

Activity 1.28 Social Entrepreneurs around the world (Cultural investigators)

Module: 1. Module 1: Identity and Culture

Duration: 45 Minutes

Social Development Themes: Social Enterprise

Summary

We all have a lot to learn from other cultures. One way to explore this is to research social entrepreneurs from around the world

Learning Outcomes:

Team-building and Networking within the group

Understand how Identities and Cultures form, are expressed, change and are connected.

Approach:

1. If the group has internet access you could ask participants to form research groups.

As a start, each group could look at the Ashoka website www.ashoka.org/fellows or conduct a general internet search for 'social entrepreneurs' or 'women social entrepreneurs' and select a social entrepreneur that inspires them. Participants can also narrow their search by focusing on particular continents, or countries. Participants will then report back for three minutes in plenary the following day. Some examples could include:

- Muhammad Yunus (Bangladesh). We can learn about social entrepreneurship and microfinance lifting people out of poverty.
- Mel Young (Scotland). We can learn about using sport and street papers to engage and empower homeless people around the world.
- Lindsay Stradley (Kenya). We can learn about innovating sanitation solutions for public health with sustainable energy production
- Saloni Malhotra (India). We can learn about rethinking how business is done to alleviate rural poverty.

- Thorkil Sonne (Denmark). We can learn about transforming the way society perceives autism, from viewing it as a handicap to becoming a competitive advantage

- Winifred Selby (Ghana). We can learn about socio-ecological product design and business models that address quadruple problems of climate change, poverty, rural-urban migration and high unemployment

- Carolin Zeitler (Qatar). We can learn about coaching women to take up leadership and senior management roles in organisations

Debrief

- How did the group find that activity?
- Are there any similarities between the social entrepreneurs that the different groups picked?
- Did any groups get ideas or inspiration for social enterprises that would work in their communities?
- Share with the group: change is happening. Our cultures are constantly changing, responding to circumstances, influences, choices. As Active Citizens we recognise that change can happen to us or with us.
- Ask the group: 'As change happens what from our cultures do we want to build on and share with others and where would we like to see change?' [How is this different/similar for different people in the room?] How could social enterprise support that change to happen?