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

POWER
- Monolithic vs Pluralistic

STRUCTURAL
- Suicidal economy
- Neopatrimonialism
- Rent seeking
- Clientelism
- Nepotism

VIOLENCE AS STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE

ENVIROMENTAL STRESSORS
- Downward social mobility

NATIONAL EPIDEMIC
- Viral violence & Domino effect
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 - OSITIVE
E - ENERGY
A - BSORBING
C - ONFLICT
E - NERGY
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
Act

Recruit

Train

1. Professional
2. Peer
3. NGO

CAMPAIGNS/ADVO
1. Dialogue platforms
2. DVDs, T-Shirts, Flyers
3. Induction of 1st year students

RECRUITMENT
1. Targeted Nominations
2. Applications
3. Volunteers

Train

Recruit

Act
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 & UNINTENDED 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