

Evaluating our Needs - The "Pair-wise" Ranking Method

Why we do it:

This activity will help us to identify the needs of our group and to evaluate which are the most important to us. Pair-wise method also helps us discover opportunities available to us, and what limits may exist. We call the activity "pair-wise," because we'll be comparing the importance of each single idea with each other idea.

Materials we'll use:

Pair-wise Ranking Matrix Chart; Flip chart paper, markers, tape, scissors, tacks, and materials (sticky dots) if voting becomes necessary.

How to do it:

We will be working together to decide what your most important needs are, first individually, then as a whole group. It is important that the results represent the whole group as much as possible, and not just any one individual in the group. Divide into small groups so that everyone's voices can be heard. The facilitator will guide you through the activity a step at a time.

Here are the steps:

1. "Brainstorm" a List of:
 - What problems or challenges do I/we face?
 - What prevents me/us from having a better life?
- To clarify issues, feel free to question each other and discuss the ideas.
- Write your ideas on the flip chart as they are mentioned.
- If any ideas listed seem to be similar, ask for someone to clarify.
2. When up to 7 ideas have been listed, we will do a **Pair-wise Ranking** to get to a final ranking. (see Matrix Chart on next page). The Facilitator will guide us through this...
 - List each idea "opportunity" along the left-hand column and again along the top row.
 - Compare each pair through discussion and write down the one you prefer in the blank box at the "intersection" of the pair
 - Do this for all the ideas.
 - Then we'll count up the results and rank them in order of preference or priority.
3. Now, we must reach a "consensus" on the comparison of each pair of the needs we have identified. There may be different opinions.
 - Because we may see things differently, we will try faithfully to reach a common agreement. We call this "building consensus." The facilitator will help the groups to openly discuss different opinions that come up. It is important that everyone's ideas be appreciated and understood. Having and understanding each members input makes it possible to arrive at the best group decision. Pair-wise ranking can be done again, by asking ourselves: "Which ideas seem to inspire us to take action? Or "Which ideas seem to have the best chances of success?"

Sharing what we've learned:

- What relationships do we see between the ideas?
- If individual group lists contain different ideas, discuss why.
- Is there a way we meet some of the needs on each group's list?
- Which ideas seem realistic and really possible?

Pair-wise Ranking Matrix

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Opportunity:

of Times Preferred:

Ranking:
