

TIPSHEET: THE ROLE OF A WSWM FACILITATOR. USING PARTICIPATIVE METHODS

(WSWM Golden Principle 2)

An important characteristic of facilitating WSWM is the kind of methods to be used. These have to be ‘participatory’ to get the input of students. It helps students to learn by doing, using methods like interactive games, group discussions and role plays.

Note: this doesn’t mean a facilitator has no clear role, or that (s)he has to let the students go and do whatever they feel like!

No, a facilitator that facilitates participatory methods, has a very clear and important role!

What a teacher should always do with every participatory method:

1. **Make clear what the objectives are** (for yourself and the student), so you can make sure these are met.
2. **Support students in carrying out the methods** (instead of telling them what the right answer is). In group work, let them work their own way, but instruct them well and regularly check whether they are focussed.
3. **Timekeeping**. Very important, as students don’t keep track of time and their enthusiasm might stimulate them to pose lots of questions and share a lot, which takes a lot of time.
4. **Make sure the conditions for every method are met**: every method has some conditions to be effective. For instance, when students are reading and discussing about a presentation, you should make sure that every student is actively participating and focussed.
5. **Check whether ‘health-promoting’ norms and values are always supported**. For instance, we promote gender equity in this program. This means if in a group discussion one student thinks women are inferior to men, you should ask the class: do you agree with the statement that women are inferior to men? What do we know about it, learned in the lesson on gender, lesson 3? If the students don’t answer ‘correctly’, only then you should ‘teach’ about the health-promoting and to be supported norm of gender equity.
6. **Rounding off with the core message**. Every method and part of a lesson has a core message. Students need to know that; it gives focus to what they have learned. Best is if students can tell you this core message yourself. If not, you can tell them or better, get it out of them in a class discussion.

In the factsheet ‘participatory methods’ you can learn about all the methods used in WSWM. Also you can read this in the online Teacher Manual.

To support you in getting more familiar with all of the methods, each lesson of WSWM will ask you to do some homework about reflecting on which methods have been used in that particular lesson and whether and how you would do them differently.