

**Discussion Session: Toilets and Infrastructure in Schools**

**Objectives:**

- To introduce students to the concepts of educational theory
- To introduce students to issues regarding school environment, safety, etc.
- To make students aware of the differences and similarities between various education systems from around the world

**Materials/Preparation:**

- Powerpoint slide
- Copies of handout for each student
- Pens/pencils

**Procedure [1 hour]**

Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set up visual material</li> <li>- Pass out handouts, and writing utensils if necessary, to each student</li> </ul>
<b>Part I: School Environment</b>	
2 minutes	How much time does the average student spend in school?
22 minutes	<p>Students are going to use their logic and impressions of what is necessary in a school to hone in on the top two or three factors that create a safe and conducive learning environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Break up into groups of three to five</li> <li>- Each student should have a handout listing 15-20 factors of a school's environment</li> <li>- Each group should spend ~7 minutes debating among themselves, with the goal of choosing their own top five factors.</li> <li>- Each group presents their choices to the rest of the class. They should express their arguments behind each choice, and share their reasoning with the class</li> <li>- As groups present, teacher should keep track of top factors on the board. Once each group has presented, the class should, through open discussion, debate and vote on the three most important factors. Ask students to give arguments for and against the importance of each factor to help the class make its decision.</li> </ul>
<b>Part II: Evolution of Schools</b>	

10 minutes	<p>PowerPoint Presentation comparing and contrasting different education. This teaches the students how the notion of what a safe school environment actually is has evolved over hundreds of years in different countries around the world. After each country, ask the class what they think could be the problems of each education system.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evolution of Schools in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One room schoolhouse → Modern Schools</li> <li>- Highlight that there is no national curriculum and therefore no national, public tests</li> <li>- Emphasize that the vast majority of students attend public school, and that the focus of schools is different</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Evolution of Schools in India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monastic System → British reforms → Modern System</li> <li>- Urge the class to think about the effect that language has on Indian schools, and to begin to brainstorm why its dropout rate is so high</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Evolution of Schools in South Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing nation → Education reform → Modern System</li> <li>- Highlight the fact that most of South Korean society revolves around education, long school days, mentality of students</li> <li>- Pressure to do well</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Part III: Real World Limitations and Consequences</b>	
4 minutes	<p>Explain to the class that these example models of education systems are the standards that the government puts in place, but not all schools in that country will meet those standards.</p> <p>Discussion question for the class:  Why would a school not be able to meet these standards, or have all the factors necessary in schools that we discussed at the beginning of the class?  What prevents ideal schools from being built?  Track their responses on the board.</p>
2 minutes	<p>Discussion question for the class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What can happen when these basic factors aren't met? What are the repercussions?</li> <li>- Which of these factors and/or standards do you think are the hardest to obtain? Which are the easiest? Why?</li> </ul>
<b>Part IV: Repercussions of Not Having or Meeting Standards</b>	
2 minutes	<p>Flip through the slides showing poor ventilation and sanitation. Explain the side effects of each of these and their potential hazards.</p>

4 minutes	<p>Case Study: Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics on lack of sanitation in Indonesian schools</li> <li>- Health, social, economic consequences</li> </ul> <p>Case Study: Nicaragua</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Statistics on lack of sanitation in Nicaraguan schools</li> <li>- Health, social, economic consequences</li> <li>- Highlight to the class the fact that girls are disproportionately affected by lack of sanitation</li> </ul> <p>For each statistic, illustrate it with the class by having the students stand up in representation of the statistic. For instance, have about 40% of the students stand up to represent the 43% of the Indonesian population that does not have access to sanitary toilets. Allow the impact, seriousness of each statistic to sink in for the class.</p>
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**Part V: Final Discussion**

15 minutes	<p>The goal of this final discussion session is to solidify the main points of the lesson, and to get the students further invested in the themes and issues of the conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the consequences of the statistics we showed you today?</li> <li>• How do these statistics impact people?</li> <li>• How would not having access to a toilet impact your daily life?</li> <li>• How would your entire neighborhood not having access to a toilet impact your life and your community?</li> <li>• If you had to miss 20% of school every year, how would that impact your education? Your life? What would be the implications on your life on the long run?</li> <li>• If all of the girls in your neighborhood missed 20% of school, how would that impact your community? What would be the implications in the long run?</li> <li>• If your local source of drinking water were contaminated by sewage runoff, how would your life be impacted? How would your community be impacted?</li> </ul> <p>Continue to ask questions along those lines, further discussion to get the students to think about the long run economic and social implications of subpar sanitation infrastructure. How are communities supposed to grow and thrive when they cannot live up to their full potential?</p>
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