



Make It Happen

Formation Module

May Pakiramdam Ka Ba?

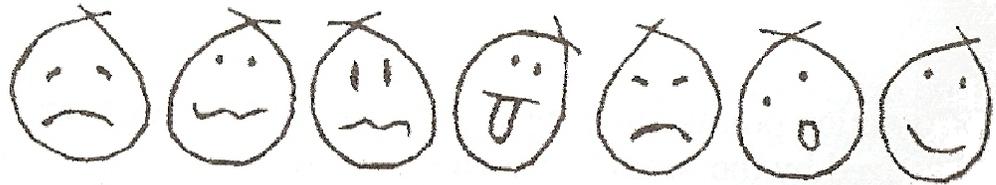
WORKSHOP 1



Objectives	At the end of the workshop, the participants are expected to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• bring to their awareness and process their feelings regarding their experience/s of past elections and/or the upcoming one;• reflect on their voting behavior and value systems, and how these contribute to the prevailing political and electoral culture; and• identify behavior, value systems and practices that need to be maintained and/or transformed.
Time Frame	Maximum of 1 hour (excluding the optional activity at the end)
Materials	Manila paper, markers/pens, illustrations of facial expressions
Handout	Guide questions
Optional Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Luzviminda” video: A presentation of the patriotism and vigilance of People Power 1 (credit: Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan)• “Eleksyong Pinoy” video: A documentary which shows how elections are conducted in the Philippines (credit: Jesuit Communications Foundation, Inc.)• Video and audio-visual equipment
PROCESS	The Main Facilitator explains that Workshop 1 is a reflection activity with the objective of making them more aware of their views, feelings and perceptions with regard to the Philippine electoral process.

Grouping, Self-Introduction This activity is done in the assembly area. The participants are divided into small groups of 3-5 members. In circles as small groups, they are first asked to do a round of self-introduction. From among them, a group leader is assigned who will be responsible for leading the group through the activity.

Activity Various illustrations of facial expressions are posted on the board.



Under each facial expression is a short shout-out which depicts that expression, e.g. under happy face-“Yehey!”; under sad face-“Haaay...”; under angry face-“Grrrrr!”; etc.

With reference to these illustrations posted, the participants are asked to reflect on how they felt about the last elections, or how they feel concerning the upcoming one.

Reflection In each small group, the participants reflect on the following:

Handout 1

- How do you feel about the last/upcoming elections? Why?
- How do you feel about your personal participation, i.e. as a voter, volunteer, or poll-watcher, in the last/upcoming elections? Why?
- What are the attitudes, behavior and practices that brought about these feelings? What should be maintained or changed?

Sharing The Group Facilitator invites each member of the group to share his/her reflections; everyone is enjoined to listen. He/She will take note of the points shared and come up with a synthesis. The sharing concludes with the group agreeing on and illustrating the feeling/s of the group through facial expressions.

Plenary Reporting The Main Facilitator invites the Group Facilitators to report briefly to the plenary the main points that surfaced in their respective group sharings along with the facial expressions drawn by their groups.

Processing The reports are then summarized by the Main Facilitator.

Optional Activity | To reinforce or meaningfully conclude the Workshop 1 experience, the Main Facilitator may use any of the following:

- *“Eleksyong Pinoy” is a video documentary which shows the way elections are conducted in the Philippines. It also discusses the different key players involved in the electoral process, such as the politicians, the Americans, the Church, the Extreme Left, the COMELEC, and especially the voter.*
- *“Luzviminda”, the music video, reminds us of People Power 1 with its spirit of patriotism and challenge of vigilance*

Konek Ka Riyan!

WORKSHOP 2



Objectives	This workshop hopes to enable the participants to realize that all of us are part of the society: What we do, or do not do, contributes to the situation that our society is in. It aims to promote a deeper understanding of co-existence and co-responsibility.
Time Element	Maximum of 1 hour
Materials	Balls of yarn (1 ball of yarn for every 10-15 participants)
PROCESS	The Main Facilitator invites the assembly to form groups of 10-15 persons. He/She may ask small groups from Workshop 1 to merge in order to form the desired number of persons per group.
Activity	The Main Facilitator gives each group a ball of yarn. He/She then leads them through the activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Using the yarn, anyone in the group may volunteer to start tying his/her point finger.2. He/She then passes the yarn to another member of the group, who also ties his/her point finger and then passes the ball to another.

