Popular Education

An Introduction

~ Wilf Bean

Popular Education Workshop:

Purpose:
Participants will gain some practical tools and understanding of Popular Education.

Who are we?

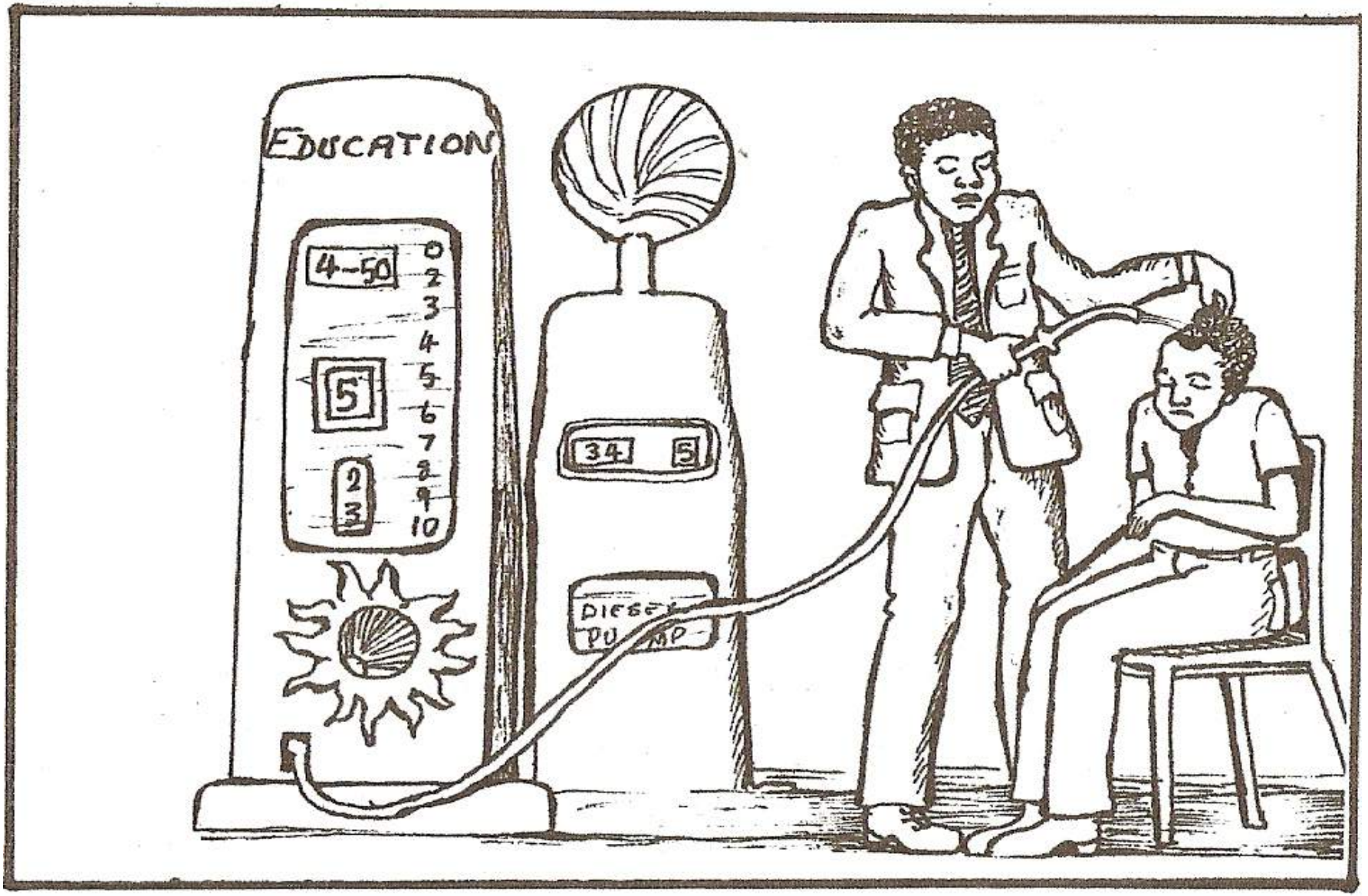
Round of Introductions:

