

SCRAMBLING FOR RESOURCES

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OBJECTIVE // To explore the relationships between gender, fairness, and wealth distribution.

GROUP SIZE // 10 people

MATERIALS //

- 100 coins or similarly shaped objects
- one thin-knit mitten
- one set of chopsticks
- table

HOW TO PLAY

PART A: THE SCRAMBLE

1. Invite all participants to sit in a circle around your table. Scatter the coins on the table.
2. Explain to the group that they will be distributing the world's wealth amongst themselves. The total wealth is represented by the 100 coins that are on the table.
3. Explain that some people will collect with certain conditions listed below. When the game begins, tell the group that they can start collecting their wealth by gathering coins. Specify that no participant may touch another participant to impede their collection of wealth or steal their coins.
4. Explain that just like in the real world, not all people have equal opportunity to get what they need. To create these unfair conditions, assign people in the group these roles.
 - i. **Two People:** You are white, Canadian men. According to Statistics Canada, for every dollar you make, the average Canadian woman makes 73.5 cents. Indigenous women and women of color in Canada make even less than 73.5 cents to your dollar. **You can use your bare hands to gather coins.**
 - ii. You are an average Canadian woman. You are middle class, but according to Statistics Canada you make 73.5 cents an hour for ever one dollar the average Canadian man does. **You must use the loose-knit mittens to collect coins.**
 - iii. According to the United Nations, women bear disproportionate responsibility for unpaid work. Women devote 1 to 3 hours more a day to housework than men; 2 to 10 times the amount of time a day to care (for children, elderly, and the sick), and 1 to 4 hours less a day to market activities. **You must wait 10 seconds after everyone else begins collecting coins before you begin.**

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- iv. You are a female child in sub-Saharan Africa. Women and children bear the negative impacts of fuel and water collection and transport, with many in developing countries spending from 1 to 4 hours a day collecting biomass for fuel. **You must also wait 10 seconds before you begin.**
 - v. One in four households of all Syrian refugee families in Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan are headed by women. **You are a single mother of four children in one of these refugee camps. You will be given 1 coin at the start of the game by your leader, but you cannot collect any more.**
 - vi. Approximately 1 in 9 girls in developing countries are married before the age of 15. Child marriage threatens girls' lives and health, and it limits their future prospects. **You will sit down without collecting anything, to represent the girls who are not allowed or unable to work.**
 - vii. In developed countries, the average income of the richest 10% of the population is about nine times that of the poorest 10%. **You are an average person in a developed country, and you can also collect coins using your bare hands.**
 - viii. Worldwide, Indigenous peoples make up 1/3 of the poorest peoples. Every day, Indigenous communities all over the world face issues of violence and brutality, continuing assimilation policies, dispossession of land, marginalization, forced removal or relocation, denial of land rights, and impacts of large scale development. As an Indigenous person, **you can collect coins but must use a pair of chopsticks to represent unfair barriers faced by many Indigenous peoples worldwide.**
 - ix. Although social protection has been significantly extended globally, persons with disabilities are up to five times more likely than average to incur catastrophic health expenditures. This number is even higher among women with disabilities. As a woman with a disability, **you can collect coins with one of your hands, but must give up half of your coins for medical costs.**
5. Tell the group that the scramble continues until all coins are picked up. Begin the scramble with a countdown.
 6. After the scramble, have participants report their wealth to the group.
 7. Remind everyone that the coins represent their wealth. The amount they possess affects their capacity to satisfy their needs and wants. Ask the group to give examples of needs (food, shelter, water, health care, education, clothing, etc.), and of wants (toys, smart phones, televisions, cars, etc.). Discuss what this means for each group's ability to satisfy their needs and wants.

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PART B: DEBRIEF THE ACTIVITY

Collect the coins and discuss their experiences of this game and what it can teach us. Some of the following questions may be helpful:

About the experience:

1. How did you feel during the scramble for coins?
2. Were you treated fairly?
3. How did you feel when you saw how the coins were divided among the group?
4. How did members of different wealth groups feel about their situation?

About gender and wealth:

1. What is the relationship between gender and wealth? Have the group share some examples of how they see this in their lives locally, nationally, and globally.

On Fairness:

1. What criteria help us determine what is fair?
2. What is a "fair" distribution of wealth?
3. Who are the "haves" and "have nots" in our country today? Our community? Our world?
4. Should those with wealth be concerned about those without? Why or why not?

To learn about how women in the Global South that partner with Development and Peace are using their resources to create positive change in their communities, check out our mini-magazine, Women at the Heart of Change at: <http://www.devp.org/en/sharelent2017/materials>

All statistics used are from The United Nations, Statistics Canada, and OXFAM.