



National University of Science and Technology

Think in Other Terms



**From a Culture of Violent Demonstrations
to a Culture of Peaceful Engagement**

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INTRODUCTION

Violence is a bio-psycho-social problem, much as it is a response to an identifiable or unidentifiable need.

Bio – the physiological instinct of self-preservation (genetically programmed)

Psycho – the emotion of shame/pride

Social – environmental stressors

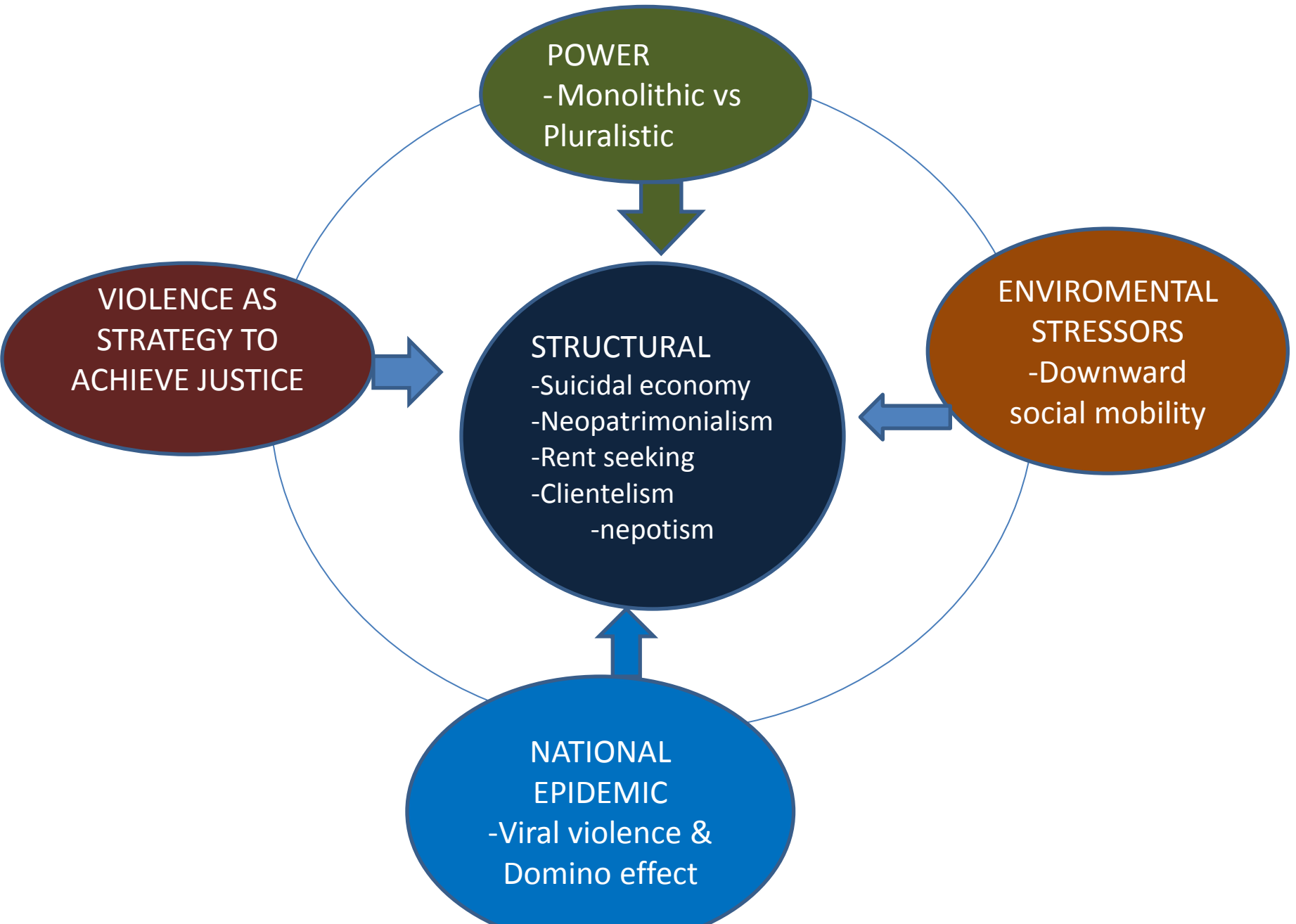
VIOLENT EXPERIENCES: NUST

NUST became a veritable theatre of rebels and rebellions, leaving to a spate of violent actions:

- Lecture theatres burnt to charcoal
- Windows of tall buildings pelted with stone
- Library book shelves left yawning – books looted
- Rape, maiming and beating of administrators and security guards

University was no longer an authentic safe space for learning.

CAUSES OF VIOLENCE: NUST



TRIGGERS OF VIOLENCE

Rise in tuition fees

Power cuts

Suspension/dismissal
of SRC member

Ethnic Divide

A thigh for a mark

INTERVENTION MODELS: SUCCESSES & FAILURES

1. Sustained Dialogue – Student driven
(misconstrued as a political party – political sensitivity)
2. Sustained Dialogue – Admin driven
(power currencies though legitimate)
3. NUST Campus Dialogue Peace Project (NCDPP) –
All stakeholder driven

OBJECTIVES OF NCDPP

Create a platform where dysfunctional conflicts are constructively and sustainably.

