ARISE

LGBT Youth in Action

2016

A project that uses poetry, photography and theatre as a means to alleviate the impact of stigma and discrimination of LGBT persons through workshops and safe spaces for candid conversations that will then be shared with the greater community.

Reflections Report

Scenery

Thematic areas were the subject of focus, namely; Conservation/Climate, Education and Human Rights on the backdrop of a farm just outside Gaborone, the capital city. The significance of the event was presented in the state of the farm having been subject to the drought Southern Africa is currently experiencing. There was no more lush bush or grass for livestock to feed on and the scotching sun served as a minor challenge for participants to be comfortable throughout the day.

Reflections

A farm served as the venue for the workshops, located in the outskirts of Gaborone the capital city. It enabled a refreshing environment for participants. This was seen as away from the hustle and bustle, and enabled connection between participants and the livestock in the farm. The environment was considered fresh, complimentary and calming. The organic context encouraged a lot of selfies, being conscious of the importance of health and exploring the different sections of the farm. Introductions were made, where participants were engaged to define their life's purpose. A safe space was created for shaping a shared connection. The facilitator explored the purpose of participant's beliefs, actions and their hope. The organisation's background was presented and this garnered some interest in participants to acknowledge that they can contribute and collaborate.

Theatre

Care for the Future organisation started the expressions with theatre. Their play was structured in three acts, focused on the three thematic areas. All participants felt informed, engaged it was a great start to the event. The first act, on Education, started with a climax to fast track engagement through an intergenerational dialogue. The play was in English and Setswana, using folktale within the modern context of ideas, youth issues and relationships. The second act, on Conservation, was spoken word raising issues that affect the environment. This was within a shebeen area and community area, considered low class with a lack of basic services; touching on the pros and cons of being conscious of issues that affect sustainability. The narrative was from a first person basis, touching the importance of experience. The third act, on Human Rights, included singing and creating a scene on the initiation of youth-centric groups that are dynamic and diverse. This leaped through time projecting the antagonists' future life as a result of being more engaged in social issues.
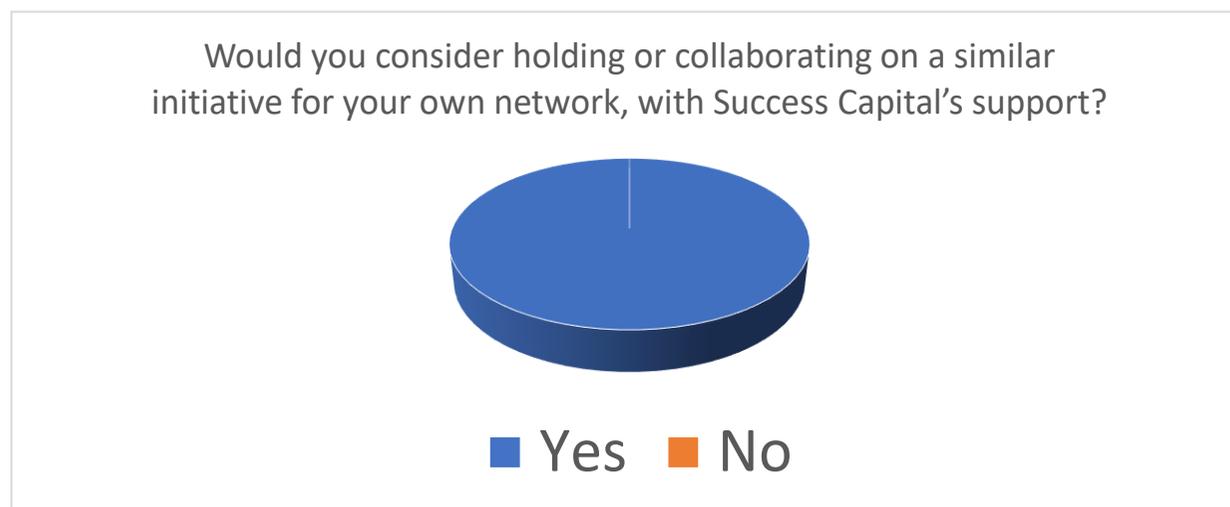
Poetry

Poetry was presented on the basis of previous experience. This resonated as a personal story on the plight of people with mental issues. This reflection created a poignant sense of belonging amongst the group. The poetry included powerful free styling, coming from the heart. Participants felt overwhelmed as Makgosi, who lead the poetry section, is a renowned Poet in Botswana. The audience would relate with her movements, accentuations and tones. The last segment of the poetry section used Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights to prose challenge to the status quo on women in Botswana. This revolved around limitations imposed by marriage, society driven inferiority and domestic violence. There were mixed tensions on hotbed issues within Botswana, such as virginity, Christianity, cultural norms and single mothers. Mother nature was presented as a lead in raising issues of the Earth, Sustainability – impeded by human beings. The relationship between the human race and our environment was highlighted in an emotion driven medley on waste, global warming and disconnected ecosystems.

Presentations

Human rights was a focus for the lectures/presentations. Country, continent and global universal human rights definitions, limitations and contexts were presented as an introduction and overview. LGBT issues were raised as a discussion platform for all participants. Participants expressed the significance of opinion serving as the standard within a hostile society. LGBT rights were articulated to ensure that there was a clear understanding of the human aspect of acknowledging the rights of all persons. The penal code was a notable point on the subjective clauses and the importance of rights being interconnected, be it education, privacy, health access and more. Debates were focused on Education in Botswana. The state's involvement was challenged as an influence on youth apathy, service provision and quality of citizen life. Unions were mentioned as a dominating narrative of current affairs, influencing the impact of the education system in young people's lives. Notably, the contrast between public and private schools was highlighted as outcomes in the latter seemed more successful and enabling for opportunities. The education systems in developing countries was mentioned in comparison to economic climate. This strengthened the dynamic of the discussion.

A plenary was initiated as a final activity, lead by practical daily examples and illustrations. The diversity of the group reflected the discussion in how empathy and the barriers of society are greatly disconnected in society. The stereotypes that govern how people live out their lives, in challenge or in happiness, supported learning and willingness to explore how to move the group further beyond the event.

From the experience, do you believe you are or can be a change agent?

0%

100%

■ Yes
■ No

From the experience, do you believe you are or can be a change agent?

0%

100%

■ Yes
■ No

Would you consider holding or collaborating on a similar initiative for your own network, with Success Capital's support?

■ Yes ■ No

How best would you suggest would be the best way to ensure we all say engaged?

-Email
-To state clearly for all to understand that the process is not once event but rather a continuum meant to provoke thought and motivate idea generation questions
-Creating a WhatsApp group
-we should implement survival skills games and also - organise some mini workshop that can benefit the youth
-WhatsApp and fb groups as well as monthly meetings

Similar is ok

emails are just ok

A art mapping event, where the artist would reflect on their status quo and identify areas where success capital can serve as catalyst in their trades.

follow up event/initiative suggestions

we should also involve many youth inoder for them to learn and to make achange in their community.

conservation camp

Play fest of traditional games

How best would you suggest we widen the network?

Social media → invite a friend → outreaches and act of volunterism → Create workshops and more events → visiting remote areas and having different abassordors in many areas. → use the snowballing method to widen the network and charge each participant at an event to bring two friends to the next event.