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Fostering Creativity Among Muslim Women Refugees

The Use of Effective tools to
Manage Daily Life Problems in the
Camps



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Abstract

Thousands of Muslim families have been displaced and forced to leave the Islamic world due to injustice, internal strife, and wars that have plagued Muslim countries during the past ten years. The suffering of refugees inside and outside of the Islamic world has escalated as a result of the lack of effective Islamic organisations to address this phenomenon and provide for these families' basic needs. Children and women who lack the necessities of life represent one of the most upsetting categories. Living in camps far from one's home was never an easy situation. Instead, it was the result of a serious build-up of complicated issues on many different levels, including those that were spiritual, psychological, intellectual, familial, monetary, social, and political. In the current situation, it becomes necessary to support this group and make them more independent by training how to use various thinking skills deal with many of the daily problems that they encounter in the camps in light of these challenging circumstances and the extreme negligence that prevents the assistance of these families. Perhaps, equipping the women refugee with "creative thinking and problem solving" skills would be more useful approach to establish their confidence in facing the extraordinary daily life problems in the refugee camps. In this study, we aim to explain the advantages of creative problem-solving abilities for their groups, how to select proper skills, develop suitable programs and activities to support build up the creative abilities of women refugee in Malaysian. To achieve this, the researchers study the conditions of women in These tents and the daily problems that they suffer from, then identifies the skill and training activities to acquire and use in solving that problem without relying on external bodies. After studying the situations of women living in these tents and the daily issues they face, the researchers identify the skills and training activities to be used in managing those problems by the refugee women independently without intervention of external agencies.

Keyword: women, refugee, creative thinking, problem-solving, daily life

Research Questions

Why do we need to provide a curriculum teaching creative thinking and problem-solving techniques to refugee women?

1. What are the benefits of creative thinking and problem-solving skills program in the context of refugee camps?
2. Which creative skills to offer this vulnerable group?
3. Which problems to address and what type of activities to conducted?
4. How the learning process may be evaluated?
5. How to follow up the use of the learned skills among the refugee women?

Refugee Issue and Facts

- ➔ The protection rules and the mercy of Islam are not implemented in most refugees camps .
- ➔ Most of the refugees are Muslim women and children.
- ➔ Refugees are facing complicate problems that menace their lives.
- ➔ Being a refugee is not a personal choice but a necessity and constraint.
- ➔ War and conflict make all people a potential refugees.
- ➔ Refugee issue is major as more then 100 million people are affected.
- ➔ The waiting period of a refugee to be resettled and assimilated is estimated by an average of 20 yrs.
- ➔ Nearly half of the world refugees are children.



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Assumptions of the program

- **The prime source of creativity is the innate human nature** (al-fitrah). Allah has created every human with various mental abilities including the ability to think critically and creatively. As a result, all-humans exercise and experience and have creative moments in their life.
- **Creativity comes in a variety of shapes**, sizes, expressions, outputs, and objectives. Different people choose different approaches to realising and implementing their imaginative and creative ideas. People are more likely to use creative thinking skills and create positive views about themselves and the difficulties they face in their life if they are taught with a revelational value-frame.
- **People's spiritual powers** and states are inextricably linked to their mental abilities and states in a reciprocal manner. As a result, combining creative thinking skills with spiritual insights is a creative way to develop empathy, which is necessary for providing better assistance to vulnerable populations and developing more effective solutions to the difficulties they face.
- **Ability to use creative thinking and problem-solving skills generate positive feelings** like confidence, self-esteem, hope, optimism. In addition these thinking tools help to improve human life conditions by solving problem and developing new ideas, and strong relationship in the community.

Description of the Program

Synopsis: Creative Thinking & Problem Solving for daily Life (CTPSDL- 2021) program offered to Muslim women refugee is designed to assist them to use their potentials and creative abilities in addressing their daily life problems in the camps. The program consists of two parts: Introduction where the basic concepts are simplified “human nature, creative thinking, and problem-solving” are simplified in the light of Islamic teaching and spirituality. The second part of the program focuses on learning skills and different ways to apply them in daily life. These skills including brainstorming, six hats, creative pause, creative focus, and creative challenge.

Objectives: The program is designed to instill self-confidence and positive attitude in the vulnerable groups. The program promotes creative thinking, teamwork, and cooperation in an interactive learning environment. During the program, trainers motivate the participants to explore and use their thinking potentials and abilities on a regular basis. By equipping them with a creative thinking toolkit, the participants are introduced to a variety of attitudes, techniques, approaches that spark their innate creativity.

Learning Outcome: The participants would be able to gain skill-sets for creating ideas in a friendly and cooperative setting after completing the programme. They will be able to make informed decisions about which creative thinking skills to use for various daily tasks. Participants would identify problems, prioritise them, reframe them, and break them down into small bits to develop better answers when faced with life challenges. Participants will appreciate creative thinking and its significance to daily life after having a fun experience practicing creative thinking abilities.

