



Science Communication Workshop – Summary

Making Science Accessible and Inclusive

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Background: Equitable science requires visibility, accessibility and inclusivity. Underpinning this motto, our group's focus was to start at the grassroots level to propel information dissemination, specifically aimed at addressing the idea that 'you can't be what you cannot even imagine', followed by embedding equitable access. Here, our focus was to acknowledge the different starting points for the same end goal, which often leads to a disconnect, even among the most aware individuals. And lastly, a tangible outcome would be to have agency despite the limiting factors from a social and geopolitical standpoint.

Roleplay Scenario: In our group, we explored a lot of free thought by playing out a scenario of 3 women in a small village, (A: Returning as a Prof, B: Single mother – educated & independent, C: Illiterate – dependent). C grew up in a matriarchal household with patriarchal views and is married to a supportive and progressive husband. She is friends with B and finds it absurd that B is a single mother who works for financial remuneration at a supermarket. One fine day, a rumour spreads that A is returning as a professor. This brings about a conversation between B and C, B expresses a desire to upskill but doesn't have support for the child. C begins to question if she could help bag the groceries? All of this happens around A in the supermarket. A gives B a flyer for day school, B wonders who would fill in for her at the supermarket and C informs her husband, who suggests C could help out B. When C volunteers, B agrees to go to school, and A helps find child support at the university. Surely, it is oversimplified, but the point is that despite how our group started, we converged on Representation in STEM as the overarching goal. This, first and foremost, required addressing, FIRST CAREGIVERS- their narratives are significant at initiating the cascading events that go from DREAMING to ACHIEVING. It involves community effort from awareness, accessibility and eventually agency.

Action Points:

Step 1) Find resources to help centralize data and catalogue

Step 2) Decentralize the information

Step 3) Have resources for community – sharing

Step 4) Always give back – information, aid, support, etc.

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