



RADIO MAUBISSE FGD



22 AUGUST 2013

FGD FACILITATORS: ZEVONIA VIEIRA

PARTICIPANTS: 12 PARTICIPANTS (4 WOMEN, 8 MEN), AGED 24-42

Content analysis

Some of the participants in Maubisse stated that they've listen to the episodes of HerStory through the community radio of Mauloko and sometimes through Radio of Timor-Leste. The topic they've listened to was Domestic Violence – a victim that was a woman shared her experienced of suffering from the domestic violence did by her husband; land dispute, divorce and labor rights – equal's rights. However when the team asked details question on this issues, they couldn't answer to it, it has shown that actually they didn't listen to the program; they only listened to the topics from the community radio. The team decided to play the episode on domestic violence to start the FGD.

The unique thing happened in Maubisse that was the message was able to transform. Father Richard is a person who is a counselor and always gives advice to divorced women. He stated that he didn't listen to the HerStory program but a woman shared to him that "I listened to a radio program; there is a way to overcome the cases related to divorce". Father Richard also shared that this lady has two children, when she's listening to the program it really touched her heart, "I think this program makes me strong and I have to bring this case to the court to get my rights".

During the FGD, discovered that the new information they've got were there's a law on the domestic violence and law against DV that stated that DV is a public crime and anybody can report it if they see it happens; TL has a formal justice that protects the victims to get their rights as stated in the law; everyone has the right to have free access to the court; the traditional justice brings a lot of disadvantages for women.

Legal issues discussion by AATL

AATL started its method by explaining it based on the drawing or picture that focused on the public and civil crimes. AATL also tried to explain the domestic violence by linking this case to other problem that might occurs such as fighting over the land by a family.

All the participants understood the difference between public and civil crimes through the legal explanation. Through the caricatures, AATL shown and explained the difference between public and civil crimes. Some caricatures shown the image of divorce, fighting over land and housing are included in the

civil crimes. The image of domestic violence is included in the public crimes.

The objective of this activity was to provoke the participants to have better understanding, get to know and have good knowledge on these issues.

Did the participants engage actively in asking the question on the domestic violence definition and its indication?

A participant shared a story based on the experience, it happened in a family where a mother and her daughter beaten up the mother in law of her daughter, at the end the son beaten up his wife and his mother in law with the reason to defend his mother. Based on this case, who are the suspected criminal in this domestic violence?

AATL provided the explanation based on the legal way, when a person involved in a violence it means that he/she committed a crime, the public crime didn't see who starts and ends the crime. Based on the legal way, when the domestic violence occurs, we can report it to the police to process it based on formal justice, but we are not allowed to fight over by using violence too.

Land issue also becomes a problem that happens in Timor, because the traditional belief is still very strong and it caused men have more power to access to the land that have shared by their parents. Some of the participants were still confused to understand that men and women have the same rights to become the land owners. Maybe in the law should explain about the culture systems of patrilineal and matrilineal.

In responding to this question AATL tried to explain that in the constitution, before the law was made, the state did a research on the culture, because most of the time culture stands against human right. Based on the experienced, when a man and a woman get married, automatically the woman has to follow the culture of her husband, but there is no such explanation in the law, because in the law stated that everyone has the same right without any form of discriminations. When a baby was still in the womb of a mother and was born, the baby has the right already based on the law.

Based on AATL observation mentioned that many women are the victims of many issues because women didn't want to report it to the court. When a daughter in a family doesn't have her right to access to be the owner of the land, AATL encouraged them that there's public and private lawyers that are ready to help them to have their rights.

In the other case such as divorce, they also provided clear explanation that when a wife and husband decided to divorce, they have to share their wealth equally, without any discriminations against human right, especially for women as vulnerable part in this case.

Challenges

The community radio facilitators didn't provide maximal perception and not serious enough in running FGD in their area. Although they've got the trainings but still they were not confidence to facilitate the group discussion. As in Aileu, it happened in Maubisse also that the staffs didn't support one another.

We found out that the participants were quite even when the facilitators have tried hard with various questions to make them understand. They liked to provide more suggestions instead of answering the questions. Also found out that the community radio members didn't really work hard to increase the numbers of their audiences to listen to their programs. This could happen because the members of community radio have no commitment to the idea that the radio program can change people's behaviors and increase people knowledge on the formal justice issues, however the community radio's members are more focusing on how to get the income from the programs that have given by other organizations, they put more their attention on money rather than on helping the community members to learn many things from the radio programs.

Success Story

Based on the story shared by Father Richard, the message was transformed and made a divorce person gained back her hope to access to justice. However as participants, Frater Richard didn't want to provide details information on this case. After the discussion, there's a participant, an elder called Vicente da Mendonça stated that he will talk to his children for not beating his grandchildren.

Suggestion:

Engage the chiefs of villages in FGD, because they know their population and they can make a change. FGD can also become a regular program in each village to increase people knowledge and change their behaviors. Brings some people (victims) to share their own experience on the process they've gone through to access to the justice.

Next Step

There's a need to continue coaching facilitators of community radio to facilitate FGD; working together with the fans club to strengthen the branding to increase the number of audiences; make FGD as one of the regular program in each village in the rural areas.