

Margolis Wheel

Type: Generating Ideas, Sharing Ideas



What Is It?

Participants consult one another to share common problems they face and find solutions to problems.

Why Use It?

Gives participants opportunities to discuss real problems they face

Gives participants opportunities to share possible solutions

Shows that everyone in a group has something to contribute

How to Use It

1. Start by dividing participants into groups with an even number of people in each group. It works best to have 8-12 people in each group.
2. Now divide each group into two equal halves, with an 'A' half and a 'B' half.
3. The 'A' half sits in a circle facing outwards.
4. The 'B' half sits in a wider circle around the 'A' half, with each person from the 'B' half directly facing another person in the 'A' half.
5. Ask each person to think of an issue that they are having difficulty with, for example, implementing a WASH technology in their homes.
6. Instruct the 'A' half that they are going to be advisors to the 'B' half's issues. They will have four minutes to listen to the issues of the 'B' participant sitting across from them and offer any advice. Encourage them to listen carefully and ask lots of questions before providing advice.
7. After four minutes, shout 'Change!' Ask all the participants on the outside circle (the 'B's) to move one place to the right. The 'A's stay where they are.
8. Everyone should now be sitting opposite someone new.
9. Give participants another four minutes to explain their issues and offer advice to each other. Then shout 'Change!'
10. Repeat steps 7 and 8 as many times as you have time for or until everyone from the 'B' half has received advice from everyone in the 'A' half.
11. When this is done, reverse the whole process, with the 'B' half becoming the advisors and the 'A' half explaining their issue.

Trainer Notes

The inside circle stays still while the outside circle moves around.

If the group agrees that the discussion is about private problems, make sure that there is no discussion after the work in pairs. Do not discuss problems in the large group, and emphasize confidentiality.

This exercise works well when participants have already discussed problems in a large group. Break up the discussion by using the Margolis Wheel. This helps participants who may not be comfortable sharing with the large group.

