

The Risk of Education Training Outline

Description: This training comprises 5 sessions and 1 follow-up. Each session takes 3 hours.

Content: The training comprises 5 themes – Education to Totality, Tradition and the Present, Authority as the Location of Growth, Personal Verification, and Education to Freedom. It:

- Presents education as the process by which the person becomes aware of the value of his/her existence and of his/her desires for beauty, love, truth, justice and happiness. The participants are introduced to an educational method which focuses on bringing out the inherent potentials in every learner using the subject not as an end in itself but as a means to help the learner understand the meaning of life.
- Identifies tradition as an important factor in the educational process since every subject taught is a result of the human experience and should therefore be presented in a way that respects the background of the child, the teacher and the entire institution;
- Traces the meaning of the word ‘authority’ from its etymology ‘auctoritas’ (one who causes growth) and explains how the teacher is an authority i.e. some who causes growth in the learner, the colleagues and the wider community through his/her words, deeds and life.
- Identifies personal verification as an important factor in the educational process since it is a key condition for conviction – a crucial outcome of any educative event.
- Presents freedom as the ultimate goal of education since the purpose of education is to prepare the learner to act with increasing autonomy and to face the world around him on his/her own.

Target: The training targets teachers, school administrators, parents and social workers involved in educational activities.

Objectives: The objectives of the training are:

- to explain the terms ‘education’, ‘tradition’, ‘authority’, ‘personal verification’, and ‘freedom’
- to demonstrate the link between each subject and the reality
- to explain the place of tradition as an important factor in the educational process
- to illustrate the competencies of an authoritative teacher
- to stimulate participants to recognize the place of personal verification and criticism in the educational process
- to establish the link between education and freedom



Method:

The method is participatory: the facilitators engage the participants in a dialogue, asking them to share what they think of each of the themes, and of the proposal as a whole. The value of this method lies in the fact that the content of the training is not an idea or a theory, but the lived experiences of both the participants and facilitators.

Instruments: The following instruments are used to aid a full understanding of the content:

- art pieces
- extracts from selected literature
- pieces of music
- films/documentaries
- personal experiences

At the end of the 5 sessions, guideline questions are distributed to participants and are discussed later during the follow-up session.

Evaluation: Qualitative and quantitative methods of evaluation are used.

Participants fill a pre-training and post-training questionnaire as well as an evaluation form in order to enable the facilitators to establish and measure:

- their understanding of the training proposal,
- their capacity to identify educative objectives that centre on the development of the person taking into consideration his/her self-awareness, personal verification and freedom,
- their capacity to identify a proper learner-centered methodology.

Both questionnaires are analyzed in order to compare the level of the participants' understanding of the proposal before and after the training.

Some time after the workshop (usually a month or two), a follow-up session is held in which the trainees share experiences on how the proposal has helped them in their day-to-day educative work. In the same session, the trainees also share the difficulties and challenges faced in implementing the proposal.