

LE Lab Summer Session 1: Monday

Struggles and Solidarities

Objectives: Anchor the participants in the deep ethic of PAR in Legal Empowerment by inviting each person to share about their struggles, to share who they are accountable to. This will strengthen the feeling of connection and collaboration among the participants and it will embody the principles of PAR. Throughout the week, we will be able to link the issues discussed to the stories that are brought by the participants.

Draft Agenda:

Week before on June 7:

Send out an email with instructions. Inviting each person to bring an artifact to represent the struggles they are committed to.

Time keeper for today: Sukti

Note taker for today: Emese and Katie (use of language, invalidation)

Recording: YES - Sukti

9 -9:15

Meg and **Sukti** welcome everyone back, give an overview of the week (Use a powerpoint slide?)
Introduce coffee/tea Sessions (and talk a little bit about the care packages that were or are going to be received---Meg will add photo slide)

9:15 - 10 am

We invite speaker view)

Mela and **Emese** lead a circle conversation where each person brings something as a reminder of the struggles they are fighting.

While **Mela** introduces the activity, **Emese** makes a list of the names in the chat of the order we'll go in.

- Whatever connects them and their struggles and brings everyone together.
- Open the space by centering struggle and centering solidarity. Perhaps in a circle
- fashion, where each person offers a short story of where that is coming from.
- Maybe an article. A song. A story. A cry. A laughter that is a symbol of the injustice that they are fighting against.
- What brings us together.
- Solidarity.

Emese takes a screenshot of each person and their offering to create a collage. We keep track of themes and key words to help stitch together a collective vision of solidarity and struggle across oceans and borders.

10 am - 10:05

invite break- play music

10:05-10:50

10:05-10:15

Questions around power that weaves through PAR; use of language (both rejection and taking control of the definitional terms)

Marginalising Power in PAR: The Invisible Power, The Hidden Power, The Visible Power

Participants explore intersecting identities and how they contribute to different dynamics of oppression and privilege in people during PAR, and understand how these power dynamics play out throughout the research process.

Mela Introduces issues and gives overview

(show slide with the prompts once offering an introduction, we will also put the prompts in the chat)

10:15-10:35 (if needed we can make this 15 minutes or even 10)

Small group breakout conversations - 3 people - about intersecting identities held by members privilege, power, and positionality

PROMPTS THAT WE OFFER:

How do you think your collaborators perceive you with respect to your power and positionality? What assumptions might they make about you?

In what ways do you earn trust from your collaborators?

How have your understanding of your privilege shifted over the years?

To add: tree of hope --

10:35-10:50

Sukti invite Share back to large group

10:50 - 11

Closing Circle:

Reflective exercise and Closing Session (Music, Yoga, any Soul-Mind-Body Session to allow participants to destress)

End with song and poem--(Shreya)

11

Sukti invites and writes down

One word. Each person offers one word that they are feeling at the end of the session. We collect these. [whatever comes up / one word]

Learning Objectives for the Session

- Strengthening the network of legal empowerment practitioners and scholars.
- More valid, embodied, and deeper understandings of what works in empowerment practice due to grassroots engagement in research. Engaging in complex conversations about power and privilege within PAR and LE supports a more informed, responsive, and ethical practice.
- Bring participatory action research methods/tools/approaches into research and learning about legal empowerment (theory, methods, and ethics)
- Redistribute key legal empowerment and participatory research concepts, methods, and skills across a network of grassroots justice practitioners and academics
- Legal empowerment practitioners/organizations committed to improving their work have the tools and resources they need to evaluate the impact of their work and to do their work better by reflecting on their own commitments and impacts within the struggles they are engaged in.
- Create a vibrant space for collaboration and exchange between practitioners and academics committed to participatory legal empowerment research and program learning by forging common vocabularies, concepts, and tools