

MONEY EXCHANGE

This exercise is designed to encourage participants to share ideas within a group. It is a quick and easy exercise to run and it physically demonstrates the value of an idea as compared to saying nothing.

WHEN TO USE THIS EXERCISE

This exercise can be used in a variety of ways. For example, you can use it when:

- You are in a safety meeting and there is little or no discussion about a topic
- You are in a training session and people are quiet and not contributing
- You are in any group discussion and ideas are not forthcoming.

This exercise works best if it is conducted with small to medium sized groups (six to twenty five participants).

DURATION

Allow approximately 5 minutes.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

None.

HOW TO RUN THIS EXERCISE

STEP 1 Ask one of the participants in the group if you could borrow a dollar. After you get one dollar ask another person if you could borrow a dollar.

Once you get the second dollar, hold it so all the other participants can see it then go back to the first participant and repay them the dollar you borrowed.

Go to a third person and ask to borrow a dollar and repeat the process.

STEP 2 Ask the participants this question: *“Are any of these people richer for this exchange?”*

Get responses from the participants e.g. of course not.

STEP 3 Point out to the group that if these individuals had been exchanging ideas then not only would they have been richer for the experience but many of us who were not directly involved could have also benefited.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Examples of discussion questions include:

- What factors prevent us from sharing ideas with the group?
- What factors assist us to share ideas with the group?
- How can we use this information to encourage participation within this group?
- Is there anything else we can do to improve group discussions and interaction?