

THE TREE

Time: Minimum 30 minutes

Goal or purpose of the exercise: To identify and analyse the nature and components of a problem and to come up with positive responses.

How it's done/facilitator's notes

Draw a tree with roots, a trunk, and branches with fruit. The tree represents the problem you will analyse. Ask participants to identify the roots (causes), the fruits (consequences), and the trunk (the institutions that uphold the system.) You can also add underlying principles found in the soil that 'nurture' these root causes.

Healthy Tree

What is the healthy fruit we want to grow? What roots do we need in order to grow healthy fruit? What roots do we need to cut? What structures need to be developed for a healthy society? What needs to be resisted? What values need to be in the soil to strengthen the roots? Identify goals for growing a healthy tree or goals for cutting down an unhealthy tree. Can we answer the above questions positively?

Analyse the Problem Tree

Choose the institution in the trunk of the tree that your group wants to weaken. Draw another tree, identifying the root causes and consequences. Use the list of questions above to analyse the situation or use the questions on p34.

