take up and/or negotiate perspectives from the Global South. In doing so, we want to move away from the Eurocentric frame of reference.

This should happen without us speaking for and about people in the Global South, but rather letting them have their say. On the one hand, we want to create personal approaches and promote empathy; on the other hand, the workshops should not be designed to be emotionally charged and emotional stigmatization should be avoided. Instead, a space should be created that aims to empower people by recognizing and promoting their diversity and ability to act.

The central elements here are:

Allowing controversy, raising questions, adopting an inquisitive attitude, promoting tolerance of ambiguity, allowing simultaneity.

What should I bear in mind when organizing a workshop or event?

- Explain wording / terms
- Naming your own perspective / reflecting on and naming the limits of your own experience
- Show where the methods / concepts / knowledge come from
- Show people and let them speak for themselves
 - remain multi-layered, do not reduce people to one characteristic
 - no victim narrative, depict ability to act
 - do not reproduce stereotypes
- Allow sufficient time to contextualize methods (e.g. stating facts) and reflect on them

- Critically review goals and methods

Further literature / impulses / positive examples

- Glocal e.V. (2013). Education for sustainable inequality. https://www.glocal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Glocal-e-V_Bildung-fuer-nachhaltige-Ungleichheit_Barrierefrei-Illustrationen-26-03-2013-2.pdf
- EPIZ (2019): World Chat - virtual exchange for global learning. <https://www.bildung-trifft-entwicklung.de/de/ueber-cdw.html>Projekt
- Climate Stories. <https://www.climate-stories.de>
- EWIK: Global Learning Portal. The central portal for global learning and education for sustainable development (ESD). <https://www.globaleslernen.de/de>

Disclaimer

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