Ryan Hernandez

3 May 2013

TUL 670

**Project 8: *Public Presentation***

Dates

15 April 2013 from 2:00pm-5:00pm

Venue

The venue for the presentation was a small meeting hall at Hotel Breeze in Chennai, located in a central location of the city. We had originally attempted to schedule a meeting hall to be rented at Shan Royal, a hotel in Chennai, but all booking was full so we had to make arrangements for Hotel Breeze. The event staff was extremely helpful in considering the needs for the event with chair arrangement, providing tea and biscuits, dry erase board, projector screen, and projector. Hotel Breeze holds meetings in partitioned meeting rooms and as a mid-level luxury hotel holds a commendable event service.

Audience

The audience was NGO and MFI leaders from Chennai and different parts of Tamil Nadu. The furthest that attendees came was from Trichy and nearby Pondicherry, 325 kilometers and 162 kilometers respectively. Most of the organizations that attended the presentation had already implemented a health program for beneficiaries of their organization but did not quite have a system quite like health education for their members. Out of fifteen groups that were called to attend the presentation around nine actually attended.

Presenters

There were a number of presenters from that day including myself. The following is the program list of presenters for the day. It was great to have so much experience being shared but the program was made too long by having so many presenters.



Creative Format

The creative format for the afternoon of presentations was PowerPoint for some and strictly speech from other presenters. PowerPoint presentations are more of a formality and are good to help the audience to follow along. Professionalism is important and many seminars for community members will not entail a presenter reading directly from a PowerPoint presentation. Questions for saved for the end of every presentation and another opportunity was given for final remarks at the end of all of the presentations. According to culture and with such an intimate setting, some presenters were interrupted during their presentations because of questions from audience members.

Languages

English is typical for business type settings and so the primary language medium for the presentations was held in English with one exception as Mr. Satish Devaraj primarily spoke in Tamil.

Balance “explanation with application”

The explanation part was easy because it the content came from data that I am very well aware of since I’ve spent the last eight months going learning and applying as much as possible about the research topic. There are plenty of experts that have more knowledge of health education and self-help groups than I could ever amass. However, I was able to learn what the experts are saying to be able to effectively explain to the audience my research findings. Finding a balance with application was the challenging part as there must be a genuine takeaway for the organization leaders representing different areas of Chennai and Tamil Nadu. The balance had to come from including other presenters, especially Dr. DSK Rao, to highlight the implementation, costs, and benefits of health education in women’s self-help groups. Their contributions, as members of the community at large, provided application elements and invitations for others to consider health education in their organizations at a level of influence that I could never have.

Presentation improvements

Limiting the number of presenters and having frequent pauses for questions would be a significant improvement to a future presentation. Handouts, like a takeaway, would be another significant improvement as attendees could have something to take notes on as well as have all the presented information prepared for them to utilize back with their organization.

Taking action

A few organization leaders expressed interest in implementing health education within their organizations and traded contact information with Dr. DSK Rao and Dr. Jasmine Lydia who are the frontrunners for health education in self-help groups in India and Chennai respectively. The process is out of my field but Dr. Jasmine Lydia and Dr. DSK Rao following up with leaders.