

NOTES OF KPS FIRST YOUTH FORUM

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this open forum was to explore our values, beliefs, strength and to create network and programmes to enhance our potential in contributing to Kadwa Patidar Community.

APPROACH

The Community Committee decided on the Appreciative Inquiry process to set in motion the cultural change needed. Appreciative Inquiry is a particular way of asking questions and envisioning the future that fosters positive relationships and builds on the basic goodness in a person and organization. In so doing, it enhances a system's capacity for collaboration and change.

STAGE 1: Discovery

This stage was run in small groups in which individuals talked to another via structured interviews asking 2 main questions. The stories were shared and the patterns noted of the 'root causes of success' for the individuals and the KPS Community.

About 55 one to one interviews were done in small groups.

There were two main questions asked as part of the interview.

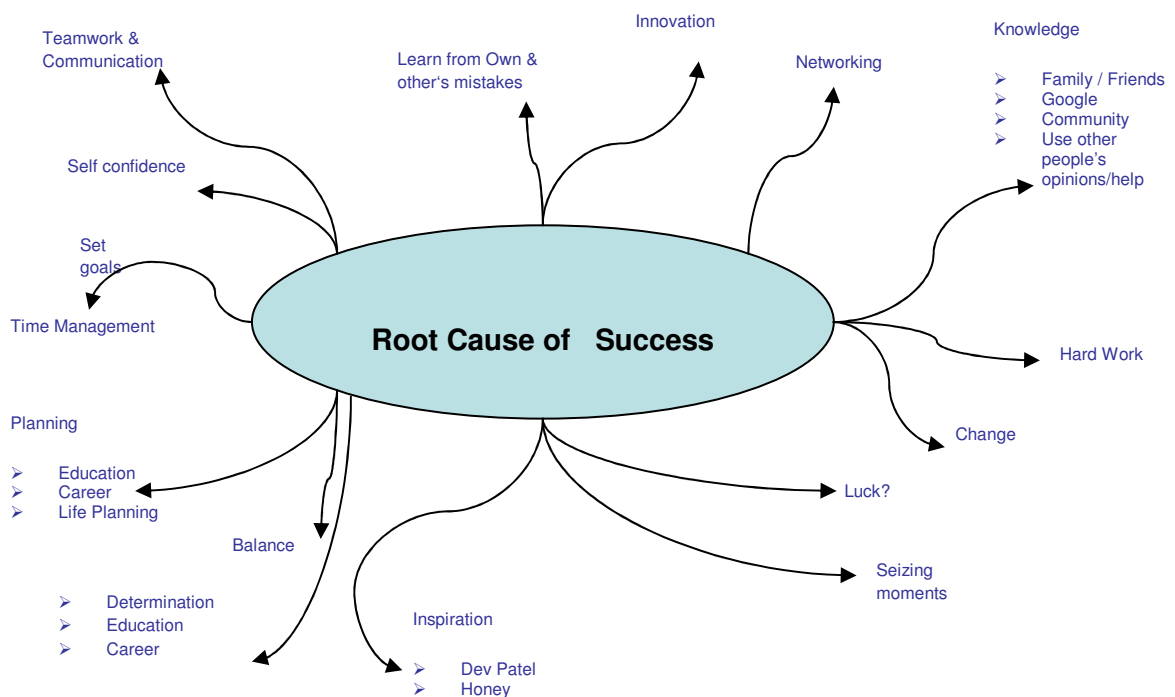
1. *Tell your story about your best experience of working with a group of people to achieve something?* Some of the answers included:

- Working in community hospital
- Working with people with severe case of dyslexic, autistic and epilepsy
- Youth enterprise businesses at schools
- KPS community – creating website, picnic, sports events, variety show. Gujarati school
- Various Group presentations in college and work
- Started local sports leadership training programme for primary schools
- Organise charity show at Edinburgh for RBS
- Project at JD Wetherspoons , Barclays Bank, IT systems in council, Gucci group, T Mobile
- Managing operations of 15 employees in construction company
- Managing a team in climbing a mountain

- Works in woman's refuge
- Choreographing dances for charity
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- ISKOC volunteer at Janmashtami
- Playing 100% football
- Managing 12 hour university summer ball
- Teaching Yoga to family
- Went on Inca Trail in Peru
- VP of Asian society at university and organise fashion/dance

2. Tell your story about your good memories or experiences of KPS community activities or programme? Some of the answers in order of popularity included:

- Nawratri garbas
- Diwali gathering 2008 in Leicester
- Wedding days
- Sports day
- Cultural variety shows
- First barbeque



This is a diagram showing the root causes of success collated in one of the small group

STAGE 2: Dream

This was run as a large group in which the primary task was to explore our values, beliefs and strengths and to identify programmes that could enhance our potential in contributing to KP Community. To do this the dialogue was:

What do we understand by belonging to the KP Community and how we could contribute to its future?

- The dialogue was lively and informative and the frustrations of the youth were obvious in finding their identity. The issue of changes in the new constitution and new website was also discussed.
- To find the free time for community activities was one of the major restraints and youth involvements in the organised projects in the past was disappointing.

