

PROBLEM SOLVING THROUGH STOP-START DRAMA

10
EXERCISE



OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:
Develop some initial ideas and strategies for change



TIME

1 hour

ACTIVITIES

STARTER DRAMA

Divide into trios and ask each trio to select a context in which stigma takes place and prepare a starter (problem posing) drama—a drama which shows stigma but leaves the issue unresolved.

EXAMPLES

A PLHA living at home wants to see his friend. The family, out of embarrassment, stop his friend from visiting thinking this will lead to stigma by the whole community. (Example from Tanzania)

Parents discover that one school child has an HIV positive parent. They force the head teacher to kick the child out of school. (Vietnam)

A doctor and nurse at a hospital discover that a patient is HIV positive. They use excuses to avoid seeing the patient and leave early, so that the next shift has to deal with the patient. (Vietnam)

An orphan child is adopted by her uncle. The uncle takes all of the things she has inherited from her father. She is poorly treated—forced to do all the work in the house and to eat alone. She is even abused by other children in the house. (Zambia)



Report Back and Discussion

Ask each group to present their dramas.

After each drama ask the group:

- What happened? Why
- What are the attitudes here?
- What are the contributing factors?



- How could this have been avoided?
- How could this problem be solved if and when it occurs?

STOP-START DRAMA

Ask the group to select one of the dramas to be used as the focus for a stop-start drama process. Try out different scenarios to test out different solutions. Use this process to explore solutions and the realism of different solutions.

EXAMPLES

1. Problem of PLHA not being allowed by his family to make any decisions about his life who visits, what they do, etc.

Scene 1: PLHA's friend comes to visit but family blocks visit.

Scene 2: PLHA is left out of family discussion and decision-making.

Scene 3: PLHA becomes assertive and demands more say about his/her life or family member questions the other family members about stopping the PLHA from taking part in family discussion/decision-making.

After each scene discuss what is happening and the way forward.

Focus: Get the family or community to name the problem (stigma and discrimination), see that it is wrong and take responsibility to overcome stigma and provide support.

Try to change the attitudes of the community so that the family is not stigmatized and does not need to lead a secretive life. Use a crisis to spark this change in attitude on the part of the community.

2. Family self-stigmatizing and neighbors stigmatizing.

Scene 1: Neighbor visits and family says the PLHA is not there.

Scene 2: Neighbors meet and gossip about the PLHA and the family.

Scene 3: PLHA sees that he is being hidden and raises the issue ...and so on.

Focusing questions: What can be done to break the family's isolation and promote more community support? What can be done to raise their awareness of stigma?