

SITUACION

En una reunión social, una amistad le habla de otra señora que ambas conocen:

“Hace tiempo que no vemos a la Señora Dolores por aquí, no le parece? Me han dicho que anda muy mal de la cadera. Le cuesta mucho subir y bajar las escaleras, y esta todo el tiempo encerrada en su casa. En realidad, es la casa de su hija, a quien le cuida los niñitos mientras la hija sale a trabajar. En este país se trabaja mucho, no le parece? Me imagino que a la pobre Señora Dolores le gustaría que su hija trabajara menos, pero, con su yerno sin empleo, no tienen otra, usted sabe como son las cosas.

Hace unas semanas pase a verla. Andaba bastante cansada, la pobre. Esos niños ...bueno, sabe usted como son a esa edad. Dicen que son muy inteligentes y todo, pero también hacen un bochinche cuando una quiere conversar, que ni le cuento. A veces uno diría que casi le faltan al respeto a la abuelita. Pero ella nunca se queja de sus nietecitos, piensa que son divinos, les hace todos los gustos, la verdad es que es una santa. Nunca se queja de nada! Me comentó el otro día que a veces se siente muy incómoda y con dolores en el vientre, pero dice que ya esta demasiado viejecita para consultar a ningún médico, que nunca le han gustado los hospitales, y que cuando el Señor se la quiere llevar, pues así lo hará. Así es ella.

Y, le digo la verdad, yo la entiendo. ¡Los médicos, por más sabios que parecen, a veces no saben nada! ¿No vio usted ese caso en el periódico que se equivocaron en esa operación, y la pobre señora falleció? Yo le dije a Doña Dolores que se tomara una agüita de hierbabuena, eso siempre alivia el dolor de hígado. Bueno, ahora, cuénteme, ¿cómo está usted? ¿Cómo anda la familia?”

Healthy Women, Healthy communities

Social Work 52- 309 Health Promotion and Peer Support and Communication
with Hard to Reach Populations , Fall 2001

During a social activity, a friend talks to you about another lady you both know:

“It’s been some time since we see Mrs. Dolores around here, don’t you think? They tell me that she is having real problems with her hip. It has gotten very hard for her to go up and down the stairs, and she spends all her time stuck in her house. Well, in fact, it’s her daughter’s house. She looks after the little ones while her daughter goes out to work. One works so much in this country, don’t you think? Poor Mrs. Dolores wishes her daughter did not have to work so hard, but, with the son-in-law unemployed right now, they have no choice, you know how things are.

A few weeks ago I dropped in to see her. She was quite tired, poor thing. Those children....well, you know what they are like at that age. They say that they are very intelligent and everything, but they also make such a noise when one wants to talk, I can tell you. At times it almost seems as if they are being rude to their grandmother. But she never complains about her little grandchildren, she thinks they’re wonderful and does everything to please them, she really is a saint. She never complains about anything! She mentioned the other day that at times she feels very uncomfortable and has pains in her belly, but she says that she is already too old to see any doctor, that she has never liked hospitals, and that when the Lord wants to take her, well, He will. That’s what she is like.

And, to tell you the truth, I don’t blame her. Doctors, even though they seem very wise, sometimes don’t know anything! Didn’t you see that case in the paper, they made a mistake operating on that poor woman, and she died? I told Mrs. Dolores to take a little peppermint tea, that always helps with liver pains. Well, now, tell me, how are you? How is your family?”

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKING IN SMALL GROUPS

Discuss each question and develop a collective answer for each question. Try to come to an agreement for each answer. If the differences are great, make note of the differences and report both points of view.

Ensure that all persons in the group have the opportunity to speak.

Choose someone to take notes, or take turns, so you can report back to the rest of the class.

Remember: all opinions are valuable and to be respected; many 'correct' answers are possible!

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS IN YOUR GROUP:

1. What would be your first reply?
2. Do you think your friend sees a problem?
3. Can you describe the problem from her point of view?
4. Do you think Mrs. Dolores sees a problem?
5. Can you describe it from her point of view?
6. Do you see a problem?
7. Can you describe the problem from the point of view of yourself as
 - a) a member of the community?
 - b) a friend of Mrs. Dolores?
 - c) a Lay Health Promoter?
8. What more do you need to know to help Mrs. Dolores? How would you find out?
9. What resources (people, organizations, services) do you know that could assist Mrs. Dolores?
10. What would be the worst outcome for this situation?
11. What would be the best outcome for this situation?
12. As a Lay Health Promoter, what would be your plan of action in this situation?