1. Name
2. Worker Coop link
3. Experience in Adult and Popular Education
4. What do you hope for from this workshop?

Presentation:

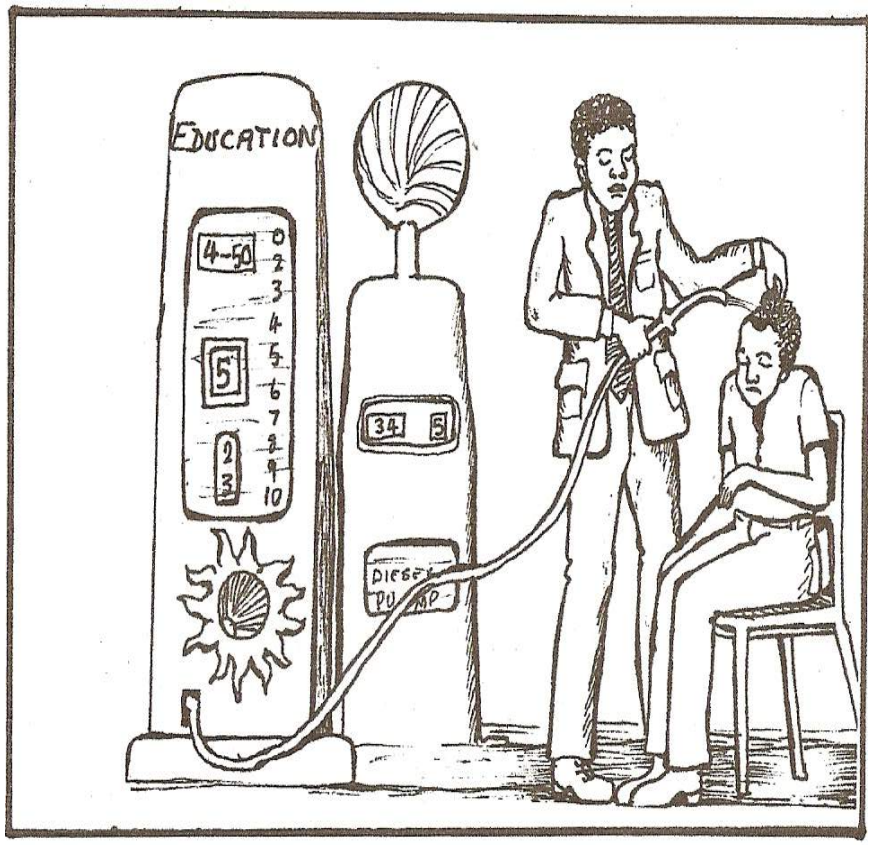
1. What is Popular Education?
2. Concepts and Principles
3. Methods and Tools

Traditional Adult Education???



What is an Alternative?

What's the difference?



