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Democratic Dialogue at school: An online game-based training tool on Democratic Dialogue for Teachers

Handout | “The impact of stereotypes based on gender”

Scenario 1: John has recently moved to a different town with his parents. As he hadn't had the chance to meet people and make friends yet, he decided to find an extracurricular activity to do after school. He searched for lessons or activities available and he found an incredible offer about some ballet classes. On Wednesday, after school, he went to enroll to the lessons. When he entered the class, the girls that were already there were really surprised and staring at him. After he explained that he wanted to attend the lessons, the girls started pointing at him, laughing. The teacher did not react at all and looked really surprised. John ran out of the class, crying.

Scenario 2: Laura is running for president of the class. She is really happy that she will have a chance to contribute to the exercise of students' rights and she has made a plan on what she wants to change. One day, five of her male classmates approached her and said 'You can't be the president of our class! You're a girl! Girls cannot be the leaders!'. Laura was devastated, since she has been trying really hard to find ways in order for all students to be represented by her plan.

Scenario 3: Paul is a 17-year-old boy who has been struggling in order to accept himself for the past few years. He understood that he was into boys two years back, but he has been trying to 'fix himself' as he was told. He dated girls, hung out with male classmates and did what other boys his age did. One day, his girlfriend, Sarah, wanted their relationship to go further, but Paul was not into it. Sarah started mocking him and told everyone in their class that he was gay. After one day, the whole school started calling Paul names, telling him that he was a 'weirdo' and that this was not normal.

Scenario 4: Marcos always described himself as feeling "different". A year ago, he told his parents that he felt like a boy and wanted to live as one. He made changes in his appearance, clothing, looks and overall style in order to express himself as closely to his true self as he could. However, this did not go well for him at school. Most of the people in the school avoid him and some of the students also complained that they didn't want him taking swimming class with them which resulted in Marcos being excluded from the class altogether. It pained Marcos to no longer be able to do things that he really used to enjoy. Teachers continue to call him by the name that he was given at birth, which he perceives as an out-down. He is also frequently having difficulties concentrating in his classes and he is increasingly withdrawing from his social environment. He is depressed and experiences high anxiety.



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