

Elective Session 3 – Housing

Group Concept

The right to housing is recognized in a number of international human rights instruments. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the right to housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living.

The SSE approach to housing has grown in many countries, both in the global North and South. These are typically the product of bottom-up initiatives by people who work collectively to satisfy an existing need.

The last decade has underscored the importance of such mobilization, given its greater resilience to the speculative financial economy, as demonstrated during the 2008 – 2009 financial and economic crises.

For this session, participants explored inspired examples of solutions aimed at providing accessible housing to all, interspersed by techniques and strategies to develop effective dialogue and to promote collaboration. The group explored our role in solving challenges. During two days, we worked towards becoming a team.

Facilitator

	<p>Nicolas Nadeau (Canada)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working at Concordia University on shift (Concordia’s Social Innovation Hub) ▪ Coordinating the CHNGR (“changer”) project and the Social Innovation Lead at Concordia ▪ Received bachelor’s degree at the University of Guelph (Loran Scholar 2002)
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Detailed Program

<p>23rd Aug</p>	<p>11:00</p>	<p><i>Housing #1</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction ▪ Expectations ▪ Creative Methods
	<p>12:00</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working group ▪ Content ▪ Format
	<p>14:00</p>	<p><i>Housing #2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teambuilding ▪ Dialogue
	<p>11:00</p>	<p><i>Housing #3</i></p>

24 th Aug	14:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Context ▪ Housing ▪ Challenge identification <i>Housing #4</i>
	16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenge re-definition <i>Housing #5</i>
	20:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicating ▪ Iterating <i>Housing #6</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparing our presentation

Day 1(23rd Aug)

Housing #1

Check In

First, started off the session with a brief introduction by the facilitator Nicolas as well as CHNGR. All participants had to pick a pair of shoes that represented themselves and explain why they have chosen it, after that they were able to meet the group. Then the group had a brief discussion time on the issues of Housing in each member’s country and things that they are looking forward to.



Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highly populated but houses are insufficient
Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has sufficient amount of land but due to inadequate facilities and understandings of housing, the lands are inefficiently used ▪ Needs more improvement ▪ People are not facing housing problems because people live collectively in families
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Especially in Seoul people share apartment with friends ▪ People have the ideal vision that one must own a house ▪ Minsnail is local housing non-governmental organization : Since Seoul is highly populated and the houses are pricey, the Minsnail aids the underprivileged people to find rooms

	: When it comes to price, housing cooperatives are attempting to solve the housing issues in Korea
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The young people have issues with residence because especially in Tokyo houses are pricey
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The order of priority: housing> clothing> eating ▪ This group member wants to learn more about housing
Boston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong intention of housing and the member had lived with 11 people ▪ This group member is interested in homelessness and work in communities
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Houses are made of cardboard houses ▪ This group member had taught at underprivileged schools

Reflection of facilitator

Common themes that can be seen through the discussion are that housing is seen:

- a need
- as a dream for living with partner
- opportunity of money
- fairness
- different culture
- important to own home
- acceptable to live with parents.

A lot of the members are already involved with projects.

Group discussion

Next up members gathered in Groups of 2 and discussed the question ‘What makes you feel at home?’ This is an interactive activity. Then 2 groups came together to discuss and come up with themes.

Discussion Question #1. What makes you feel at home?

Better home, better society	Difficulty in finding homes by ourselves
Private space	Sharing (receives people from different countries)
Rest (replenish and rejuvenate)	Learning and growth
Community (safety)	Love
Family (someone who shares one’s life)	Safety (mind and body)
Common life (usual life)	Personal safety
Not worried about inconvenience	Comfort
Relationships	Well-being (mental and physical)

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Discussion Question #2. Thermometer

It was a group activity where each member had to demonstrate their stance by placing themselves between a ‘YES or NO’ based on a question that was asked. It was important to be honest.

1	English is my first language	Yes or No
2	I think there is a housing problem in my country	
3	I think it is more difficult for youth to have access property in my country	
4	I am satisfied with my current housing situation	
5	I prefer living with others (roommates, family)	
6	I think it is important in my culture to own a home	
7	I would like to own a home one day	
8	I think I would own a home one day because I would get help from others (family, parents or others)	
9	I know, or am part of some inspiring examples of housing	
10	I have never known homeless person	

Time of sharing what one has observed from the exercise

▪ It was surprising to see that there were many who said ‘NO’ to the question ‘I would like to own a home one day’

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- There were quite a lot of people who said ‘NO’ to the question ‘I have never known homeless person (don’t know personally)’
- There was a sense of stronger safety network through the support of families.
- Are there places where homeless people can go in your country? In Korea there are shelters for the homeless people. In New Zealand there are homeless services to help out the homeless people. Whilst in India there are no shelters around.
- To the question ‘I think I would own a home through help’, some answered that through government’s help they think they would own a house one day.
- To the question ‘I would like to own a home one day’, some answered though that it is good to own a house, There are more beneficial factors in collective ownership.
- To the question ‘I think I would own a home one day because I would get help from others’ , both participants from New Zealand and Canada said that it is common in their countries for the parents to support their children in buying a house.

