

RESPECT



Bus Ride

Introduction

Information plays a vital role in respect and disrespect people show towards each other. Misinformation and disinformation can create false perceptions about each other, earning both respect and disrespect.

The objective of this activity is to learn how to hold our assumptions lightly and to be aware that some information can be misleading creating disrespect or false respect towards a person.

Instructions

- Arrange few chairs in a structure of a bus.
- Invite a few volunteers who would be given the characters such as school principal, religious leader, politician, garbage collector and a drug dealer.
- Randomly pick some bus seats and label those with the above said characters.
- Request the volunteers to sit on the labeled seats, but ensure they do not sit on the labeled seat that belongs to their character.
- Ask the remaining volunteers to enter the bus from behind where they can see the characters given to the ones seated.
- Instruct them to carefully observe and sit wherever they would like to sit.
- Give the participants 4-6 minutes to be in the bus with the instructions for the second set of volunteers to ask the respect and disrespect related questions from the volunteers who are already seated.

Suggested Questions:

- Do you feel heard when you voice out your opinion?
- Are you a role model for people?
- Do people greet you when they see you are at a public space?
- Do people use respectful language when they talk to you?
- Do people seek advice from you to improve themselves?
- Do people let you intervene when there is a dispute and solve issue?
- Do you get invited to events and ceremonies in your community?
- Do you have to be in a queue or do you get special privileges when you are in a public space?

Reflections

- How did the activity make you feel?
- Ask the second set of volunteers:
 - Did the answers match with the characters you have seen? Were there any gaps?
 - How did you feel when your initial perception based on the label was challenged with their answers?

After revealing the actual characters of the first set of volunteers the following reflections can be made,

- How can misinformation and disinformation lead to strong assumptions and stereotypes?
- How can we use respect for others as an intervention during these situations?
- Optional: Have you been treated with disrespect due to misinformation or disinformation? How did that make you feel?

Introduction

Respect is considered an important value, which acts as a foundation when establishing relationships and setting up social dynamics whereas disrespect can have wrecking impacts on social dynamics by targeting certain individuals or group of people. These situations can be worsened when we already have prejudices against certain individuals or groups of people, where disrespect or mislead forms of respect towards others can be easily triggered without much effort.

The objective of this activity is to understand how an added lens of prejudice can easily contribute to the spread of misinformation/ disinformation, which in turn will partially or entirely change our perception.

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the page 'SL News'. The post features a newspaper-style headline: 'SL NEWS BUS CONDUCTOR SPREADS CORONA VIRUS!'. Below the headline is an illustration of a bus conductor and passengers. The text below the illustration reads: 'IT IS REPORTED THAT THE BUS CONDUCTOR IN THE COLOMBO-PANADURA ROUTE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A NEW CLUSTER BECAUSE HE HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION TO BE SAFE.' The post has 643K likes and 232K comments. The comments section shows several users expressing anger and criticism towards the conductor and the news outlet. The Facebook interface includes a search bar, navigation tabs (Page, Inbox, etc.), and a footer with privacy and copyright information.

Facebook navigation bar: Home, Find Friends, Notifications (16), Insights, Publishing Tools, More, Settings, Help.

Page navigation: Page, Inbox, Manage Jobs, Notifications (16), Insights, Publishing Tools, More, Settings, Help.

Post interaction: Like, Follow, Share, ...

SL News profile: Home, Order online, Offers, See more, Promote, Manage Promotions.

SL News post content:
JUNE 2020 | ISSUE NO. 16 | RS.150
SL NEWS
BUS CONDUCTOR SPREADS CORONA VIRUS!
IT IS REPORTED THAT THE BUS CONDUCTOR IN THE COLOMBO-PANADURA ROUTE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CREATING A NEW CLUSTER BECAUSE HE HAS NOT TAKEN ACTION TO BE SAFE.

Comments:
Ceylon boy: Why can't these people be more responsible uneducated fools!
Rudra Prathap: I think we need to be more responsible before targeting people who try to earn a living. peace! :)
Shasthre Bandara: can we expect these people to be intelligent? they are good for nothing.
Sandaru Jalika: I just heard that there are 1500 people infected!! how can he do this to us! again!
Pathirana Serasingha: Its not ok to target just one person, we need to take equal responsibility!

SL News, 150, 5th Lane Colombo 3, Sri Lanka

Language options: English (US), Polski, šlónskó gódka, Español, Português (Brasil)

Footer: Privacy, Terms, Advertising, Ad Choices, Cookies, More, Facebook ©2020

Instructions

- Display the Facebook post that has triggered public reaction.
- Invite participants to carefully observe and analyze the content of the post and the public reactions to the news revealed.
- Divide participants into 4 groups to discuss, their thoughts and opinions about the given situation.

Reflections

- What were your initial reactions when you saw the post?
- Do you think that this post contains accurate information? If so why do you assume so? If not, please explain why.

Reveal that this post contains misinformation/ disinformation (fake post with fake reactions):

- How do you feel now that you are aware that this post contains misinformation/ disinformation?
- What real life situations can you think about that might have triggered similar reactions?
 - What misinformation/ disinformation did that situation contain?
 - What were the public/ community reactions to it?
 - What impact(s) did it cause on the particular individual/ group of people involved or targeted in the situation?
- Were certain reactions triggered from existing prejudices against certain individuals/ group of people? (E.g. prejudice against religion, ethnicity, gender, occupation, social class, among others.)
- Can adding the prejudice lens change how we respect or disrespect others?
- Optional: Do certain parties use these existing prejudices to create more misinformation/ disinformation against targeted individuals/ group of people?
- Optional: Do you have any similar personal experience where misinformation or disinformation, has altered your level of respect towards another person or a community?