Bob Big Snake

SESKAT Training Toolbox

▶ Description

Bob Big Snake is a humorous activity that can be used for reflecting on people and group management, group communication, and leadership styles.

Objectives ◀

- To promote group and people management skills
- To provide experiences in team communication
- To encourage reflection on leadership styles

▶ Connection with Soft Skills and Emotional Intelligence

The activity offers the possibility to reflect on people and group management situations by using a funny cooperative game.

Resources and Materials

- No materials are needed
- One trainer will conduct the activity the other one can work as observer and take notes on group dynamics

Steps

01
The trainer divides the group into different teams, or the group plays as one large team. The activity for being implemented should have at least 4-5 participants.

02
The group chooses a leader, and if thereare multiple teams, they also select a team name.

03
The trainer provides the instructions. Participants arrange themselves in a singlefile, resembling a big snake, with the leader positioned at the end. All participants except the leader close their eyes and no one is allowed to talk or use words. Only the leader can have their eyes open to observe the surroundings. The group needs to find a way to communicate without speaking (usually by using hands like "Chinese whispers" to enable the leader to guide the snake along a path predetermined by the trainer).

04
The trainer gives 5 minutes to the group or the different teams to discuss a strategy.

05
The trainer starts the game, so under the lead and the communication of the leader, Bob the big snake will complete the path.

06 If the group is unable to use the strategy or it is not working, the trainer can give an extra 5 minutes to select or discuss a new one.

07 After that, the groups proceed with the activity using trial and error. The activity ends when they are able to complete the task.

08 After the activity, run a short reflection on it, focussing on communication styles, leadership styles, group roles, trust issues, and any other relevant concepts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the activity, the participants should be able to:
- ·Reflect on how groups and people can be managed
- Decide how to approach problems to reach common goals