P - POSITIVE

E - ENERGY

A - ABSORBING

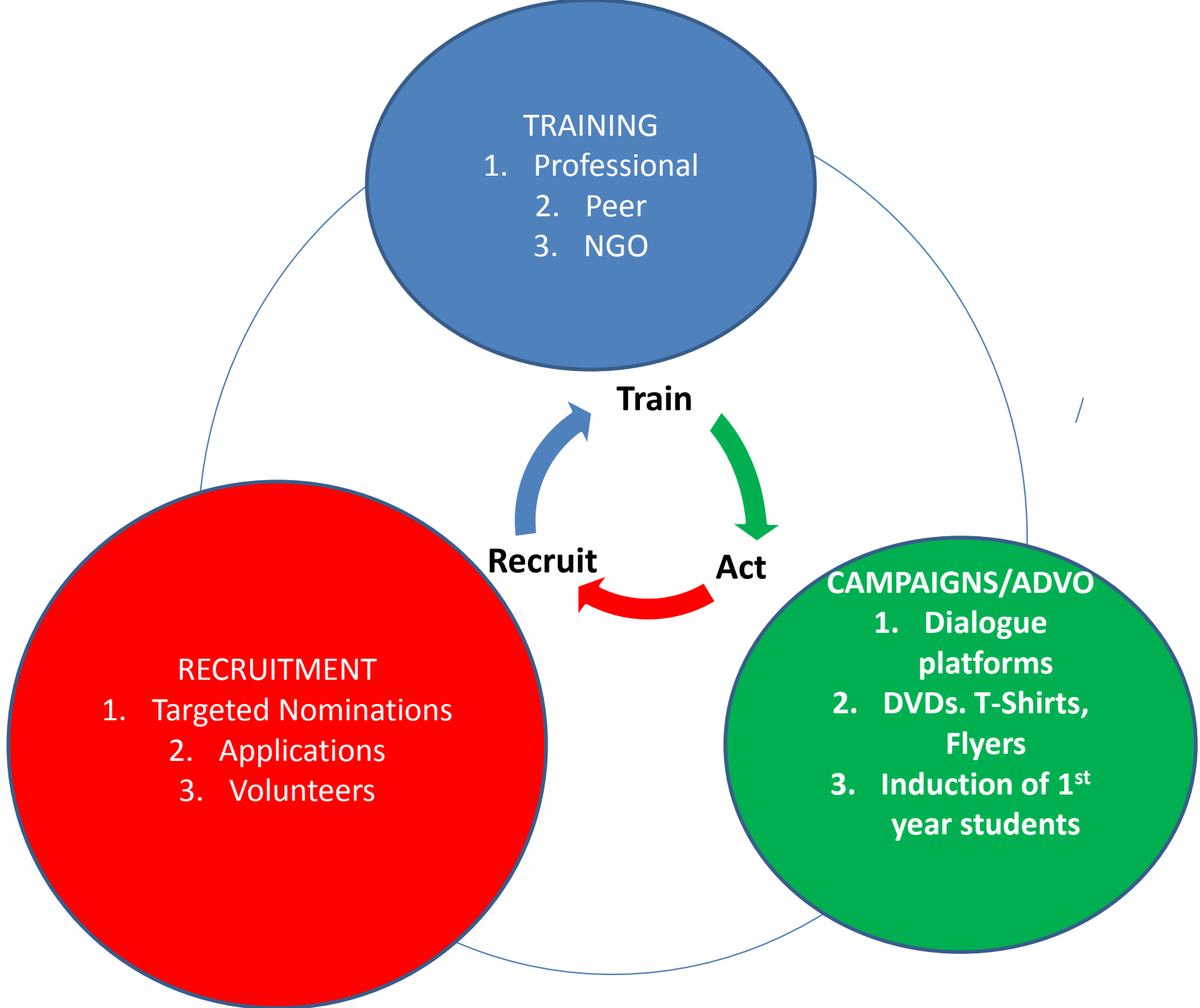
C - CONFLICT

E - ENERGY

INCLUSIVITY: CHARACTER & NATURE OF NCDPP

SELECTION OF THE NCDPP CORE GROUP

- NUST has 17 functional units
- Two representatives (male and female) nominated by members of each unit
- The police (male and female) invited
- The Community Residence Association (male and female) were invited
- NGO - targeted selection



SUCCESS OF NCDPP

- NCDPP has become a resource during campus crisis – 150 dialogue sessions held so far
- Dialogue has given voice to those excluded in the mainstream (heavily polarised because of ethnic divides)

There is higher interaction between students of different backgrounds – horizontal and vertical communication is now possible

- COMFORT LEVEL HAS BEEN RAISED

CHALLENGES & UNINTEDED CONSEQUENCES

1. How to come up with a template for milestones and impact of NCDPP
2. What NCDPP can do to measure their goals
3. Political sensitivity
4. Fundraising
5. Institutional memory lost
6. How to have right people on bus
7. Risk load