

DEVELOPING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE WE GO TO SERVE

Date: 04/11

(1 HOUR)

- OBJECTIVES:** After working through this lesson, participants will be able to:
1. See those they serve in as stewards of resources rather than victims of circumstance.
 2. Create healthy and mutually transforming relationships between short term teams and hosting communities.

OVERVIEW FOR TRAINERS: This is part of a series for use in training short term teams.

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
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Begin by telling the following story:

At age 17, Maria was victim of an accidental shooting. The bullet lodged in her spine and paralyzed her from the waist down.

At the time of the accident, Maria was surrounded by friends who knew and loved her. They knew her as a good student who played basketball, volleyball, and soccer. They knew her for her major role in the school play, and her marvelous singing voice. They knew her as a person who loved the Lord and was active in her youth group. They knew her as a loyal friend.

After her injury, Maria left her small town to go to a university in the city. People there couldn't seem to look beyond her wheelchair to see her strengths and abilities. It seemed that the wheelchair was all they could see. She found it difficult to develop meaningful relationships.

After one year at university, Maria returned home to her small town where people saw and appreciated her for who she was.

----SHOWD questions----

S = What do you **See**?

H = What is **H**appening?

O = Does this happen in **O**ur place?

TITLE

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
<p>I. Ask the large group: Why do we, as short term missionaries, tend to focus on the needs of our partners overseas instead of their assets?</p>		<p>I. <u>Why we tend to focus on needs</u></p> <p>A. We want to help B. We think that poverty is a lack of material possessions, and that the solution to poverty is "things". C. We don't understand the difference between relief and development D. We think that we have what they need E. We feel good about ourselves when we can solve a problem F. We don't believe that they have anything to give that we would want.</p>
<p>II. Divide into small groups to discuss the two questions below and report back.</p>		<p><u>Hazards of focusing on needs</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't see our partner's potential 2. Reinforce their negative self image 3. Create dysfunctional relationships 4. Encourage dependencies 5. Fail to leave them with a vision for what they can do for themselves 6. Forfeit the opportunity to learn from them 7. Fail to see our own poverty (social, spiritual, emotional) 8. Think more of ourselves than we should
<p>A. What are the hazards of focusing on needs and ignoring assets?</p>		
<p>B. What are the benefits of focusing on assets?</p>		<p><u>Benefits of focusing on assets</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People get a vision of what they can do for themselves 2. People see themselves as stewards of resources rather than victims of circumstance 3. People are valued for who they are 4. Creates healthy relationships 5. Projects can be community owned 6. Projects are sustainable and reproducible.

METHOD

TIME

KNOWLEDGE

- III. Distribute the Handout titled "Two Kinds of Relationship that Frequently Develop between Short Term Teams and the Communities they Serve".

Cow and Farmer: The community milks the short term team for everything they can get.

Horse and Rider: The short term team rides the community and directs every move.

- IV.



----SHOWD questions----

S = What do you See?
H = What is Happening?

- A. Brainstorm with the large group: What do short-term teams do that contributes to these kinds of relationships?

Causes for "cow and farmer" and "horse and rider" relationships

1. Thinking that they have nothing
2. Failing to see their assets and the resources available to them
3. Believing that we have the answer and know what is best
4. Lack of respect for the people we serve
5. Not taking time to get to know them
6. Failing to see their past achievements and future potential
7. Believing they can't help themselves

TITLE

METHOD	TIME	KNOWLEDGE
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B. In small groups, brainstorm characteristics of a healthy relationship between a short term team and a community. Then come up with a picture to describe it.

- B. Characteristics of a healthy relationship
1. Mutual respect
 2. Mutual learning
 3. See each other as made in the image of God and stewards of resources
 4. Humility
 5. Giving and Receiving

One example of a healthy partnership might be two oxen yoked together. Both have something to give. They strengthen each other in the work God has given, and together they achieve something that neither of them can do alone.

References:

ATTITUDE: Facilitator and participants should have respect for the dignity and capabilities of those with whom they partner

SKILL: Participants will develop healthy relationships with partners they go to serve by focusing on what their partners have and not what they lack.

EVALUATION: Are the participants able to see their partners as stewards of resources rather than victims of circumstance?

MATERIALS: -Newsprint, markers, masking tape, handout "Two Kinds of Relationship"

This lesson is used in: Short Term Teams Vision Seminar; Short Term Teams Training

Two Kinds of Relationship that Frequently Develop Between Short Term Teams and the Communities They Serve



The cow and the farmer: The community milks the short term team for everything they can get.

The Horse and Rider: The short term team rides the community and directs every move.



These two kinds of relationship are often co-dependent, and we often aren't aware we are in them.