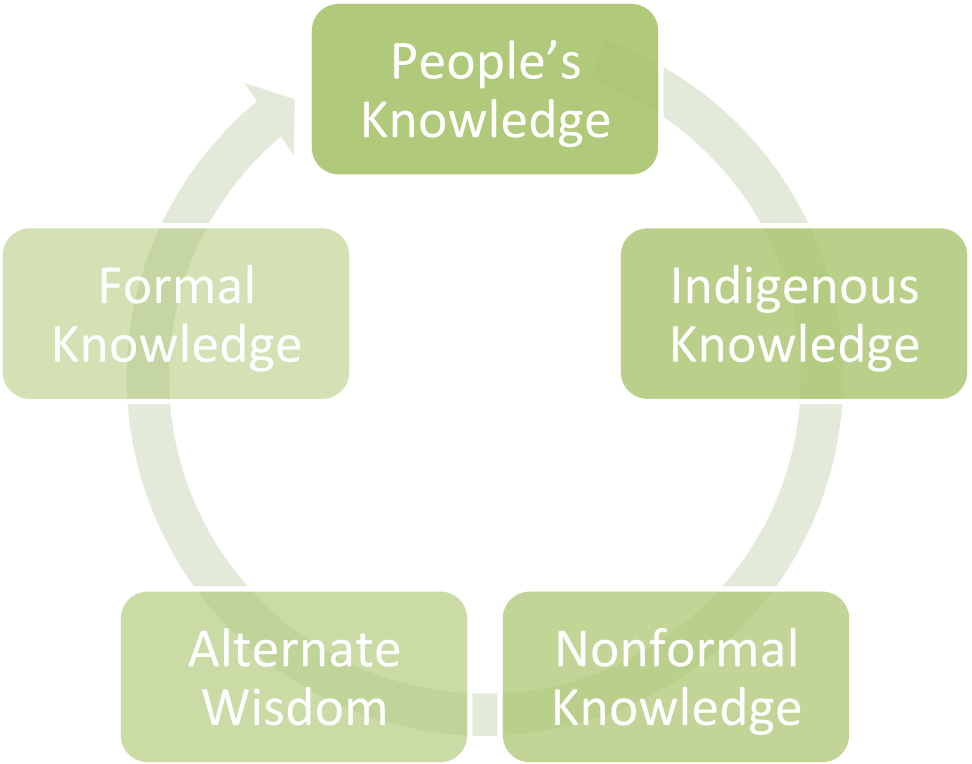
Popular Education is

Problem-Posing Education

"A good teacher never asks a question to which s/he already knows the answer"

~ Paulo Freire

Popular Ed builds on . . .



to Create NEW Knowledge

EXIT

Exercise:

Think of a good, alternative educational situation you have experienced:

- What was the context?
- Who was involved?
- What was the subject/issue/content?
- What approach or methods were used?
- What did you learn?

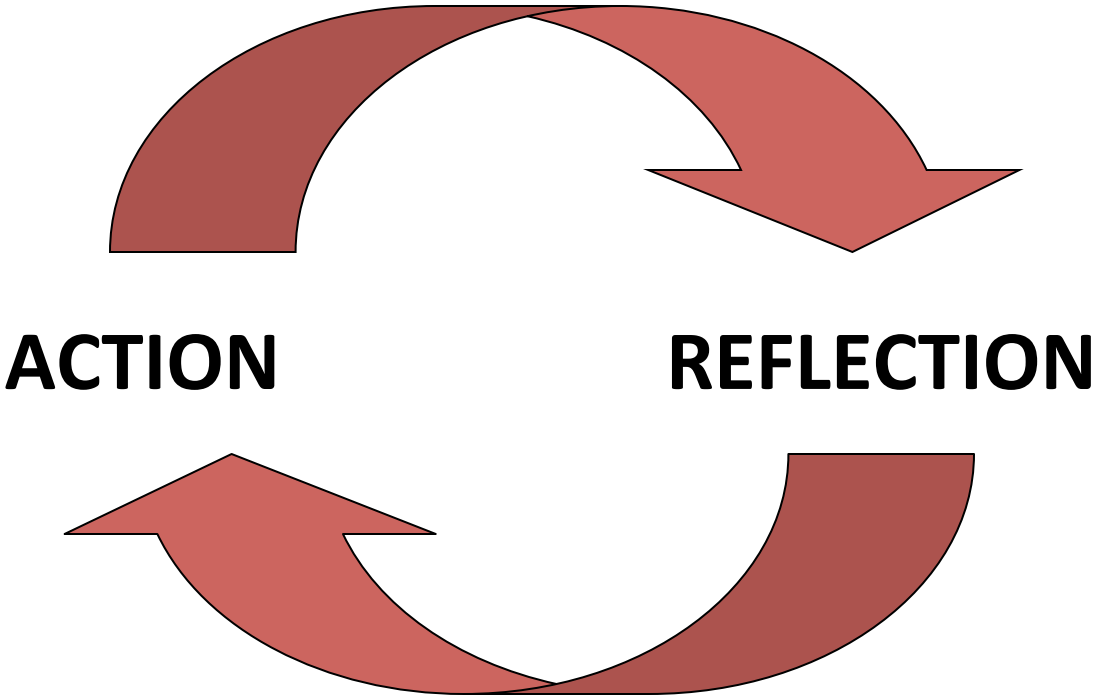
From sharing your examples,

can you suggest some guidelines for a good educational experience?