The projects identified for future consideration included:

Mehendi nights, dance classes, lifelong learning classes, spiritual / philosophy classes, yoga classes, KPS Family tree, Ice rink, Going Ape, documentary making ,Music lessons ,Charity Projects ,Regional Events ,Subsidised weekend trips ,Voluntary work abroad, Go Karting, Mentoring / Career advice, Professional Directory, Inter gender sports ,Teaching classes, Camping trips, Film nights (all generations), first aid training for kids/adults, football coaching on Friday, CV writing, business network of professional, cycling, native walks, rambling, salsa, tennis, cricket.

STAGE 3: Design

We selected 6 main categories of programmes that were identified most popular to be discussed in detail. They were:

1. Charitable work
2. Annual/Biannual youth convention
3. Life long learning programmes
4. Professional/Business directory and Networking programmes
5. Sports and social activities
6. Community building programmes

Each member then joined one of the programmes discussed above. Each groups primary task was to form a self managed group and discuss the project. They each chose a project manager and was given a task for preparing a draft purpose statement and short and long term action plans.

STAGE 4: Deliver

The primary task was to start the implementation of the project. The project manager for each group (from stage 3) made a 5 minute presentation based upon their discussions.

1. Charitable work

- Charities to work with: Cancer Research(runs?) , Fulcrum Challenge , Volunteer Nepal, Sewa International, Peta, NSPCC and UNICEF
- Fundraising through Poker nights, parties, donation boxes at Nawratri, Charitable organisations double/meet, dinner and dance organised by us, raffles and bingo nights
- Helping the community: teach KPS youth eg football training and professional career convention

Planning: Fun day - volunteer , food , hall for disabled kids and their parents

Long term:

- Local organisations -Mencap and Vision Aid – offer them volunteers ; go abroad in a group and help out in difficult place
- Football training – in a park; volunteer coaches
- Hikes/ Treks e.g. Snowdonia – camping trips
- Trips abroad – Africa and India

2. Annual/Biannual youth convention

Purpose: to build closer relationships within the youth of our community in order to create a strong foundation for the next generation – Unity is strength

Short Description:

- Update of all national community events & feedback –e.g. from people who went to the events
- annual long weekends (in different locations each year)
- group activities & socializing events
- Samaj's contribution to the budget?

Short Term Goals:

- Getting a team together to organise the event
- Set a date for the 1st event to happen within 18 months
- Publishing this to the rest of the Samaj

Long Term Goals:

- Making it an annual event
- Possible international convention?
- Keep under 18s in mind (separate events for them)

3. Life Long Learning Programmes

Projects identified:

- International exchange – pen pals
- Practical skills –cars , diy
- Health – first aid, screening, newsletter
- Games- poker, chess
- Dance and social – music , mendhi
- Sports coaching
- Teaching – cookery, languages, religious, yoga, gardening, IT and internet photography

(a) Teaching courses

Short term:

- First aid ,Cookery ,It and internet, Photography, Yoga and fitness ,Dance classes ,DIY and other practical skills, Mehndi
- Communication – email/website, handout, posters, face to face at events

Long Term

- See how much interest is generated from above
- Funding for subsidised activities
- Facilities (either samaj or outside)
- Music (instruments and singings)

(b) Health

Short Term:

- Screening at sport days and AGM, Diwali
- Advise – leaflets and half a page in newsletters
- Healthy eating
- General awareness on different topics – back problems, stress, migraines
- NHS entitlements – eye tests, family history

- Hereditary diseases – hearth disease, BP, diabetes, medical prescriptions

LongTerm:

- Dealing with stress, life coping
- Allied health professionals e.g. dietician , physios, med students, therapists, pharmacists, osteopaths, options, dentist

4. Professional/Business directory and Networking programmes

Purpose: - Access to KPS Community and resources by skill sets

Goal :

- Career advise and work experience – long term
- to build & know our community
- Internal & external networking event – long term
- Access of database for all of your youth from projects plus

Methods

- Database by skill set !!
- Data protection
- Questionnaire + telephone short term
- Collecting info

Collection Method

- Navaratri +
- Diwali
- Price draw on Diwali
- Student 18 plus

Resources Required

- Printing stationary
- IT – conference
- Meeting
- Phoning / keep receipts
- Design
- TARGET – collection of 80% data by March 2010

5. Sports and social activities

- Speed up communication & Reasons
- Categories → Sporting events
- Social Communities
- Email? Yes
- Facebook

Sporting

- Regular using ladder system
- Look at sports scheduling / ask people?
- Get the girls involved
- Netball / rounders / Softball

Social

- Events at pub
- Go APE?
- Find something to do in XYZ time

(1) What we need?

- Really good communication system

- Someone responsible for ideas, finding things out. Someone / Some people to drive this forward
- Shared responsibility
- Facilities, Subsidy?
- we won't just ask for money, We'll come with a purpose
- Possible leaflet for Diwali

(2) What well we try to do? (Short term)

- 2 small events between now and approx 6 months time (Bowling, save and of sport, outdoor??)
- Think about a whole day out? E.g.: Paint balling, Go Ape.
- Using the hall? How to get some people to use it....

(3) Long term goals

- Major social event, well attended & no oldies
- People minding out-side of their own family
- Formalize "Events" thing on the youth committee.
- Give people a way of proposing ideas and finding out for them of its feasible?
 - Movie nights at Samaj
 - Mehndi night
 - Cooking nights etc....
- commitment between us to help

7. Community building programmes

See attached proposed structure for the youth wing