

Check Yourself: Recognizing Privilege in a Sex Ed Context

Shanna Katz, M.Ed, ACS; Lisa Pittari, MSW

Please answer the following questions with your agent group:

1. How do people in your agent community access sexual health resources and information?
2. What are the barriers the target community you do not belong experience in accessing sexual health resources and information? What about youth in that target group?
3. Identify ways you can eliminate or combat those barriers to make sexual health information more accessible.
4. Identify ways you can take action against the oppression of the target group you do not belong to in your personal, professional and community settings.
5. Explore ways in which we can empower ourselves to eliminate "isms" in various areas of our lives.
6. Based upon what you've discussed thus far in your group, provide a framework for developing a personal agenda for action or an action plan. Be sure to include some opportunities as well as challenges.

Definitions:

Social Identity: Social identity groups are based on the physical, social, and mental characteristics of individuals. They are sometimes obvious and clear, sometimes not obvious and unclear, often self claimed and frequently ascribed by others. For example, racial groupings are often ascribed as well as self-claimed. Government, schools, and employers often ask an individual to claim a racial identity group or simply ascribe one to an individual based on visual perception. Other social identities are personally claimed but not often announced or easily visually ascribed such as sexual orientation, religion, or disability status.

Agent Group: social identity groups that hold unearned privileged in society.

Target Group: social identity groups that are disenfranchised and exploited.

Unearned Privilege: when a group of people are entitled to get special things just based on the social identity group they belong to. This also includes access to resources.

Kattari Consulting