



Workshop exercise on the arts

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Objectives:

- To identify the artistic manifestations in your community.
- To reflect on how they can be used for social development purposes.

Duration: 50 minutes

Materials:

Booklet with instructions / Large sheets of paper / Felt pens / Notebook and pen

What are we going to do?

1. The group will make two lists in relation to artistic activities. These do not have to be 'fine arts' but can be any type of activity that connects the community with its culture. The secretary will make notes of all examples mentioned. **(20 minutes)**
 - a. Activities through which members of the community express their creativity individually (hint: some examples are personal paintings, decorating of a space of the house, and embroidery).
 - b. Activities through which members of the community express their creativity in a group (hint: any of the examples above, plus knitting, taking photos of/for the community, will be part of this list, as long as they are practised in groups).

2. Now the group will take stock of the benefits and challenges associated with each activity. For example. **(25 minutes)**

Activity: a relatively common practice handed down in families is embroidery.

Benefits:

- It connects the women who teach and learn the art.
- It requires concentration, distracting from worries in daily life.
- The artwork has the potential to represent an important episode or to tell the story of the community.
- Once the artwork is finished, it can produce a sense of achievement among those who worked on it.
- Embroidery can embellish everyday objects like kitchen cloths, cushions and handkerchiefs, adding beauty to daily life.
- Embroidery can also be highly marketable and can thus supplement or be the main source of income.

Challenges:

- Embroidery requires raw materials that can be expensive for someone with a low income.
- Elaborate work can be challenging for those with sight problems.
- Once marketed, embroidery can become an obligation rather than an enjoyable activity.

3. Discuss with the group. **(5 minutes)**

- a. Can the activities you discussed become a project for developing your community? If so, what would be needed?