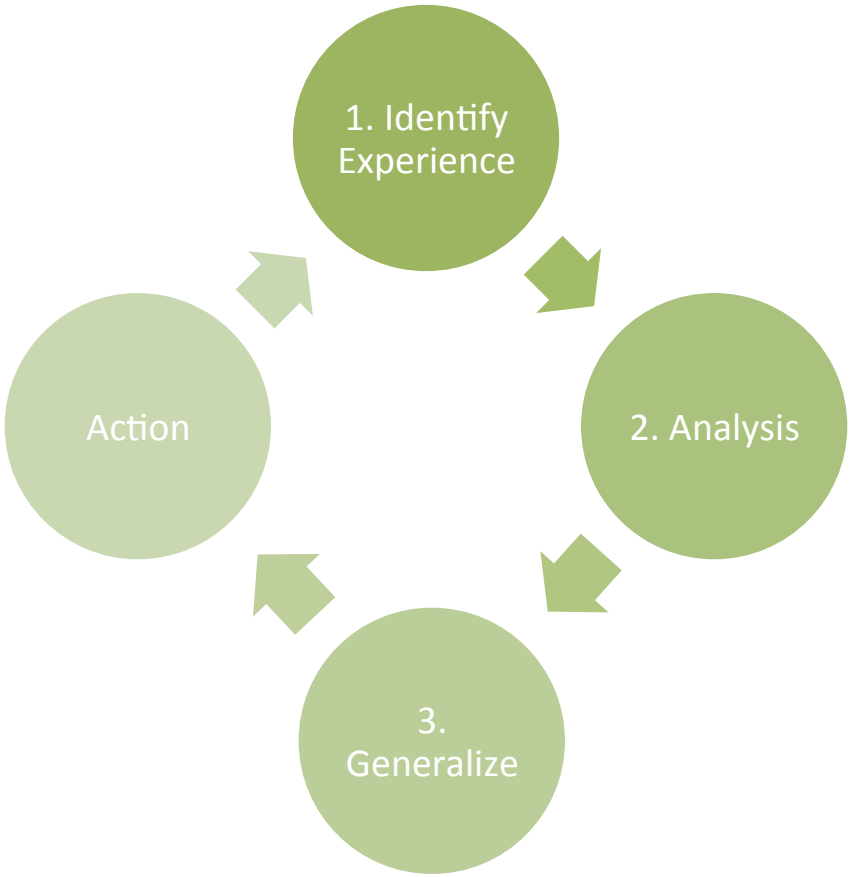
Part Two: Concepts and Principles of Popular Education

- Everyone Teaches; Everyone Learns
- The starting point is the concrete experience of the Learner
- Involves a high level of participation
- Is a collective effort
- Leads to action for change
- Stresses the creation of new knowledge
- Links local experiences to historical and global processes
- And it's fun!

Becoming Fully Human: Praxis



Reflection Steps



Questions to ask in Reflection:

