

THE ADOLESCENT DILEMMA: FARM OR URBAN?

HANDOUT. FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Center for Study and Work in the countryside is *the* answer to the developmental needs of adolescents. With its five components, it provides the necessary Prepared Environment for their living and learning

CORE EXPERIENCES ARE:

1. Residential House: Community living and learning in a protected setting

Goal: Build social organization by managing a house together

- a) Manage a house together (with boarding, if possible) with all practical tasks (cleaning, doing the laundry, preparing meals, providing coziness, simple repair work)-> Experiences with division of labour!
- b) Experience responsibilities and take consequences
- c) Learn to deal with one's own strengths and weaknesses, as well as to be considerate of the needs and concerns of others
- d) Share activities like hiking, swimming, bike rides, music and other creative activities

2. Production: Work with soil, plants, animals

Goal: Grow, harvest, keep livestock and get insight into the sector of production

- a) Gain experience in growing vegetables and fruits (maybe in keeping a few domestic animals) on a small scale and deal with responsibilities that come along with such work
- b) Acquire scientific background knowledge connected to work processes
- c) Study topics in history, geography and culture related to the farm (the place)
- d) Understand work on the land as an introduction both to nature and civilization

3. Shop/ Exchange of goods: Trade (sales and communication)

Goal: Sell products and get insight into the trade sector

- a) Calculate realistic prices for the products and draw up a business plan
- a) Sell products in a farm store or market nearby
- b) Get feedback from clients on quality of products, compare to other producers, delve into the world of adults who work on a market
- c) Take first steps towards economic independence and discuss ways to re-invest money

4. Guesthouse/ Bed & Breakfast: Services

Goal: Offer an accommodation for visitors and get insight into the services sector

- a) Establish and offer an accommodation for visitors (start off by running a café or similar)
- b) Calculate prices and ensure that the rental process is run on a regular basis
- c) Take care of visitors and make them feel comfortable (field for grace and courtesy)
- d) Take further steps towards economic independence

5. 'Museum of Machinery'

Goal: Get insight into technologies used in the past; repair and re-use some and reflect on the history of civilization

- a) Collect old tools and machines from the area and, if possible, repair and use them
- b) Reflect on how people in the past used to work and live in the area
- c) Develop gratefulness towards accomplishments of past generations – we build on what others explored, invented, worked etc.!

