

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Arms and Power

Setting

Relief store with a big sign reading “RELIEF STORE”

Requirements

1 "gun", 1 sign

Persons

1 soldier with gun (A), 1 woman (B)

Play

(Guard walking up and down with his gun in front of the relief store. Slowly a woman is approaching)

A (roughly): Hey! You! Woman!! Stop!!

(Woman stops, but addressed further before she can respond)

A (roughly): Where are you going?

B (timidly): I am ...

(Woman cut short by the guard)

A (pointing to the sign):

Can't you see this is a relief store?

B (surprisedly looking at the sign):

Oh?! Store?

A (commanding):

Go away!!!

(Guard pushing the woman away, pointing the gun at her)

B (talking to herself as she walks away):

But what have I done?. I was just going my way! What has the store got to do with me?

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Disrespect, Mistrust, Competition (among aid agencies)

Setting

Meeting place in the field

Requirements

1 chair

2 signs (“Big Impact International” / “Best Help NGO”) taped to the back of persons

Persons

1 programme manager of “Big Impact International” (A),

1 programme manager of “Best Help NGO” (B)

Play

A (sitting on the chair in front of workshop participants, explaining):

Thank you for coming to this meeting. Because of its importance, it has been in my planning for the past three months. I have been eagerly waiting for this day.

(B approaching; A looking surprised)

B (irritated): Oh, you are here! I asked you last week whether you are planning to go to this village, and you told me you wouldn't. So what are you doing here?

A (aggressively):

Yes, I am here. So what? I don't need to share my plans with you!

B (puzzled): But ...

A (pointing at the community)

We from “Big Impact International” are having a workshop here in this village, and these people are our beneficiaries!

B (angry): Your beneficiaries? Excuse me, but they are our beneficiaries! I don't know what you do in this community anyway. You just come here with your huge budget and think that the people appreciate your work. In reality, they just come for your money!

A (shouting): Your project has no budget, no impact, no results ...; now get out of my training! I am doing some important work here. You just try to find other beneficiaries. It is obvious that these people prefer to work with us!

B (leaving while shaking his fist as a threat):

Let me go to the elder of this village. He will decide if they need your project or ours!

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Impunity

Setting

Office of local NGO

Requirements

2 chairs, 1 table

Persons

1 NGO director (A), 1 driver (B)

Play

A (sitting at the table):
Driver!

B (approaching):
Yes sir!

A (friendly): Please come! I want you to do something for me. Is the car in good condition?

B: Yes, Sir.

A: I want you to go to the cashier, get some money and fill the tank with fuel.

B: Yes, Sir.

A: Then, go to the store. How many bags of maize do you think can fit in the car?

B: About six, Sir.

A: Get five bags from the relief store and take them to Auntie Veronica. You remember where she lives, don't you?

B (worried): Yes, Sir. What about these new forms from the supply department?

A (waving his hand):
How I hate this bureaucracy! Don't worry about these stupid forms. Tell the storekeeper I have sent you.

B: Okay, Sir. I will tell him. I hope he will not make a fuss like last time.

A (patting on the driver's back):
Oh, did he? I will have to talk to him. You are a very good and active driver and I am very happy with your work. Now get going.

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Different Values for Different Lives

Setting

Regional Office of Disaster Assistance Programme

Requirements

1 table, 1 chair, 1 telephone

Persons

Regional Coordinator Human Resources (A)

Play

(a phone rings)

A: Hello, Disaster Assistance Programme, Regional Coordinator Human Resources

(A listening)

A: Oh, hello! How is the field situation?

(A listening)

A (rising from his chair):

What? Air bombing? How is Dr. Miller?

(A listening)

A (worried): Yes, I can imagine. We expatriates are not used to these war games. Tell him we will get him out immediately! Have you followed our emergency plans and locked all the vehicles in the yard?

(A listening)

A (embarrassed):

The local secretary was injured? Really, I have no time for this now! She may seek medical advice with the Red Cross clinic out there.

(A listening)

A (shouting): Yeah, that's bad indeed. I don't want them to be seen next to our compound. Have them buried! Right?

(A listening)

A: Okay, I am arranging a plane for Dr. Miller and the other expatriate staff. Make sure the computers will all be taken out, and insure all the vehicles are locked in the yard.

(A listening)

A (strictly): No, the injured local staff are not covered by our policy.

(A listening)

A (loud): Take instructions!

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Powerlessness

Setting

NGO Office

Requirements

2 chairs

Persons

1 community leader (A), 1 NGO project manager (B)

Play

B (sitting on a chair, bored expression):

A (entering with a smile, extending his hand):

Good morning, Sir!

B (half moving-up, pointing to the other chair):

Good morning. What's the news?

A (very friendly):

I am fine. The rains will come soon, I think, and people are preparing for the holidays.

B:

Any news from the project?

A:

Yes, there is a small problem. Some displaced have arrived on the other side of the river, searching for assistance. They have requested me to talk to you about possibilities for assistance.

B (annoyed): More people! We do already have enough work. How many are they?

A (politely): I would guess they are about two thousand, and they look very desolate. Their state seems to be much worse than that of our people here. Would there be any way of addressing their needs?

B:

Where are they exactly?

A (hopefully): You remember that village at the foot of those granite mountains on the way to the capital? They are about ten kilometres north of there, near to a shallow pond.

B (annoyed): Oh, that's on the other side of the river. And we crossed that terrible sandy plain on the way there, where we got stuck three times. That's really not a nice place to go.

A (convincingly):

Yes, they are really bad off. These people need your assistance.

B (harshly): No, I don't want to hear about this. We have our plan and we will stick to it. I have my regulations from my headquarters, and they clearly state that we follow the plans. Tell them to move on!

A:

Yes, Sir.

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Belligerence, Tension, Suspicion

Setting

Checkpoint

Requirements

1 chair; barrier

Persons

1 soldier (A), 1 NGO staff (B)

Play

A (sitting relaxed on a chair without any expression)

B (suddenly appearing with angry expression; loud voice):

Hey, why are you not opening the gate?

A (standing up, taking a formal position):

Good morning, Sir! Where do you want to go?

B (aggressively):

Where I want to go? That's my own business. Open the barrier!

(pointing backwards) Can't you read the sign on my car?

(emphsizing) GOOD PEOPLE INTERNATIONAL!

A (still formal):

Excuse me, Sir. At this checkpoint everybody is supposed to submit information on his destination. Would you allow me to have a look at your car?

B (turning his back, waving his hand; loud):

You check my car? I still remember how somebody stole a spare tyre last week. I know you people. You will not touch my car! Open! Immediately!

Role Plays “Implicit Ethical Messages”

Publicity

Setting

Open area in a displaced camp

Requirements

3 chairs (for children), 1 camera

Persons

1 photographer (A), 1 aid worker (B), 3 children

Play

(Three children sitting restlessly on chairs, teasing each other and making noise, while photographer and aid worker are approaching)

A (exhausted):

Finally, we are there. I hope it was worth the effort to come here, as our readers need some good photos of these displaced children!

B (pointing at the children):

Here we are. These are our children. We are so happy with their recovery.

A (looking at the children):

These are your children? Are you serious?

B (surprised): Why?

A (shaking his head, shouting angrily)

I am not interested in this kind of children. Do you really think you can get funds with such pictures? They are well-nourished and well-clothed. That's ridiculous!

B (defendingly):

But these are the children of our displaced camp!

A (roughly): These children are useless. I need poor children. Some where you see on first look that they had been tortured by these damned rebels. Children who look like victims!!! Go and look for appropriate children.