

Facilitating Through the Wisdom of Proverbs and Sayings

This session will be facilitated by Aichi Kitanyi from IAF Tanzania.

Tuesday

28 May 2024

16:00 GMT London

19:00 EAT Dar es Salaam

21:30 IST Mumbai



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Facilitating through the Wisdom of Proverbs and Sayings

Aichi Kitanyi - IAF Tanzania
& Irene Maweu - IAF Kenya Chapter
28th May 2024



Welcome and connecting

Break out rooms of 2s or 3s (3 minutes)
Two rounds

Traditional greetings with a deeper meaning

Get to know each other (name and location) and use African language traditional greetings which has a deeper meaning

Zulu in SA: *Sawubona* (I see you) Response-
Sikhona (I am here)



Motivation for Joining this Session

Let us share in the
Jamboard



What motivated you to join the session?



Connect and learn from each other

I am in the states which makes the time more workable than when I am in Taipei. Wanted to check on Aichi. Meeting colleagues from Africa and Europe

if this is professional development, then I'm all for it!!!

I found the topic interesting, and when Aichi mentioned it, I wanted to learn more about it.

Sharing our stories as facilitators is important - so I joined the session

Proverbs and stories are often hints to cultural assumptions and frameworks

the opportunity to learn from others around the continent

To learn some new proverbs and meet others

The topic was interesting, and when Aichi mentioned it, I wanted to join.

To learn connect and celebrate diversity

We've had several such sessions on proverbs and I can't get enough of them, because I also love to use them in my facilitation

To meet African facilitators. To learn more about proverbs and sayings on the continent.

I am curious about decolonising knowledge ... so understanding how African proverbs can bring meaning to facilitation is important

I wanted to connect and learn with a group of like-minded Africans on using proverbs / African sayings in facilitation



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Tanzania

AGENDA

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**Welcome & Ground
setting**

02

Session Purpose

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Definitions

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**Use of
proverbs/Sayings in
Facilitation**

05

**Benefits & Challenges
of using
proverbs/Sayings**

06

Evaluation & Closing



Purpose of the Session

Share and learn:

- When and how to use proverbs/Sayings in facilitation
- Benefits and challenges on use of proverbs/Sayings in facilitation



Definitions: Proverbs and Sayings

Two or three people to share their understanding of Proverbs and Sayings

Take the Mic
or
Share in the chat



Proverbs

- Short, simple, popular saying or phrase that conveys a general truth, advice, or wisdom based on common sense or experience.
- **Metaphorical** and are passed down from generation to generation within a **culture**.
- Used to impart moral lessons, offer guidance, or express a cultural value.
- A language of communication



Sayings

- Expressions that convey wisdom, truth, advice, or an observation about life
- Carries cultural values and can be passed down through generations.
- Can take proverbs form



When and How to use proverbs/sayings in Facilitation

Let us share in the Jamboard



When and How to use proverbs in Facilitation

When

How

Challenge basic thinking process and encourage participants to think deeper

To emphasize an idea, concept, or making analogy.

at reflective moments

To crystallise a thought when metaphor is important to make meaning

When I want to convey a message a sensitive message without being offensive

Proverb: Action removes the doubt that theory can not solve (Talk and consensus building is important but at some point action is critical to test reality) - When - in action plan

As Ice-Melter

after or before "big" discussions

Proverbs are useful when the difficult issues require a different lens for consideration

When you want to emphasize on a point

when you would like to convey a memorable message

In the middle or as an ice-breaker

Share a certain relevant proverb and state as needed

in small groups, each group agrees one in relation to the topic

Story-Telling - Proverb OR Saying

As clearly and soberly as possible

ask participants to come up with their own proverbs relating to a specific issue

You can say it slowly and repeat, then explain the message

By stating (and owning) your meaning making in using the proverb and then inviting others share their thoughts to see if your sense-making lands

stick 3-5 proverbs in different places around the room. ask people to stand next to the one that speaks to them most

Discussion: How to use Proverbs and Sayings in Facilitation

Breakout Rooms

Pick a proverb or a saying and discuss when and how to use it in facilitation



Examples of Proverbs

- Two ants do not fail to carry a grasshopper
- When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion
- One person cannot move a mountain
- Every cloud has a silver lining”
- Behind every storm there is a rainbow



Examples of Sayings

- *“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever”* - **Mahatma Gandhi**
- *“Learning never exhausts the mind”* - **Leonardo da Vinci**
(Encourages participants presence in the room)
- *Nothing is impossible until it is done* - **Nelson Mandela**



Let's Reflect

What are the benefits and challenges of using proverbs/saying in facilitation?



Challenges of using proverbs

- Contextual misfit: The context in which a proverb is used is crucial
- Cultural Differences: Proverbs are often deeply rooted in specific cultural contexts.
- Misinterpretation: Differences between facilitator and participants interpretation
- Relevance: Not all proverbs are relevant to every situation
- Language Barriers: If the proverb is not in the participants' primary language, it may lose its meaning or impact in translation



Advantages of using proverbs

- Cultural connection: Facilitator & Participants
- Simplification of Complex Ideas: clarifying and reinforcing concepts
- Engagement and interest - thought provoking proverbs can draw participants
- Emotional resonance making discussions more meaningful
- Encouragement of Reflection: Participants reflect on personal experience
- Conversation starters, encouraging participants to share their interpretations and experiences related to the proverb
- Conflict resolution: Offer wisdom that can mediate and resolve issues.





Proverbs are culture specific

Using African Proverbs in Organisational
Capacity Building - [Chiku Malunga with Rick
James](#)

Evaluation & Closing

Summarize impression of today's session in one word

Use the Mentimeter word cloud or put it in the Chat

Voting link:

<https://www.menti.com/aluvo9m8zz91>

Code: 4250 5330



Summarize impression of today's session in one word

18 responses





Sign in

View



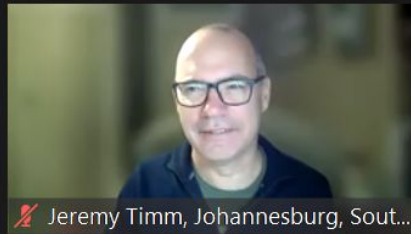
Aichi Kitilyi DSM Tanzania



Irene Maweu - Kenya



Kubeshni Govender Jones, Johann...



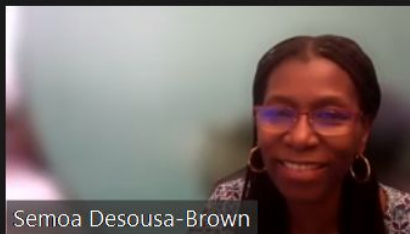
Jeremy Timm, Johannesburg, Sout...



Hardy Alexander, KERALA, India



Abenet Legesse Bekele



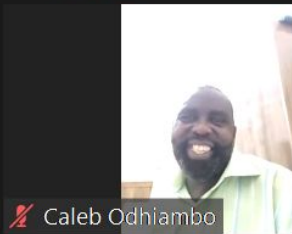
Semoa Desousa-Brown



John Cornwell, Mombasa, Kenya



Lawrence (Larry) Philbrook - Evan...



Caleb Odhiambo



Doreen Mutune



End