Housing #2

Teambuilding and dialogue

Split up into 5 groups and discuss questions. ① What is important to you about this issue? ② What are some questions you would like to be answered? ③ What are projects that inspire you? ④ What are you working on (projects, ideas, questions)?

And divided into different groups to discuss about projects, ideas and questions (came up with these ideas). This program’s objective is what we see as a group and find initiatives. Here is two examples of group discussion.



Project example 1: Land pooling

▪ What is land pooling?

The purpose of land pooling is to get a group of land-owners residing in urban villages to pool their land and hand it over to a government agency so that infrastructure like roads, electrical sub-stations, stadiums, industrial areas, old-age homes, hostels, schools, etc. can be developed. The remaining land is then returned to the owners who can partner with real estate developers to build apartments and residential properties.

▪ Ideas

Land pooling may be accomplished through seed money.

▪ Questions (There are some questions that arose while navigating this project)

Can we pool resources to have equitable financing?

How can we separate between landowner and house owner?

How can we get seed money for purchasing land?



Project example 2: Home is one of the main space that can heal (violence, identity)

▪ Ideas

Ideas that came up talking about this project were Elderly Daycare, Single Mother Housing/coops, Tiny house village, Eco-village, Student housing cooperative.

Intentional communities that are forced on healing. Intentional communities, utopian communities, communes, alternative communities, collectives, cooperatives, experimental communities, communal societies and communitarian utopias are some of the more popular terms used to describe what many consider to be nonconventional living arrangements. The definitions of these terms vary from study to study but, for the most part, the term ‘*intentional community*’ is broad enough to encompass all of those listed above. These terms are often used interchangeably.

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Systems of Nourishment, Mass movement of youth stop payment

▪ Questions

How can homes help real trauma: sexual abuse violence, etc.?

How can our homes heal and regenerate the land and the people?

Better integrate ecosystems and living?

How do cultural norms and morals get created, reinforced by the ‘home’?

How can we redefine community?



Project example 3: Live together (inter-generation)

▪ Ideas

Making tenant group

Basement reconstruction

Limit regulations to buying a house

▪ Questions

Can I stay as long as I want?

Do you have money to use in urgent situation?

Do we have to buy the house for well-being?

Is it fair to discriminate youth because they are young?

Can't youth be a part of stakeholder equally?

Day 2(24th Aug)

Reflection

Began with discussing two questions : ① One thing that surprised you or something that was unexpected
② One thing that is special for you

A	Didn't expect Korea to be this green
B	Housing problems
C	How green the city
D	Hospitality, Feel at home
E	Similarities in different cultures, common in the world (Housing, Jobs)
F	Didn't expect the Networking Night to be that fun
G	Gurye is such a rural place so I didn't expect it to be this good
H	Surprised at everyone's energy
I	Not punctual
J	Didn't have enough break time
K	Common problems but difference between different cultures, perspectives
L	Common housing issues in different cultures
M	Everyone has been generous in sharing ideas, opinions
O	What sort of energy did I bring into this group, did I bring too much space or too little space?



Housing from #3 to #5

Morning session agenda

Team	Project title	Challenge	Questions	Three values
1	Service to the community to have a healthier environment	Funding	Where is the funding from?	affordable, safety & security, inclusiveness
2	Finding home	People should go to a city but it is hard to get a house	The government regulations effective? How to get a house?	Listening carefully, Thinking without frame, Being enthusiastic
3	Team Care Bear	How do we create intentional spaces for sharing, healing	How do we create community networks that are able to respond to trauma in ways that empower individuals to heal themselves?	How to feel, How to communicate, How to heal
4	It takes a whole village to raise our child	We want to leverage the benefits of inter-generational living to address, Social isolation experiment inadequate child care and eldercare and lack of community	Can we live inter-generationally?	Mutual benefit, Sustainable, Social inclusion
5	Have a ‘tenantship’	Change the paradigm about right of housing	What is a ‘tenantship’? How can we have a ‘tenantship’?	Solidarity, Global, Main agent

Reflections on elective session 3 ‘housing’

- Everyone is vulnerable and especially about housing issues, we can increase empathy.
- We share one’s life, a lot of experiences.
- I have learned that put myself in the shoes of others.
- I am not the only one who feels a particular way.
- How a person could grow through the exposure of people who are at different backgrounds as you are.
- Experts are always right.
- Plan based on our problems so I can identify individual’s problems.
- How problem can be defined, how I define my problems with my community. Let’s redefine the problems in our community.

