

MEANINGFUL
YOUTH
ENGAGEMENT
IN ANTI-CORRUPTION WORK



Practical Example :

PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE KIRIBATI

Drama roadshow to the Outer Islands

Kiribati is a small nation state consisting of 33 islands in the South Pacific. Its government actively engages its youth, the largest population group, to develop a touring series of dramatic performances shows that effectively engage the public in discussions surrounding the occurrence of corruption and the means by which the public can combat it. The performers are chosen from twelve young activists who travel in small groups around the islands and offer these interactive performances to the local tribes.



Background

The Public Service Office (PSO) is a government organization responsible in providing strategic leadership and policy direction in public service human resource management and development. As one of its principal goals, the government considers citizen satisfaction as a central to policy development and service delivery. To accomplish this, the PSO has been trying to find ways to communicate with the population about its reforms, including anti-corruption. After a few brainstorming sessions, the agency came to the conclusion that young people are the best amplifier of the message to other young people, and that the performing arts are the best way to communicate with the general public about corruption. The PSO engaged a local civil society youth group, to perform a drama written by the PSO anti-corruption staff with the intention of communicating key message with young people in their own language and in an interactive way.

How the young people contribute

- The twelve performers take the roadshow to the inner and outer islands of Kiribati covering more ground than the PSO's limited staff would normally be able to cover.
- Young people have successfully aided the PSO, which has limited human resources and capacity, to disseminate valuable information to young people on combating corruption in a meaningful way.
- Since the roadshows began, there has been a notable increase in corruption reporting received by the government.
- Population surveys have confirmed that the roadshow's messages have reached well beyond the original target of young people, to include adults and other family members.



Kiribati anti-corruption drama and the meaningful youth engagement themes

Diversity and inclusion:

- The Kiribati roadshow serves as a catalyst for promoting diversity and inclusion, ensuring that information on anti-corruption reaches all segments of society.

Enabling environment:

- The roadshow reaches people in a way that traditional forms of public policy communication cannot. People feel involved in policy making, and become allies of the government in tackling challenges like corruption.

Intergenerational collaboration:

- This was a true inter-generational collaboration: adults from the PSO anti-corruption department, in close consultation with the young people, wrote the script for the drama and worked closely with the performers to prepare and rehearse the roadshow.

Quality youth participation:

- By recruiting young people as corruption educators and curators of the anti-corruption story, the PSO has changed the narrative from a top-down policy, to an approach which the whole population has a stake in.

Youth empowerment:

- The empowerment of young people extends beyond the shows, nurturing their growth and impact as agents of change within society. The youth participation has demonstrated to young people and the wider population that everyone, from children to elders, has responsibilities, and must work collaboratively to combat and eliminate corruption.



Lessons Learned

The Kiribati roadshow shows have highlighted the effectiveness of young people as educators in combating corruption. By actively engaging young individuals as messengers of the anti-corruption narrative, the performances have demonstrated the effectiveness of young people in communicating with their peers and the wider public, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in addressing corruption issues. Surveys and evaluations have helped prove the case that the roadshows perform the purpose for which they were established. This ensures the sustainability of the initiative and underscores the importance of accountability and transparent reporting in securing continued funding for anti-corruption efforts.



The drama roadshow comes to one of the islands of Kiribati.

For more information:

- Homepage of the Public Service Office of Kiribati:
<https://www.pso.gov.ki/>
- Homepage of the Anti-Corruption Unit, Public Service Office of Kiribati:
<https://www.pso.gov.ki/anti-corruption-unit/>