

WORKING TOGETHER, COOPERATION



Introduction

Misinformation and disinformation have the potential to damage personal and community relationships, thereby having a serious effect on how we cooperate with others. World Café provides an opportunity to explore ideas and suggestions on a focused topic in a facilitated environment. World Café is a way of applying good practice to listening and giving our opinion when working in a group. It is also a technique for generating details or clarity on ideas, in order to reach collective solutions.

The objective of this activity is to understand causes, impacts and mitigation of misinformation and disinformation.

Instructions

- Write the following questions on three separate flip charts;
 - Group A: Causes - What gives rise to misinformation or disinformation?
 - Group B: Impact - What are the impacts of misinformation or disinformation on cooperation?
 - Group C: Mitigation - What can be done to minimize the spread of misinformation or disinformation that hinders cooperation?
- Display the three flip charts to the participants on three separate tables.
- Appoint a table host to each group, who will remain stationed at the table throughout the activity.
- Invite participants to walk around and read the three questions and pick their preferred table.
- Ask participants to brainstorm on the question within their chosen group.
- Instruct the table host to note down all the ideas and suggestions given by the group members on the flip chart.
- Inform participants that they are required to change the groups every 10 minutes when the facilitator requests so.
- Continue the process until everyone had the opportunity to share ideas in all three groups.
- Instruct the table host to display the flip chart and summarize what was been discussed to the larger group.

Reflections

- What are the examples or personal experiences where misinformation or disinformation affected cooperation between people?
- Optional: Can misinformation or disinformation be circulated with a good intention? What are such examples?
- Can misinformation or disinformation create positive outcomes? What are such examples?
- Can cooperation counter misinformation or disinformation?

Introduction

There are instances where others are providing us ambiguous information, leading us to develop our own misinterpretations and misunderstandings, creating thus problematic situations. Specially, when working in a group environment, we might easily misinterpret relatively simple instructions that results in deviated outcomes.

The objective of this activity is to explore how ambiguous instructions are differently understood by each person, leading them to develop their own interpretations on the same information.

Instructions

- Ask for 5-10 volunteers from the group to come forward and stand facing the group.
- Provide a square sheet of paper to each volunteer.
- Below two rules should be given to them before proceeding to the next steps:
 - Volunteers must close their eyes during the exercise.
 - Volunteers may not ask any question.
- Instruct the volunteers to fold their paper in half in any way they wish.
- Then ask them to tear off the bottom right corner of the paper.
- Tell them to fold the paper in half again and then to tear off the upper right-hand corner.
- Tell them to fold the paper in half again and then to tear off the lower left-hand corner.
- Instruct them to open their eyes and display the unfolded paper to each other and the audience.



Note: Square sheets are interesting, as participants could choose to fold horizontally or vertically, thus creating a rectangle/ square, or fold it diagonally (from corner to corner), thus creating a triangle.

Reflections

In all likelihood, the sheets of papers will not look the same. Ask the following questions to begin the reflections:

- How is it that the same instructions were differently understood by each person?
- What words in the instructions could have been interpreted in different ways?
- Optional: How could the provided information been clearer to reduce the ambiguity?
- Optional: How can we encourage people to ask for clarification when they do not understand the information?
- Can ambiguity in information create a space for misinformation and disinformation to generate?
- How can the ambiguous information affect cooperation and team work?