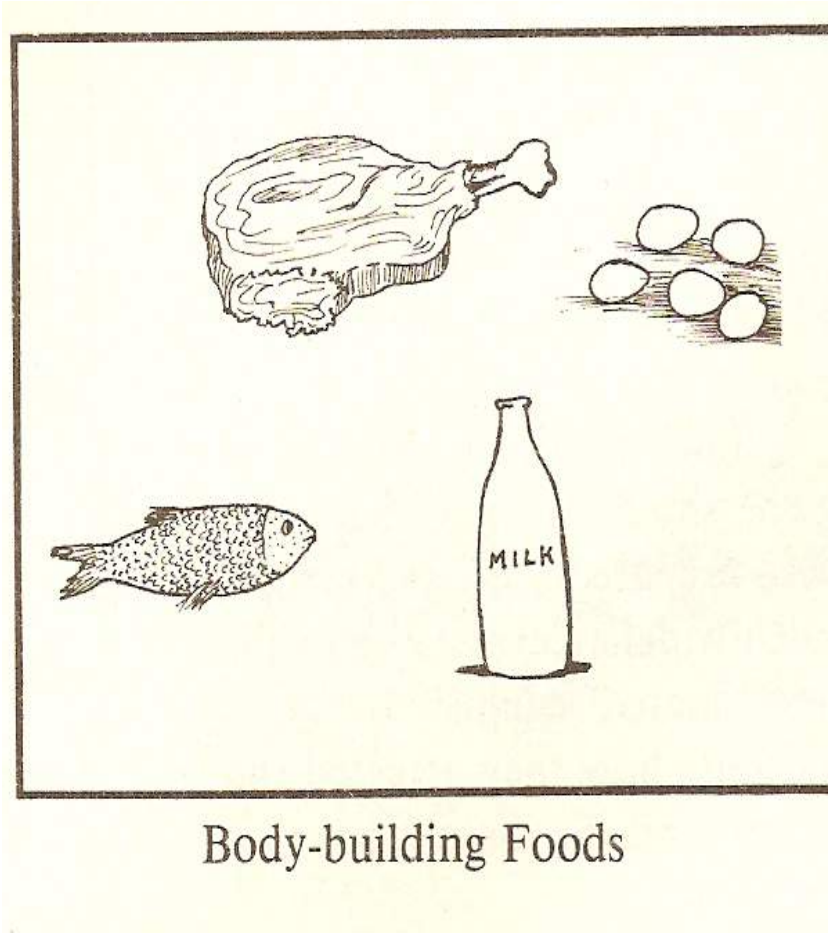
- **Describe** what you saw
- Why did that happen? **(Analyse)**
- Does that happen often? In other situations? **(Generalize)**
- What can we **do**? **(Action)**

