

AID Conference 2004

Minutes for Session Named Theater Workshop

Date: 30th May 30, 2004

Time From: 3:30pm

To: 5:30pm

Minutes Taken By: Sukant Khurana

Number of attendees: 15

Audio/Visual Component? No

Speaker/Panelist Names:

1. Arvinda

What they are speaking about:

It was an interactive session in which participants were supposed to come up with a skit in two hours and perform in front of audience at 6:00pm.

Main Presentation: Theatre is a very effective tool to communicate message to common people. It is one of the main tools by which one can bring main issues of a problem in front naive people. The use of dialogs is the more common form of theatre, but it suffers from barrier of language. It cannot reach people who do not understand the language. Arvinda with help of two people, Ms. Sindhoor and Mr. Raju conveyed that drama with no dialogs can still be effective. The group was asked to come up with a skit using songs, dance, facial expressions and different noises. The theme of the play was people's movement in Narmada Valley. People were divided in two groups. Each group was given 45 minutes. Group led by Mr. Raju depicted government as an evil hawk who tries to eat up people one by one. The happy life of people in Narmada Valley comes to a halt, till they rise and fight. Together they are able to beat the government. The end is not elimination of one, but heart transformation of oppressor. The group led by Ms. Sindhoor comes up with a dance, which brings to life the people's will to stay in their ancestral home till death. It was a vivid depiction of women standing till death in their flooding homes. Inspirational songs added to the dance which represented power of women united to save their homes. After separate compositions by two groups the two plays were united. The final acted flowed as one, as if they were never composed separately.