Assessment Method

The goal of gaining creative thinking abilities is to put them to use in our daily lives. To strengthen our learning abilities and find solutions to our challenges. As a result, simply learning the skill isn't enough to complete this programme effectively. Participants will be assisted to gain ability to practice creative thinking skills. To achieve this objective, assessment in this programme focuses on three domains: 1. Theoretical knowledge of the skills, 2. procedures, demonstration comprehension of how to apply them, 3. Making a real accomplishment by applying those skills to any aspect of our everyday lives.



Achievements

Application

Knowledge





Program Outline

Weeks	Topics	Learning Tools
Introduction		
1	What is creative thinking? And why it is important for our life?	Reading Materials
2	Human Nature: Potentials and abilities	//
3	Problem & problem solving in Islam	//
4	How to develop my creativity?	//
Creative Thinking Skills		
5	Brainstorming Skill	Group Activity
6	Six Thinking Hats	//
7	Thinking Maps (Circle Tree Dual Bridge	//
1	Creative Pause & Focus	//
3	SCAMPER	//
4	Creative Challenge	//

Concepts & Values

al-Fitrah: Allah has created human in the best form and endowed him with various abilities and skills. With those skills human would be able to face the life challenges and meet the different needs. Living according to fitrah is the base of healthy and prosperous human life.

Creativity: It is a divine gift; it is the ability to produce new, useful, and valuable ideas and to apply them effectively in one's life. Creativity manifests in various values pertaining to Arts, design, visual design, goal planning, strategy, Business model, architecture, customer experience, research and analysis, problem solving, decision making, and influence. It's a skill that can be taught and passed on to others.

Problem: is a common occurrence in human life. It comes in a variety of shapes and sizes. Problems are interpreted differently by different people, and they are dealt with differently as well. In Islam, a "problem" is not the same as something bad that happens to people. The occurrence of troubles in human life is part of Allah's creation design and order (Sunnat-Allah). As a result, a problem is a type of test that leads to success if divine guidance is recognised and obeyed in all aspects of one's life.

Problem-Solving: Every single problem is preceded by and followed by solutions. Islam teaches that there is a solution to every difficulty. Solutions come in a variety of shapes and sizes, but they can be divided into three categories: excellent, good, and necessary. As a result of this viewpoint, Muslims are expected to have a positive mindset and attitude in the face of adversity.

Values: All excellent values and virtues come from Islam. Human activities, values and ideals are inextricably linked. When the separation is imposed by whatever means, corruption will occur. Using creative thinking is without exception. The more we observe moral values, the more likely we are to achieve something creative. Thus, all of the program's activities and goals take into account the six Maqassid al-Shari'ah values (religion, life, intellect, dignity, property, and the environment).