3. The other members do the same until all are linked with the yarn.
4. The Main Facilitator instructs the group to pull the yarn, and then to loosen up. He/She does this several times.

Reflection After the activity, the Main Facilitator invites the participants to silence in order to ask themselves:

- What did you notice/observe in this activity? How did you feel about it?
- What are your significant discoveries or learnings?

Sharing The Main Facilitator invites participants to turn to their neighbor and engage in a sharing by dyads (5-7 minutes). Afterwards, he/she allows 3-5 participants to share in the assembly.

Processing Key points:

+ **At the start**, when we tied the yarn to our point fingers, we seemed to not really care what would happen next. We may not even have given much thought as to whom we would pass it on; no questions were asked.

Are we also like this in our relationships, in our communities? Do we foresee what will happen if we give? Do we think we have to choose whom to care for, to love? Do we simply show love and care and ask no questions?

With the present situation of our society, of the country, we are all invited to do the same, to care without questioning “Why should I?”

+ **When others or when we started to pull the yarn**, how did it feel? It hurt! We did not want others to continue pulling (even if the facilitator continued to instruct them to). But we also appeared to dislike it when they loosened up. Why so? Life is like that: We do not want to be held too tightly nor too loosely.

The same applies to our involvement or participation in building our society. Others may be too tight: too rigid and serious in their involvement. Some may be too loose: too cynical and apathetic, if not altogether passive about what is happening around them.

This activity reminds us that, whether we are involved or not, WE ARE AFFECTED by what is happening around us.

+ If we look at this in view of the coming elections, whether or not we

would practice our right to vote, there will be new elected government officials. Whether we refuse or give ourselves in participating in the election process, as volunteers or what not, there will be new policies to be implemented after the elections. **One thing is sure: We will all be affected by its results.**

Whatever we choose to, or choose not to, do, think or say influences a larger system, a bigger world. We are all part of the problem. When we look at our society and see the sad state it is in, we must know that we have a part in making it so. But it does not stop there.

+ We must not forget that **WE, TOO, ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION.** We can effect positive change. As we have experienced in the yarn activity, we can affect others by what we do.

The coming elections is an opportunity for us to do our part in contributing positively to society, in transforming it into the world we all dream it would be. Our choice, no matter how big or seemingly small, would definitely contribute in bringing about the change we all desire for our country.

VOTE Ko 'To!

WORKSHOP 3



Objectives	This workshop aims to instill in young people a greater love of country, to empower them to dream of a better world and see how this can take shape through the choices that they make, particularly for the coming elections.
Time Element	Maximum of 1 hour
Handouts	Small strips of paper (1 strip per participant), whole sheets of bond paper (1 sheet per group), ballot (per participant)
Materials	Ballot box, tally sheet

PROCESS

Activity 1: Each participant is invited to dream of an ideal society:

Pangarap

Ko 'To! What is an ideal society for me?

The Main Facilitator gives them 5 minutes for this reflection. Afterwards, small strips of paper are distributed. Participants are asked to write what their dream is through a short phrase on the small strip of paper.

Group Sharing

Back in their small groups, the Group Facilitators invite each participant to share his/her dream by reading the phrase that he/she has written.

Each group concludes the activity by drawing an interpretation of their dreams on a single sheet of paper. When finished, they place the drawing in the middle of their group circle where everyone in the group can see it.

Assembly Sharing

The Main Facilitator may invite 2-3 group representatives to share their group dreams.

Processing

Key points:

+ As an introduction, present significant and inspiring points from the sharing in the assembly.

+ Each one of us has the power to make our dreams come true.

+ Great, big things begin with and come from small dreams and simple beginnings.

+ To reinforce these points, use a short story.

Activity 2:
Ito ang Beat!

Through a question, the Main Facilitator links this activity to the first by asking,

What is one important and concrete way of achieving our dreams for our society?

