



CONGENIAL MEETS: SAMPLE 1

TIME-TABLING FOR COMMUNITY - AN INVITATION TO BOND AS A GROUP

EXAMPLE - LAVA PIT

OBJECTIVE

To help participants realize that every individual has their **own strengths and weaknesses**, and when working in a group, every individual can contribute in a **different way** to help achieve the goal. Participants will work in teams. Each group will have individuals with different **kinds of restrictions** given to them. With this diversity in each group, participants will find out how they can **contribute best** to achieve their goal.

SPACE - Hall

MATERIALS

- Blindfolds
- Cardboard pieces (each piece must be just enough for two people to stand on)

TIME REQUIRED – 30 Minutes

SET UP - Mark out the starting and the ending point using cones. The space between the cones is the lava pit.

SYNOPSIS OF THE ACTIVITY

Divide participants into groups of 7 or 8. Every group will identify 2 members who will be blindfolded, 2 members who will be allowed to use only one leg and the rest will have to remain mute. Each group will be given 4 to 5 pieces of cardboard depending on the size of the group. The objective of every group is to cross the lava pit without stepping in it. They can use the cardboard pieces to step on while crossing the lava pit. If any participant steps out of the cardboard at any point of time, the whole team must go back to the start and start over.



FACILITATOR'S ROLE

Before the activity

- Divide participants into groups.
- Ask every group to identify members who would get blindfolded, members who would be allowed to use only one leg and members who would remain mute.
- Participants must start carrying out their roles before the activity is explained to them. Blinds folds must be put on, required candidates should be standing only on one leg and the rest must make sure they don't speak at all.
- Explain the task to the participants.

During the activity

- Encourage and cheer for all groups.
- Ensure all participants stick to their roles.
- Look out for anyone stepping outside the cardboard pieces and send them back to start over if they do.
- Observe the kind of strategies being used by different groups. Notice the way they communicate with the restrictions given to them.

Closing the Loop

- Bring all participants together and appreciate them for successfully crossing the lava pit.
- Ask the participants to share the strategies that worked well and ones that didn't work well. In what manner did all the participants contribute given the restrictions that each one had? Help participants realize that every individual, whether blindfolded or mute, added value in their own way without which the goal wouldn't have been achieved.
- Ask the participants what would have happened if all the participants were blindfolded? Help the participants understand that every group needed a combination of blindfolded, disabled and mute people in order to reach their goal successfully as all three contributed in ways that others couldn't.
- Help participants connect this to their workplace. Why did the congenial have the three specific roles for the participants? What did they signify? Participants must understand that these roles signify the strengths and weaknesses of individuals in a group. If individuals in a group are aware about the strengths of one another, they know how best each individual can contribute.