Part Three: Methods and Tools

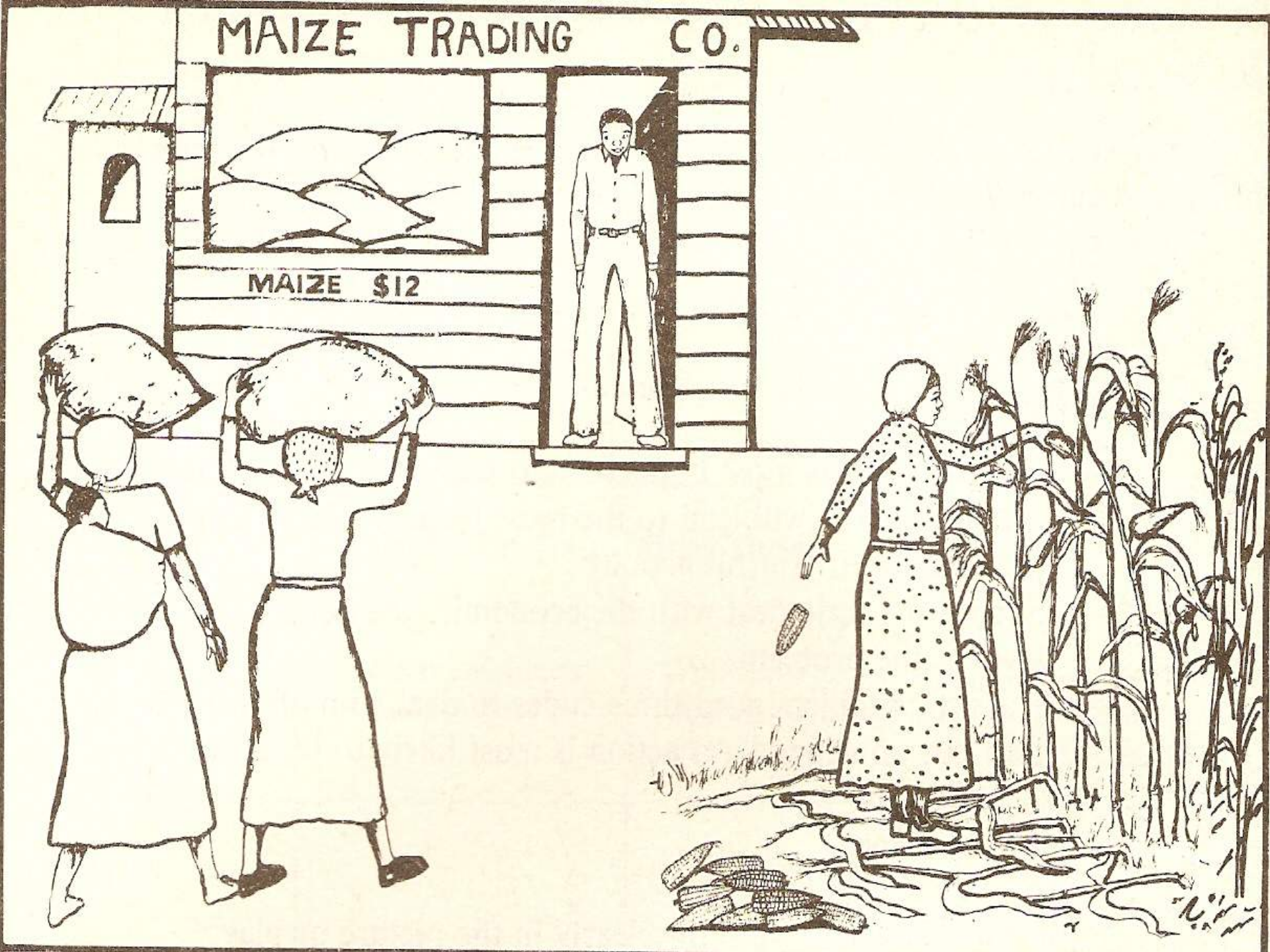
Popular Education Tools

are means to help people express their inner, individual ideas in a public, collective manner so that together they can reflect on their experience and thinking, to plan new ways of acting.

Paulo Freire talked of CODES:

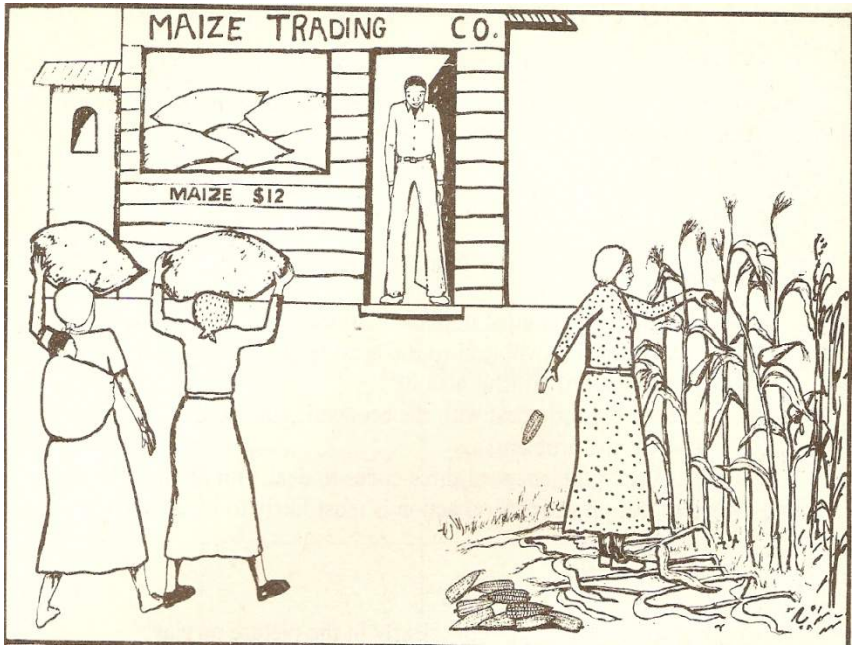


Body-building Foods


MAIZE TRADING CO.
MAIZE $12

MAIZE TRADING CO.
MAIZE $24

What do you see here?



