Learning Methodology

Section 2

Resources:

Solutionexchange-un.net. (2015). Welcome to Solution Exchange.

http://bit.ly/SolutionExchange Harnessing the power of Communities of Practice, helping countries attain national development goals and the MDGs

Ramalingam, B. (2006). Tools for Knowledge and Learning A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations.

http://bit.ly/ToolsForKnowledgeAndLearning Tools to help humanitarian and development organisations to contribute to ensuring knowledge flows to where it is needed

Find out more at
bit.ly/AcademyLearningArchitecture

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Learning Methodology

This Learning Methodology can be used for many delivery options, including face-to-face sessions, self-guided e-learning, virtual instructor-led sessions, mobile learning, and social learning. It structures your thinking about learning design, helping you to create a blueprint for a learner centred approach that starts with an account of your learner's context and needs. The Methodology then describes the types of activities that learners should be engaged in, such as exploration, reflection, demonstration, etc., that takes advantage of both formal content and social opportunity.

Solution Exchange, an initiative of the UN agencies in India

Description:
What was the challenge? / What happened?
To harness the vast tacit knowledge of development practitioners across India, the UN offices in India created Solution Exchange, a free, impartial space where professionals were able to share their knowledge and experience. Members represent a wide range of perspectives from government, NGOs, donors, private sector and academia. Initially, they were organised into eight communities of practice: Maternal and Child Health; Education; Work and Employment; Gender; Decentralisation; AIDS; Water and Environmental Sanitation; and Food and Nutrition Security.

Solution:
How did we approach it? ? What did we do?
Through moderated email groups, members interact on an ongoing basis, building familiarity and trust, gaining in knowledge that helps them contribute more effectively – individually and collectively – to development challenges.

Community members participate in Solution Exchange's personalised Research Service: members post questions on the community's mail group about development challenges they face, to which other members respond while the moderation team researched the issues. This tacit and expert knowledge is brought together in a summarised Consolidated Reply and circulated to the community, normally within 10 working days. The project also builds community identity and member affiliation through face-to-face meetings, community news updates and, in future, a community webpage. Additional features being introduced tap into the power of communities: group work to tackle larger development challenges and e-discussions to generate collective insights on a topic of interest. For example, in 2005, the AIDS CoP hosted a nationwide e-consultation as an input into the next phase of the National AIDS Control Programme, which generated over 300 contributions to the national policy making body.

Conclusion:
How did it work?/ What are lessons learned? How does it relate to broader context?
Membership has grown dramatically to over 4,300 subscriptions from across the country. By the end of 2007, the project will have established 12 to 14 communities organised around these targets, demonstrating how CoPs can significantly enhance the effectiveness of national development efforts.