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- Chance to think what kind of person am I and clarify what kind of problems
- Great chance to be able to talk to people who have deeper knowledge of housing
- How can I make more and better space for intercultural atmospheres
- We need experts but important to focus on people.
- Space is important.
- Put yourself into another person’s culture.
- If working in a group then a lot of things will be solved.
- Different cultural issues that every country and every culture is facing.



Post Motorola

What went well	What did not go well
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaboration with others ▪ Met new people ▪ Exchanged interests on my interests ▪ Left the max of the city ▪ Reflected on the future ▪ Getting to know each other, getting some ideas ▪ Met many people from each country ▪ Considerate way to do the program ▪ Delicious food, excellent ▪ I talked to other people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find the adequate position in my team ▪ Too hard schedule ▪ Too many big picture ideas ▪ I don’t like feeling the pressure to ‘produce’. Being forced which made things less creativity and difficult. ▪ We had no basis of relationship or understanding of where others were coming from spiritually, politically, philosophically. ▪ Language barriers ▪ Didn’t go deep into projects ▪ Wanted more time because of lack of clarity about the purpose ▪ I didn’t build connections with as many people as I wanted.

Housing from #6

Preparing our presentation “Housing: dream for every youth”

Attached the document of Dinesh K.C who participated in this “Housing session”

Everyone human being has fundamental rights to get the minimal facility like housing by the government of the each country. In our society there are many rituals are happening like, unemployment, corruption, a societal problem like discrimination in terms of caste, class, and colors. The gap of the income among the society is dramatically and steadily going up and that causes affecting the ripples of impact on the multi sector like daily basic need, afford to social and cultural events & ritual. Although, every country is growing up in terms of economic and development aspects at the same time the aforementioned reason has to bring the challenges and hurdles especially, among the lower income people and youths. Due to the high rate of the unemployment rate and lack of policy regarding such social issues and problems peoples are facing the deplorable situation in their life. ***According to Universal Declaration of human rights “adequate housing was recognized as part of the right to an adequate standard of living in 1948”***. Which is obliged to fulfill by every member state of the UN to their civilian but unfortunately it is not implemented on the ground levels.

As we know that youths are the pillar of the every nation. Youth should get a chance in order to enhance and build up their inner and outer capacity that motivate them to lead the nation and able to deal with social, economic problems. Nowadays, we can see many organizations is working to mitigate the burning issues with collaboratively with the youths and leaders. Likewise, Global Social Economic Forum (GSEF) has organized its first Global Youth Camp for Social Solidarity & Economic, where from more than 25th countries Youth, Students, Activist and social catalyst were participated. Youths are always in the middle of the trap by the government policy and deficiency of the fund in order to take initiative on social change. During the program, participants looked so enthusiastic to learn and share their countries context and issues among each other which is really help each other to understand in order to overcome the unseen jeopardizes and challenges which is the crux of the program.

Meanwhile participants have crossed into the many issues and challenges which really need to brain storming to get the solution. Eventually, with the help of the facilitator participants were got the conclusion and clear picture on their respective issues (housing). After the several discussion and brain storming among the youth participants were got some common understanding on what is housing? Who are the change maker, Social, and cooperative and so on?

Conclusion:

The outcome of the housing team and their wishes to have how we can make homing instead than housing some crucial ideas and points are made and they are as follows:

- Housing should be safe and secure
- Rights to housing contains entitlement
- Protection from the force eviction

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Inclusive whereas all class of people likes, minority groups, backward society people, physically disabled people, youth, unemployed were can get the chance to live with their beloved and rejoice their life with full of happiness and securely.

On the last part of the training, the enthusiastic youth team has eager to implement their learning into the action so; they have made some action plan which is as follows:

- Put pressure on government to access on youths role in the policy making
- Proper utilization of the locally available resources while making homing
- Discourage the dependency on the donor agency and create some innovative work within the community whereas they can generate the job opportunity, financial uplift, mutual solidarity, cohesion, and harmony among the peoples.
- Spreading the good example and success story among the youth network which helps each other to support and work collaboratively in coming days.