

Programme

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Active Dialogue

Using Multipartiality for More Equitable Dialogue Facilitation



What are we talking about...

"Active Dialogue: Using Multipartiality for More Equitable Dialogue Facilitation" refers to a concept that emphasizes the importance of **impartiality** and **fairness** in facilitating discussions or conversations.

The term **"multipartiality"** suggests being partial to multiple perspectives, rather than favoring one side or viewpoint.

Key aspects: Impartiality and Fairness

- **Multipartiality** emphasizes the need for a **neutral** and **fair** facilitator who does not show bias toward any particular viewpoint.
- The goal is to create an environment where all participants feel **heard** and **respected**, regardless of their perspectives or backgrounds.

Key aspects: Multiple Perspectives

- The term "multipartiality" suggests that the facilitator actively considers and values **multiple perspectives** within a conversation.
- This approach encourages **inclusivity** and helps **prevent the marginalization** of certain voices or viewpoints.

Key aspects: Equitable Participation

- Facilitators employing multipartiality seek to ensure that all participants have an **equal opportunity** to express their thoughts and opinions.
- This can involve actively **inviting contributions** from all participants and managing the discussion to **avoid domination** by a few voices.

Key aspects: Conflict Resolution

- Multipartiality can be particularly useful in **resolving conflicts** by acknowledging and **validating the concerns** of different parties.
- The facilitator works towards finding **common ground** and promoting **understanding** among participants with divergent views.

Key aspects: Cultural Sensitivity

- Facilitators employing multipartiality need to be **culturally sensitive**, recognizing and respecting the **diverse backgrounds and experiences** of participants.
- This includes being aware of **potential biases** and ensuring that the facilitation process is **inclusive** and **respectful**.

Key aspects: Skillful Communication

- Multipartial facilitators need **strong communication skills** to navigate potentially sensitive topics and guide discussions in a way that promotes understanding and collaboration.
- They may use techniques such as **reflective listening**, **paraphrasing**, and **summarizing** to ensure accurate interpretation of participants' perspectives.

Key aspects: Adaptability

- Being multipartial requires **adaptability to different contexts and situations**. The facilitator may need to **adjust** their approach based on the nature of the dialogue and the participants involved.

Key aspects: Continuous Learning

- Facilitators embracing multipartiality are committed to **continuous learning** and **self-reflection**. This involves **staying informed** about various perspectives and **refining their facilitation skills** over time.

In summary...

Active dialogue using multipartiality is a facilitation approach that prioritizes **fairness, inclusivity,** and **respect** for multiple perspectives.

It aims to create an environment where **diverse voices are heard,** and discussions are conducted in a way that promotes **understanding and collaboration.**

Democratic Participation

Active dialogue positively influences democratic participation by

- fostering informed and engaged citizens;
- promoting inclusivity;
- preventing polarization; and
- contributing to the overall health and effectiveness of democratic institutions.

Informed Decision-Making

- Active dialogue ensures that citizens have access to **diverse perspectives and information**. This helps individuals make more **informed decisions** when participating in democratic processes such as voting.
- By engaging in open and constructive conversations, people can gain a **deeper understanding** of various issues, policies, and candidates, contributing to a more knowledgeable electorate.

Enhanced Civic Engagement

- Facilitating active dialogue encourages citizens to **actively participate** in civic activities, discussions, and community initiatives.
- When people feel their voices are heard and respected in dialogues, they are more likely to engage in democratic processes beyond just voting, such as **attending community meetings, joining advocacy groups, or participating in local governance.**

Community Building

- Active dialogue **fosters a sense of community** by bringing people together to discuss common concerns, goals, and values.
- Through dialogue, citizens can find **common ground**, build relationships, and collaborate on initiatives that positively impact their communities, **promoting a sense of shared responsibility and collective action.**

Preventing Polarization

- Dialogue that embraces multipartiality can help **mitigate polarization** by providing a platform for **understanding diverse perspectives**.
- By actively listening to different viewpoints and finding common ground, citizens are less likely to become **entrenched in extreme positions**, contributing to a more cohesive and cooperative democratic society.

Empowering Marginalized Voices

- Active dialogue promotes **inclusivity**, ensuring that the voices of **marginalized or underrepresented groups are heard**.
- By actively seeking and valuing diverse perspectives, democratic participation **becomes more equitable**, addressing historical imbalances and fostering a more inclusive democratic process.

Accountability and Transparency

- Through dialogue, citizens can **hold public officials and institutions accountable** for their actions.
- Open discussions about government policies, decisions, and actions contribute to **transparency**, helping citizens understand the rationale behind choices made by elected representatives and **promoting accountability** in the democratic system.

Conflict Resolution

- Dialogue serves as a means for **resolving conflicts** within a democratic society.
- By providing a space for constructive discussions, active dialogue can help find common ground and compromise, **reducing the likelihood of political gridlock** and **fostering a more collaborative political environment.**

Cultivating Democratic Values

- Engaging in active dialogue reinforces **democratic values** such as
 - free speech,
 - tolerance, and
 - respect for diverse opinions.
- Citizens who actively participate in dialogues contribute to a culture that values **open debate** and **peaceful resolution** of differences, reinforcing the foundations of a democratic society.

Final words...

Active dialogue, rooted in the concept of multipartiality, serves as a cornerstone for **equitable dialogue facilitation**. This approach prioritizes **impartiality, fairness, and the acknowledgment of diverse perspectives**. It emphasizes the need for **neutral facilitators** who create an inclusive environment, ensuring all participants are heard and respected. By actively considering multiple viewpoints, encouraging equitable participation, and leveraging conflict resolution strategies, **active dialogue positively influences democratic participation**.

... and some more final

It promotes informed decision-making, enhances civic engagement, fosters community building, prevents polarization, empowers marginalized voices, ensures accountability and transparency, facilitates conflict resolution, and cultivates democratic values.

In essence, active dialogue contributes to a more robust and inclusive democratic society, fostering engaged and responsible citizens at its core.

Who we are

the_nidus is a fresh NGO established in Thessaloniki, Greece with a view to bring together the shared vision of a group of professionals on civil society, the environment, education, culture and sustainability, with an emphasis on youth

Bjerkaker LearningLab (BLL) is a small NGO not-for-profit enterprise in Norway run by Sturla Bjerkaker and partners. Key activities include project management, counseling, and partnership in adult learning and education, lifelong learning, active citizenship, and senior policy

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