Some Popular Education tools are:

* Codes
* Maps
* Timelines
* Drama
* Poems
* Songs
* Photos

and . . .

2010

NFB
2004
40
6
1,200
LETS
Fruit & Nut Project
Camille Dumond
Meaghan McCullough
Tool loans
Restore untended orchards for community harvesting
JUNE 4, 2005
L.E.T.S. launch
20 members
Dec 2005
2010
TATAMA COUCHE
Mapping the Green Economy
Mapping the Green Economy in the Pugwash Area
2009
FIRST MEETINGS
JANUARY 2005
SUNRISE TRAIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPM'T CO-OPERATIVE incorporates
Speaker call with Guelph Transition
Talking Climate Change
MARCH 25 2009
NOVEMBER 19 2009
DECEMBER 2 2009
Nova Scotia • North Shore Transition Initiative
Building Community Resilience
Thinking about Transition Training
Michael B
Stefan
Kathryn A. Yuill
Camille Wilf
Brenda A.
David Swan
Dorit Swan
Ann Manicom
Trudy
Alan Hvesta
Berta
Catherine Hughes
Vivian Godfree
Andrea Cavers
TRAINING for TRANSITION
The Ecological Foot
Transition Training 2009

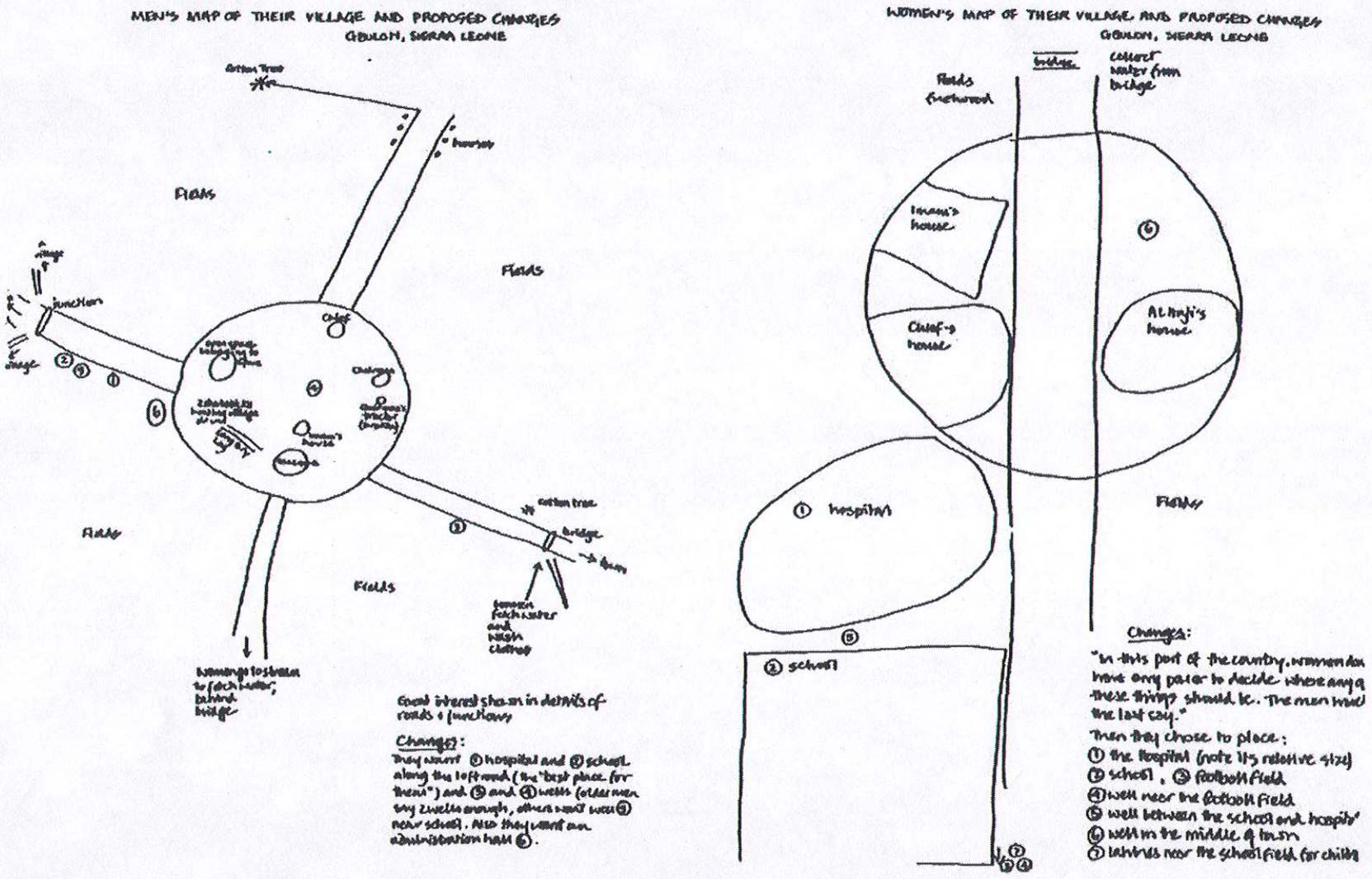


Figure 1

PLA Notes CD-ROM 1988-2001

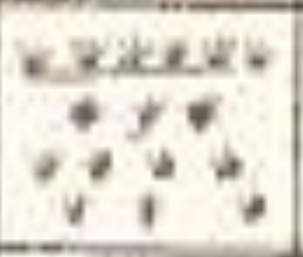
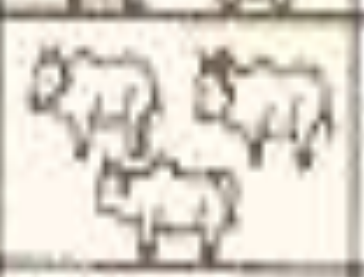
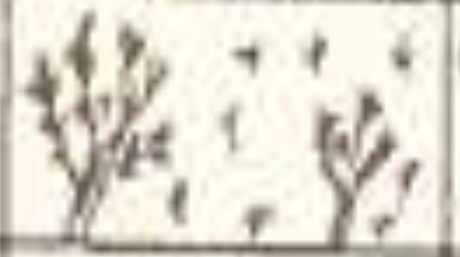
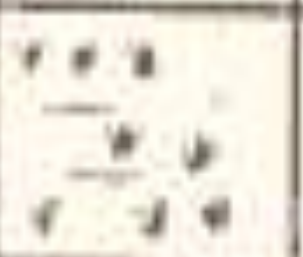
Year	Forest	Agri lands	Water	Livestock	Yield
1940					
1950					
1970					
1985					
1990					

Figure 4.22 Pair-wise Ranking with Visuals: Problem Prioritisation

Village: Dhani Bhopalaram 1996

Problem	Drinking water	Medical facility	Lack of transport facility	Lack of veterinary facility	Lack of middle school	Lack of fodder	Priority frequency
Drinking water	x						5
Medical facility		x					4
Lack of transport facility			x				1
Lack of veterinary facility				x			3
Lack of middle school					x		0
Lack of fodder						x	2

Participants: Mirga, Udi, Sharbati, Begaram Jat, Sumanagar and Premagar

Training Session Framework:

- **Purpose:** What is the Educational Objective?
- **Participants:** Who is involved? Background?
- **Timelines:** Length of sessions; flow within session
- **Methods:** What activities will you use?
- **Resources Required?**

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Resources

- **Popular Education Handbook: http://www.popednews.org/downloads/A_Popular_Education_Handbook.pdf**
- **Participatory Rural Appraisal Resources: eg. FAO Toolbox: http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/x5996e/x5996e06.htm**
- **wilfbean@gmail.com**

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