Social Club

BRIDGE Lab

Activity 4.4

A Fairer World

Difference is natural; inequality is unfair treatment. Creating fairer conditions is a shared responsibility!

What do equality, equity or fairness actually mean and how should these words be used? In this material we are referring a lot to inclusion, which is the opposite of exclusion. But all these concepts are connected, many others. The idea about equality and equity predates the human rights discussion. Equality and equity terms translate into different societies and languages eg. according to vocabulary used in legislation. For this reason, it might be that we understand these concepts in a variety of ways. The word “fairness” describes well the everyday efforts to see and meet the diverse needs of the members in our societies and communities. What is fair does not always mean that everybody would be offered the same support or possibilities. Also, we are all part of systems that can be unfair, even when we don’t mean to be.

Step 1. What vocabulary do you use?

Make small groups (3-5 people). Have a discussion on what vocabulary do you use when you talk about fairness/equality/equity/inclusion? Perhaps you use these terms in multiple languages. Share understanding and check some definitions, if you feel unsure. It is important to work out ‘language muscles’ to learn to talk and refer to these issues.

Step 2. Same for all – is it always fair?

In the picture the people are watching to spot beautiful deer that live in the local forest. A fence has been built to divide the forest area and bicycle road to increase safety for all. Look at the fence and the people spotting the deer.

- Which one of the fence options creates the most equal and fair possibilities for all and which one is the least preferable option? Why? Would you have even better options?
- Why does treating everyone the same sometimes create inequality?
- How about if you look at the situation from the perspective of the deer? What do you think would be the fairest solution for them and why?
- Who is responsible for making things fairer: individuals, institutions, or everyone?

Picture: https://www.equasense.co.uk

Step 3: Connection to everyday life

Now let's bring this back to our daily reality. Let's continue working in the same group.

- Think about together:

A classroom rule, habit, or "normal" practice that might disadvantage some people.

- Then continue towards solutions:

What small actions could you make to be more part of the solution and making the situation fairer (even if I'm not in charge):

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- Sharing with the whole group

What did you learn during this session? And which challenges and possible solutions did you recognize.