BCC12: Mobilizing our Commitment to the Future through Equity

Worksheet

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- Why did you get into this field?
- Intentions? What are your primary motivations?
- How would you rate the alignment between what your intentions are and what you do?

Health equity means all people (individuals, groups and communities) are able to reach their full health potential and are not disadvantaged by social, economic and environmental conditions.

NCCDH Glossary of Essential Health Equity Terms http://nccdh.ca/resources/glossary/

Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly.

Mary Robinson Foundation: Principles of Climate Justice https://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/

How are health equity, health inequities, and climate inequities framed?

We naturalize health inequities by...

- Not referring to evidence about causes
- Explaining them as mysterious or the result of bad luck
- Focusing on symptoms
- Placing blame (root causes) in individuals
- Blaming culture or ethnicity rather than -isms

We problematize health inequities by...

- Explicitly naming causes
- Describing them as actionable (i.e., human-caused and therefore humans can respond)
- Stating that they are unfair or tied to unearned advantages and disadvantages
- Shaped by political economy
- Situate them in social systems of power

Assessing orientations to root causes of inequities and climate justice)

	Possible Action	ons for Health Equ	iity				
Discredit Actions advance arguments against evidence of root causes by indirectly or directly describing the evidence as false or unreliable.	Distract Actions divert attention from root causes by advancing unproductive arguments or interventions (e.g., behavioural, individualist, reductionist, and/or neoliberal).	Disregard Actions intentionally or unintentionally overlook or or ignore root causes of health inequities.	Acknowledge Actions involve recognizing the importance of root causes, but go no further to respond to these roots. Descriptive Work	Illuminate Actions seek to clarify or explain the understanding of how root causes work or lead to health inequities. Acknowledges role of political economy. Interpretive Work	Disrupt Actions attempt to interrupt root causes by causing a disturbance to, or altering conditions that contribute to root causes. Acknowledges political economy + mitigates power and privilege. Interventional Work		
	Progres	Progressively Less Productive Actions Progressively More Pro					
Are the methodological integrity or strength of evidence on root causes questioned?	Is there a focus on behaviours or on motivating behaviour change?	Is there a focus on health disparities as geographically- or racially-determined, without reference to causes?	Are health inequities recognized without going further to respond?	Are efforts focused on understanding something new about how health inequities work?	Do efforts open possibilities for change related to power, privilege, and their distribution in society?		

Articles & Media for Groupwork

- 1. Discuss and decide whether it naturalizes or problematizes (bullet points about why)
- 2. Discuss and decide where it falls on the spectrum of possible actions on root causes
- 3. Make a recommendation about something that would move it toward productive action

Group 1:

 $\frac{https://black dissidents.wordpress.com/2015/12/16/open-letter-from-the-wretched-of-the-earth-bloc-to-the-organisers-of-the-peoples-climate-march-of-justice-and-jobs/$

Group 2:

https://greennewdealgroup.org/a-social-and-green-new-deal-to-reverse-the-populist-tide/

Group 3:

http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/5068

Group 4:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbtdlB5DiiY (start around 2:30; especially "interesting" around 5:00...)

Group 5:

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(17)30176-6/fulltext

Think-Pair-Share

What is one thing you can do to better align your intention and action *or* move toward an even more productive action?