

Active Learning Exercise about Global Wealth and Need

Supplies Needed:

Index cards
Envelopes
1 gallon clean water
1 qt dirty water
170 bandaids
221 popsicle sticks with lightning bolts on them
Monopoly/fake money: 8 x \$500; 18 x \$100; 5 x \$1
M & Ms - ziplock bags with 40, 20, 5, 1

Players: 21 - 28; extras after 28 can double up. Assign countries by #'d order to keep geographic proportions fairly accurate (see spread sheet #'s).

Prepare Index Cards:

- Provide each player with a card with their country name and some statistics on it (do NOT include any indicators of what the statistics represent).

Country Name

Region

1. Yes /No (%) [%of pop with access to clean water]
2. # [# of physicians per 100,000 people]
3. # [# of kw/hrs of electricity consumption per capita]
4. \$ [average per capita income]
5. % [% of children under 5 who are underweight]

Format:

For each issue the players will:

1. divide into different groups
2. receive a symbolic resource
3. find out what their resource and statistic represents
4. compare their position with other countries.

Introduction

- This is an exercise to demonstrate visually how different resources are distributed globally, such as food, clean water, energy, health care and wealth. There are currently 6 billion people in the world, but the quality of life for each person varies greatly depending on where they live. Approximately 1 billion live in the "global north" - developed countries such as the US, Britain, Japan, or Australia. 5 billion live in developing countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.
- Everyone in the room will be representing one country. As we look at each issue, you will need to sort yourself and find which group you belong with. Then each group will receive their share of the resource.

Instructions

- On the back of your chair you will find an envelope with an index card in it. Take it out and see what country you will represent.
- You will also find 5 additional statistics or categories on the card. You will learn about each of these as we proceed.

1. Clean Water (2 groups)
 - Under #1 you have a yes or no. All of those with "yes" form one group (70-100%). All of those with "no" form a second group (Below 70%).
 - Present Yes group with Gallon of Clean Water
 - Ask No group to walk across the room to get their quart of dirty water (Many people must walk over a mile to get water and it is often not clean).
 - Yes and no are the answers to the question: Do you have access to clean water? As you can see from the two groups, approximately 20% of the world population (1.5 billion people) do NOT have access to clean water. The percentage in parentheses is the % of the population in your country with access to clean water. Share these numbers with those standing in your group.

2. Health care (Ranged in a line from high to low)
 - Look at the number under #2 on your card. Arrange yourself from highest to lowest in a line.
 - Distribute 20 bandaids to those over 250 (Norway, US, Mongolia)
 - Give 10 to those between 100 - 250 (total of 9)
 - Give 1 bandaid to those between 25 - 100 (total of 8)
 - Give ½ bandaid to those below 25 (total of 8)
 - This is the number of physicians per 100,000 people in the country.
 - Let's find out where the countries at the top and bottom are. Will those from Africa take one step forward. Those from Asia, take one step forward. You can clearly see that the availability of healthcare is much better in the North and Latin America.

3. Energy (3 groups)
 - Look at #3. Form three groups: 5,000 and up; 500 - 5000; under 500.
 - Distribute popsicle sticks:
 - Group 1 (5,000+) gets 200 sticks
 - Group 2 (500-5000) gets 20 sticks
 - Group 3 (under 500) gets 1 stick
 - The sticks represent energy consumption. The number on your card is the number of kilowatt hours of electricity consumed per capita.
 - Share stats between groups - ask a few people to list their country and their kw/hr consumption.

4. Per capita income (range in a line; OR in 3 groups)
 - Look at #4.
 - Arrange yourselves from highest to lowest.
 - OR divide into three groups
 - Group 1 - \$10,000 +
 - Group 2 - \$1,500 - \$10,000
 - Group 3 - under \$1,000
 - Distribute monopoly money:
 - \$1000 to those over \$10,000 (total of 5);
 - \$ 100 to those between \$1,500 - \$10,000 (total of 18)
 - \$ 1 to those under \$1500 (total of 5)
 - This dollar amount is the average per capita income of people in each country. The average in the global north is **\$26,000**; **GET 2005 figures** Latin American average is **\$7,000**; South Asia is **\$2,700**; and Sub Saharan Africa is **\$1,800**. Note that this figure is an average, thus there are a few who have a lot more, and a lot who have less. The ratio of the gap between the wealthiest and poorest in the world is approximately 80:1. The wealthiest populations have 80 times the income of the poorest.
 - African countries step forward.
 - Asian countries step forward. Again, you can see where the greatest poverty is geographically.

5. Nutrition (by geographic region)

- Arrange yourselves by geographic region: global north (developed countries), Latin America, Asia and Africa.
 - You will notice that there are more people in the Asian and African groups. This represents the proportion of the global population living in these areas.
 - Compare your statistic for #5 - this is the % of children under 5 who are underweight.
 - There is currently enough food in the world to feed everyone, but it is not well distributed and the consequence is the many children as well as adults suffer from malnutrition and hunger. There are approximately 900 mil undernourished children in the world. 25% of the children worldwide are underweight.
 - Distribute M & M's
 - Global North (3 - 4 countries)- Group gets 40 candies
 - Latin America (3 - 4 countries) - Group gets 20 candies
 - Africa (6 - 8 countries) - Group gets 5 candies
 - Asia (9-12 countries) - Group gets 1 candy
 - As you can see, some countries have an abundance of food, many do not have enough.
- ** Ask if there are any questions about the exercise.
[Do NOT suggest redistribution of the candies. Wait to see if the wealthy groups decide to share with the others. If they do, note that this same kind of sharing and redistribution is possible globally as well.]
- Provide Stats sheet (see spread sheet pg 8) and handout for Opportunity for Action (optional).