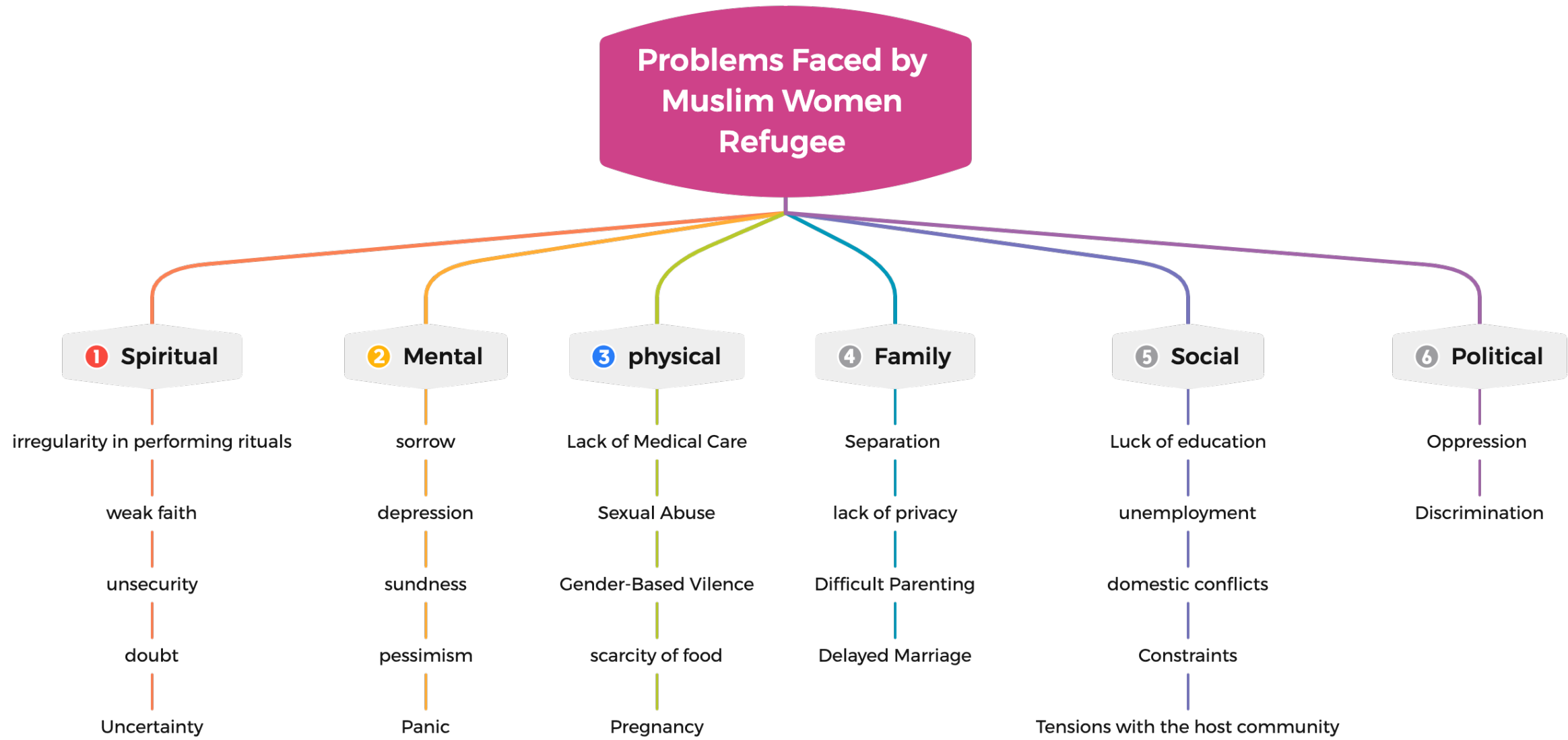
Activities

To encourage participants to think creatively, the programme has used a variety of tools. Participants are given for each skill and activity in both individual and group settings. The majority of the planned activities are linked with the participants' social life issues and interests in order to attract their attention. Here are some samples of those types of activities.

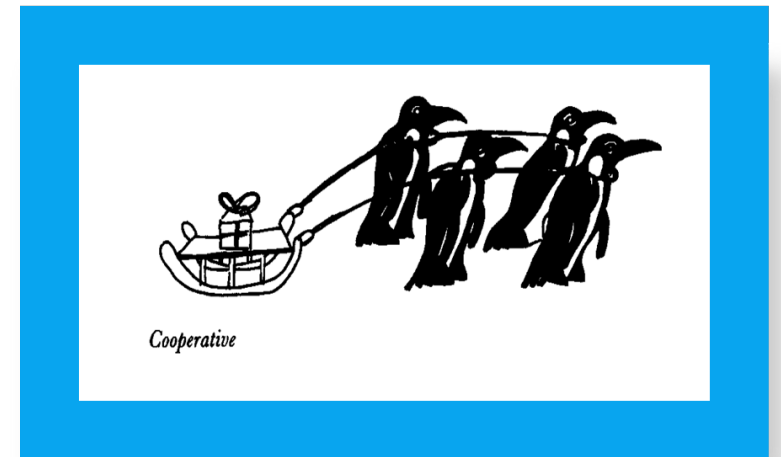
1. Chose a specific social issue and develop a solution following IDEAL steps .
2. Educate my child.
3. Get enough food for all.
4. Protect my private life.
5. Organize my tent.
6. Provide a job for your self
7. Learn my religion



Rohingya Refugee Camp Thai-Malaysia



Why Creativity for Women Refugee?



A Real Story from a Refugee Camp

How I get food for my family members in the refugees crowded under the flying helicopter at the age of nine years old?



Six Thinking Hats: An Easy and Effective TOOL

PROCESS




Blue Hat - Process
Thinking about thinking.
What thinking is needed?
Organizing the thinking.
Planning for action.

CREATIVITY



Green Hat - Creativity
Ideas, alternatives, possibilities.
Solutions to black hat problems.

FACTS



White Hat - Facts
Information and data.
Neutral and objective.
What do I know?
What do I need to find out?
How will I get the information I need?

BENEFITS



Yellow Hat - Benefits
Positives, plus points.
Why an idea is useful.
Logical reasons are given.

FEELINGS



Red Hat - Feelings
Intuition, hunches, gut instinct.
My feelings right now.
Feelings can change.
No reasons are given.

CAUTIONS



Black Hat - Cautions
Difficulties, weaknesses, dangers.
Spotting the risks.
Logical reasons are given.



Six Thinking Hats

Conclusion

Some may think that addressing the topic of creative thinking and problem solving skills in relation with the issue of refugees is luxury idea. Whoever, if we reflect on the problems faced by these refugees we realize the seriousness and importance of the proposal. The function of creative thinking and problem-solving skills in this situation is not merely a technical means to face the challenges of the material world, but it is more likely to be a source of intellectual vitality that relieves the spirit and infuses it with a sense of hope, confidence and steadfastness for a better future. Being so easy to implement, the creative thinking skills can be offered in the refugee camps with low-cost as recreational activities to reduce the long boredom caused by the emptiness experienced by the refugee while waiting for the improvement of his situation and final settlement. On the basis of the mentioned advantages, we strongly encourage the organizations that are concerned with helping this group to include these skills as a part of their educational programs.

References