

IDENTIFYING THE NEED*

Before we get started on working on a project in the community, we need to start with identifying the needs. Identifying needs can sometimes be as easy as learning your ABCs, but sometimes you may be presented with some interesting hurdles. This activity will help you look within your community to identify the most pressing challenges that you can help address.

Leadership & Future Building

Time

Self paced

Difficulty

Medium

Resources

Pen, paper, community leaders and members, teammates, empathy

*This activity was created as a continuation of learning connected to the [Vijana Tupo](#) Limitless Project.

Instructions

● Step 1

- Ask around. You can use google forms or questionnaires to create surveys. This is the most crucial step.

● Step 2

- Find the root cause. Economic challenges are many and each one is caused by different issues. You will need to ask the 5 Whys. We'll talk more about this.

● Step 3

- To become a changemaker, you must empathize. This means that after knowing the root cause, you have to see it from your community's point of view.

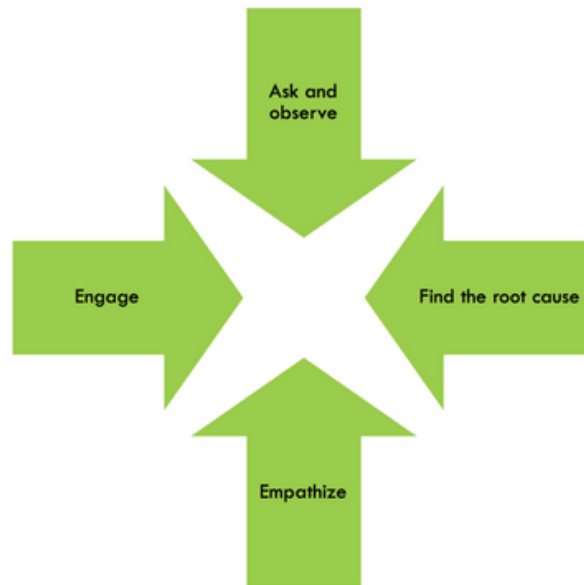
● Step 4

- Engage with your community to come up with solutions together.



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Vijana Tupo's Example: The 5 Whys

We are going to use Vijana Tupo's example. When I started Vijana Tupo, I wanted to solve youth unemployment in my community, so I used The 5 Whys Method to address the problem and find the root cause. *These questions can be customized to your situation.*

Problem: Youth unemployment in my community

- Why is there youth unemployment?
 - Because youth in my community have limited opportunities to develop job skills.
- Why don't youth have proper skills?
 - Because they were not taught these skills in school.
- Why were they not taught these skills in school?
 - Because our curriculum does not embrace this.
- Why doesn't our curriculum embrace job skill development?
 - Because there are limited job opportunities in our community.
- Why are there limited job opportunities in our community?
 - Because economic independence isn't promoted enough.

Root Cause: Lack of economic independence promotion

These questions led me to the answer that I needed. I needed to find a way to help make young people aware of job skill development opportunities to give them an early advantage to start their journey to economic independence.



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Next Steps

- Ask your family about the most pressing economic issues. You can also ask community members. You can utilize Google Forms to cover more ground.
- Find the root cause. Use the 5 whys method to understand and empathize. Many issues aren't as we thought they were.
- Partner with friends. You can achieve more by utilizing all the strengths you and your friends have. Working together can help produce better results.
- Engage with community leaders. These can be your parents, school administrators or anyone that has been in the community for a long time and understands the challenges. You need to learn from the people who are already working in this space before trying to identify where you can help.
- Write down notes for everything you find. Categorize the issues in groups according to how consistently they are identified by speaking with community leaders.
- Change starts happening as soon as you identify the need. By identifying the gap, you already completed the first step in filling in the gap to address the needs with community resources.



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