One way by which this could be achieved is through the upcoming elections. The elections give us the opportunity to choose our leaders.

Will our choice of leaders help bring our dreams to reality?

Mock Elections	<p>Each participant will receive a ballot where he/she writes his/her vote for a president and a vice-president from the current line-up of presidential candidates (this may be adapted according to context, e.g. mayor and vice mayor; senators; etc. The mock election may not necessarily be complete, i.e. including all the positions being voted for).</p> <p>When finished writing, everyone puts the ballots in a ballot box.</p>
Tally of Votes/Break	<p>To assist in tallying the votes cast, 5-10 participants/Group Facilitators are requested to assist, while the rest take a break.</p>
Presentation of Results	<p>The Main Facilitator presents the results of the mock elections. He/She then allows the participants some time to reflect on the results, especially in the light of the dreams that they have expressed earlier as they hold the strips of paper where they wrote their dreams and look at their group drawing of an ideal society.</p>
Processing	<p>Processing is done in a way that the quality of the results are not discussed and argued about. The activity is viewed vis-à-vis the dreams expressed. The Main Facilitator links the results of the mock elections to the dreams that they have earlier shared.</p> <p><i>Are they (the voting results and our dreams) consistent? Will our choices bring our dreams to reality?</i></p> <p>He/She could also bring them back to how they behaved during the counting of votes:</p> <p><i>Have we left the task to the volunteers, or did we guard the whole process? How vigilant have we been?</i></p> <p>The Main Facilitator presents a challenge before them – that they achieve their dreams through personal and responsible participation in the upcoming elections.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>If the youth is of voting age, to have right choice of leaders (through presenting the qualities of a good leader: fair and objective; moving above himself and serving the society; not seeking fame and attention; not into hiding the truth for the sake of looking good; and does not make himself look good by assaulting others¹). The standard, of course,</i>

¹ These qualities were lifted from Rad, R., “Characteristics of Trustworthy Political Leaders”, in http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roya-r-rad-ma-psyd/characteristics-of-trustw_b_927982.html

is Jesus Christ Himself, and his definition of leadership: servanthood².

2. *If the youth is not yet of voting age or an unregistered voter*, to invite other members of their family and close friends to vote intelligently, and especially for unregistered voters, to encourage them to register during the next registration period.
3. *For all youth*, to choose from among the vast opportunities for involvement to realize their dreams (to be discussed later).

Deepening

The Main Facilitator invites the participants to reflect on **God's vision** for them by calling to mind some examples of young people who played an important role in the history of salvation, such as Isaac [Gn 21:1-7, 22:1-18], Moses [Ex 3], David [1 S 16:1-13; 17], the young lad in the miraculous feeding of five thousand people [Jn 6:1-13], the rich young man [Mt 19:16-22], among others. All these express God's loving vision for the young, one that is truly incarnate, preferential and unconditional.

The Main Facilitator also imparts to them the **Church's vision** for the youth:

+ Their strongest and most important aspiration is freedom, they are signs of joy and happiness, and they demand authenticity and simplicity and reject a society infested with hypocrisy and anti-values. This dynamism makes them capable of renewing cultures. The Church sees in young people an enormous force of renewal.

+ The youth are the Church not only of tomorrow, but of today.³

The way God and the Church see the young is a gaze that is full of confidence, trust and love. They believe in the tremendous power young people have for transformation. The youth can make it happen.

In conclusion, this invitation of Blessed John Paul II to all young people rings anew: "In Christ and in his teachings, you will find 'the way, the truth and the life.' In him you will discover the answer to all the fundamental questions. The world and the Church need young people who know that the beauty of living consists in giving oneself to others, in doing good to others. Let the light of Christ enlighten your consciences to true good, and to the evil of sin and everything that tarnishes true love."⁴

² Cf. Mt 20:25-28; Jn 13:12-15.

³ Cf. Episcopal Commission on Youth, *KA-LAKBAY: Directory for Catholic Youth Ministry in the Philippines*, p. 38.

⁴ John Paul II, *Meeting with Students, University of Santo Tomas, 13 January 1995*.