



Aim

to examine the causes and effects of children and young people missing an education and to identify possible solutions

Age

12 years and over

Time

45 minutes

Materials

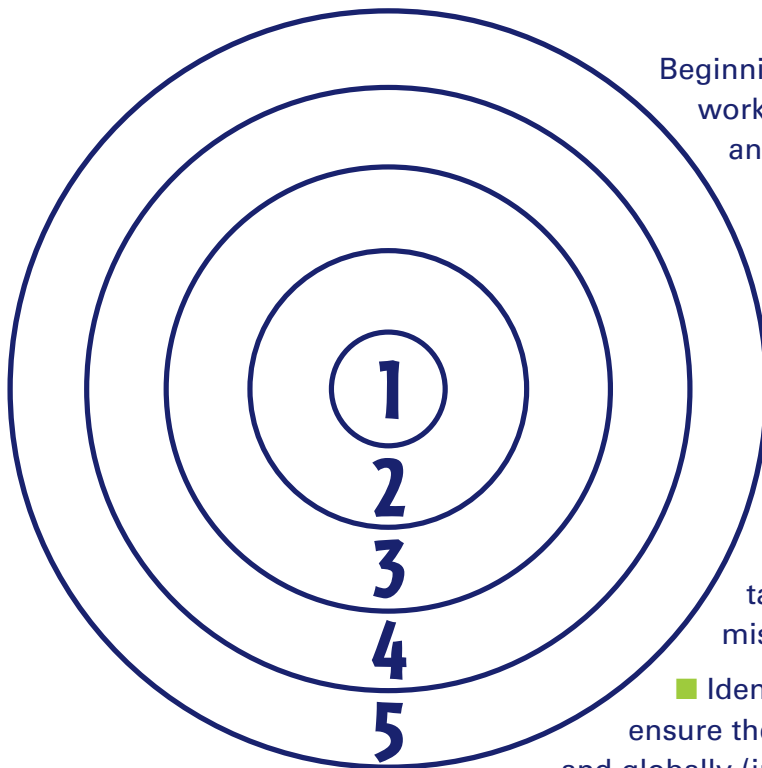
Flipchart sheets, set of role cards, markers

What to do

Begin with a brainstorm on who misses out on an education in Ireland and around the world. Why do people miss out on an education? Add to the list of factors (see box) and display the list prominently.

Form groups of three people. Give each group a large sheet of paper, markers and a role card from activity nine. Explain that they are to think about their character and to discuss what factors have led to them missing out on an education.

Ask the groups to draw a series of five circles – one out side the other (like a target) on the paper. Remind them to leave plenty of space between the circles for writing/drawing.



Beginning in the smallest circle and working outwards, the groups use words and/or drawings to:

- Represent their character;
- Give reasons why their character doesn't have (or didn't have) access to education;
- Show the effects that missing an education has had or will have on their lives;
- Suggest possible solutions to tackle the causes of young people missing an education;
- Identify who needs to take action to ensure the solutions are implemented locally and globally (individual, family, school/community, Government, international community...).

Allow 20 minutes in total for the exercise.



Warm-up

OGA (Nigerian Game)

Everybody stands in a circle. One person stands in the middle. They choose a participant at random and demonstrate a short action rapidly. For example, clapping their hands three times, kicking out their left foot twice and shaking their hips. The other person has to mirror the action exactly. If they do, the person remains in the middle and goes again. If not, they take over in the middle. Note: to mirror, the opposite hand or foot is used.

Source: Ifeoma Onyefulu (1999).
Ebele's Favourite: A book of African games.

In the large group, ask for volunteers to present back for each group. Discuss the following:

- What was common for the different characters that led to them missing out on an education?
- What was particular to different characters?
- Are there similar factors affecting access to education in Ireland and in developing countries?
- How does missing an education affect children and young people in later life?
- What was similar or different about the suggestions for tackling the problem of children and young people missing an education?
- What can we do to make a difference for children and young people missing an education?

Factors that Affect Access to Education

- Poverty
- Lack of family or community tradition in education
- Gender (girls are less likely to have access to education than boys)
- Not having enough to eat or not getting enough sleep
- Personal or family circumstances may prevent children and young people from accessing education (illness, young people as head of household)
- Exploitation (child labour, bonded labour)
- High participation costs of education (clothes, fees, books, travel)
- The education is not relevant to the culture or learning style of all learners
- The needs of particular minority groups are not addressed (Travellers, ethnic minorities, people with disability)