



**Lesson Plan**

**Power Walk**

**Length:**

30 minutes

**Objectives:**

Through this activity participants will:

- Become sensitized to power relations and to the marginalization experienced by some members of society.
- Identify different forms of power at work in the community.
- Understand that advocacy is about shifting power.

**Summary:**

Role play and discussion will help participants to understand that advocacy is about shifting power. Participatory advocacy is about developing the capacity of community members and organizations to facilitate changes necessary to shift power and support rights-holders to claim their rights.

**Materials:**

- *Power Walk: Characters* handout with the character slips separated; one for each member of the class
- One copy of *Power Walk Statements*
- Large space to do activity

**Process:**

Gather the class in a large space, and have them stand in a line on one side of the room. Give each participant a slip with a character on it from the list provided.

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**Leader:**

I will read some statements aloud. Listen to each one, and for every statement to which you (your character) could answer yes, take one step forward.

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Read each statement from the *Power Walk Statements* handout, pausing briefly between each one.

Conclude the activity by leading the class in discussion using the following questions.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who were the groups left behind? How did they feel? Why were they left out?
2. Why were the gaps between those in front, in the middle, and at the starting point so big?
3. During the walk, did those in the front turn around to see what was happening to those in the back? Was there any communication between groups?
4. What did it feel like to be in the front? What about in the back?
5. What responsibilities and duties do those in the front or in the middle have (if any)? What rights do those “left behind” have?
6. What are the visible and invisible forms of power at work here (age, gender, race, education, class, etc.)?



**Handout**

**Power Walk: Statements**

1. I can influence decisions made at the local level (in my town).
2. I get to meet visiting officials from government offices.
3. I have time and access to watch TV, go to the movies and spend time with my friends; I get new clothes when I want.
4. I am not in danger of being sexually abused or exploited.
5. I get to see and talk to my parents.
6. I can buy food.
7. I own my own home.
8. I can speak at town meetings.
9. I can pay for treatment in a private hospital if necessary.
10. I went to or expect to go to high school.
11. I went to or expect to go to college.
12. I will be consulted on issues affecting children/young people.
13. I am not in danger of being physically abused.
14. I sometimes attend workshops and seminars.
15. I will be consulted on decisions about the local government.
16. I have access to plenty of information about HIV.
17. I can provide a child with what he/she needs.
18. I have access to social assistance if necessary.
19. I can vote in local elections.
20. I make decisions about how money will be spent in my household.
21. I'm likely to be interviewed on the radio or TV about my views.

**Handout**

**Power Walk: Characters**

Mayor	Spouse of mayor
Male university student organizer	Elementary schoolteacher
African-American boy in detention facility, age 14	Elementary schoolgirl, age 13
Nurse at local clinic	Widowed single mother with 3 children, ages 12, 6, and 2
Agricultural worker, father of 2 children	Girl in wheelchair, age 9
Chief of police	HIV+ pregnant girl, age 19
Elementary schoolboy, age 14	Minister of local church
Imam of local mosque	Parish Catholic priest
Head of local radio station	Editor of local newspaper
President of local school board	Female president of city council
15-year-old living on the streets	Developer of 2 major luxury housing developments
Waitress at the local diner	Head of local chamber of commerce (business group)
President of local college	Latino social worker at the local community center
Unemployed 50-year-old male factory worker	18-year-old captain of local high school football team
Head of board of directors of local hospital	Head of town's environmental watchdog group
Local Democratic Party chair	Local Republican Party chair
County court judge	Local gas station attendant
Owner of the local diner	