

Report of the Media Workshop on Using New Tactics in Human Rights to Address Women's Human Rights Issues in Nigeria, Wednesday, December 8th, 2004.

Background:

BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights with support from the New Tactic Project Micro Grant, organized a one-day capacity building workshop for eleven journalists on **Using New Tactics in Human Rights to Address Women's Human Rights Issues in Nigeria**. The workshop was also organized as part of activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence for year 2004.

The Participants:

The total number of Participants was twenty-four. Eleven journalists were invited from different media houses both print and electronic media. Three were friends of BAOBAB. The rest were members of staff of BAOBAB some of whom facilitated the workshop.

Facilitation:

Members of staff of BAOBAB who participated in a training of trainers' workshop before the actual workshop date facilitated the workshop. They are Chibogu Obinwa, Bose Ironsi and Mufuliat Fijabi

Objectives of the Workshop:

- To share the knowledge and idea of New Tactics in Human Rights
- To explore further ways of adapting the various tactics to different contexts especially in relation to women's human rights issues in Nigeria.
- To make available to the public resources available on New Tactics in Human Rights
- To strengthen the discussion on violence against women and efforts to stop
- To create the necessary discussion forum for identify and utilizing existing tactics in Nigeria

The Workshop.

The training was organized in a less formal way. This was strategic to ensure full participation. The workshop started with an introduction session with emphasis on the participants' names, place of work and the area of interest relating to women's human rights. The introduction was brief and friendly as it opened the way for further discussion through out the sessions.

The Executive Director of BAOBAB, Sindi Medar-Gould, represented by Ms Bunmi Dipo-salami gave a welcome address. In her address, she urged all participants to be open to new ideas and explore further ways of making use of the knowledge gained from the workshop especially by sharing with others around them. She also talked a bit on gender-based violence.

Shortly afterwards there was a brief introduction to the New Tactics project and BAOBAB. The introduction to the New Tactic Project was specifically based on experience sharing by Mufuliat Fijabi who was at both the Regional workshop in Cape town, South Africa and the International Symposium in Ankara, Turkey. She laid emphasis on the need for the media to step up action on addressing women's human rights issues, violence against women in particular by exploring New Tactics in Human Rights.

After the introductions and welcome, the main sessions started with the session on *what is a Tactic and what is a Strategy?*

The session started with a brainstorming session by the participants on their understanding of tactic and strategy. The facilitator for the session later harmonized the responses describing a tactic as a specific action taken to implement a strategy. Tactics are the levers or mechanism to carry out a strategy. They are the means through which a change is made, while a strategy defines what is important to do. Tactic is about 'the how' while strategy is about 'the what'. Photographs could also be a good tactic to disseminating information. Interestingly, a participant said that this workshop was a tactic for disseminating information on women's human rights issues because as journalists they will write about it and what they write, will be circulated across the country.

The importance of Tactic was emphasized as follows:

- What we know how to do, influences what we think is possible to do.
- Tactics help determine strategies.
- Different tactics are effective against different targets
- Different tactics appeal to different constituencies
- Tactical flexibility is the source of surprise
- Tactics teach participants and observers how to engage in the world

After the session on what is tactics and strategy, one of the facilitators shared her experience of working on one of the Tactical Notebooks titled **A mock Tribunal to Advance Change, National Tribunal on Violence Against Women**, which the participants find very informative, and interesting. There was also a discussion on steps that could be adopted to affect change in any given context. This include the following:

- Identifying the problem
- Identifying your targets
- Identifying your goals
- Identifying your allies and opponents

- Identifying your resources
- Identifying your strategy
- Identifying your tactics
- Evaluate your tactics

The next session was on *Developing Creative strategies and tactics*. The session started with this quotation from the book on **New Tactics Background**

“Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat” Sim Tzu 2000 years ago. The facilitator opened up discussions on how each of the participants could identify and develop creative strategies and tactics to address women’s human rights issues in Nigerian. Some of the participants were of the opinion that the various tactics has opened up their minds to how to start an intervention process especially on addressing issues of violence against women. Spontaneously during this discussion one of the journalists suggested that a network should be formed from the workshop with the primary objective of stirring up action to address violence against women’s issues. Consequently, a network of Journalist Against Violence Against Women (JAVAW) was formed. BAOBAB offered to facilitate and accommodate the first few meetings in 2005.

