Southerners On New Ground

RELATIONAL ORGANIZING

Relational Organizing starts with a group of people who have relationships with each other. It is a type of community organizing that relies on and prioritizes relationships both inside and outside of an organization in order to build stronger, more dynamic and creative collective power. It includes base building, political education, issue identification, training & action.

Base Building

A base is a group of people who can think together, work together and grown together. Base-building is increasing the number of people who share the same vision and who are developing the strategies (and doing the work!) for moving that vision. For us, that vision is about intersectional politics that build power and self-determination for oppressed people.

Political Education (PE)

PE is a structured process of study that is used by social movement organizations to strengthen an organization's commitment and accountability to those who are most marginalized by systems of oppression. Leadership development is a primary goal of PE. Rather than indoctrination and passive agreement, critical thinking and principled struggle are emphasized.

Issue Identification

Issue identification is the process of naming and defining problems and struggles in a community or group of people who have relationships with each other (a neighborhood, a school, a church, etc.). Once problems are named and defined they are often prioritized based on the needs of the community. Many people use **Training & Action** in community organizing to find solutions and resolve issues.

SOME STEPS IN RELATIONAL ORGANIZING

- Break isolation& silence thru Story Telling (builds connection & relationship)

- Identify common themes & similarities

- Analyze root causes and discuss its relationship to power

- Identify where chance might be possible

- Gather information, do political education, bring additional people into the process

- Develop strategy

- Develop skills to meet those strategies

- Take collective action

- Debrief results

- Develop next strategy

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