In the course of the sessions emphasis was laid on the need to identify ones strength and weaknesses as well as understand the dynamics of the environment to be able to implement strategies to implement specific projects. Drawing from the discussion on selected tactical notebook, it was learnt that one could implore multiple tactics depending on the nature of the project.

As a follow up to the last session the participants went into three different working groups and later gave a report back. The assignment was to identify issues of violence against women and come up with tactics and strategies in addressing them.

The first group reported back stating specifically that “Our culture has greatly contributed to violence against women, however, culture is dynamic and we should come up with dynamic approaches to eradicating violence against women”. They identified wife battery as a very serious issue of violence against women in Nigeria. Their main tactic will be the use of jingles on radio for social reorientation of the people on the need to stop wife battery. Coincidentally also the second group also choose wife battery as an issue they would like to address. Their own tactic will be the use of drama sketches especially in the grassroots for married couples. In addition they would organize counseling clinics for couples that are about to go into marriages as a tactic. The third and last group would like to document the various occurrence of violence against women and use the documentation for advocacy to stop violence against women in Nigeria.

The last and final session was *Other Resources*. The session was devoted to points where further information could be reached both on tactics and violence against women. The New Tactic website and that of BAOBAB were written out on the flip chart paper. The BAOBAB Resource center was also referred to for materials on tactics and women's human rights in general.

Evaluation

Evaluation forms were given out to all the participants at the end of the workshop. The following is a summary of the responses to the questions asked in the evaluation forms. On *How would you describe your understanding of Tactic and Strategy?* Ten participants described it as very good, six as excellent and two as good. To the question *please describe your understanding of the session on 'Developing Creative Strategies and Tactics* Five participants described it as good, six as very good and six as excellent. To the question *Was the group work useful to your understanding of the workshop?* All 17 respondents responded positively. On any additional comment, below are some of the comments from the participants.

It made me understanding the essence of tactics in developing a strategy

I have been able to appreciate the value of tactics in achieving goals in any endeavor

Other peoples' experiences made me see things in a different way.

Being able to identify what constitute violence against women and several tactics that could be adopted to stop it is instructive to me

It also brought to fore the need to use different tactics to achieve our aim

It enables me to have a clever understanding of the topic

The group work has further enlightened me on the outcome of having multiple tactics and strategizing on them according to priority and need

I now have more understanding of tactics and strategy

On whether the workshop was useful or not all the respondents responded in the affirmative. Below are some of the participants' comments:

*Learnt a lot and learnt new things on how to apply tactics in what I do
Because I learnt more*

I can be part of the campaign to stop violence against women

With the information passed across, one is bound to want to participate in making a change

It enabled me to know that writing about an issue does not end there rather it continues until positive change is effected

As said above, there is need to have new tactics to lay more emphasis on the issues of violence against women

Because I have a clear understanding of the meaning of tactics and strategy

It reinforces previous knowledge and introduced new ideas. Moreover it led to the birth of a network of journalists

It has further improved my understanding of tactics and strategy

The last request on the evaluation form was for the participants' to comment on the process generally. Below are some of the comments:

It was very enlightening

Very well coordinated

Well organized

It was a good idea that the workshop was organized

It's worthwhile

Fantastically carried out

It was a good workshop because it will enhance the knowledge of media representatives and make them more proactive in reporting issues on women's human rights

It was participatory and the group work was informing and educative

Very productive and I believe will help change the situation (violence against women)

It was very informative and well timed

There should be a continuation, the few journalists might be litmost test, get more of them for future workshop

Conclusion,

The workshop went very well. It was well attended. The topics treated were useful. It was apparent that more of this type of workshop would be further useful. It was a successful attempt.

Useful Tips

One learning point is that there is a lot of gain in sharing knowledge and information. It gives the room for creativity and accomplishment of set tasks. In preparing for the type of workshop it is essential to identify a target group to work with and follow up with after the workshop. It is important to be committed to the process in order to get the commitment of the target group as well both before the workshop and after the workshop. It is important to have a training of trainers for those that will be facilitating the workshop. This would make the running of the workshop very smooth. It is also helpful to design related questions for the evaluation of the workshop. This is necessary to be able to capture the impression of the participants about the whole process. The analysis of the evaluation forms will give an insight on which area to improve on and or consolidate in later workshops.

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