

Methodology- Other Peoples Shoes – Group Activity.

Purpose: To enable students to view and discuss an issue from different perspectives.

This is a collaborative activity and could be adapted for blended learning using an interactive white board like Jamboard/ shared drive etc. (This type of activity could be useful towards the end of studying an issue after other stimuli and information has been given to frame the particular issue).

This activity enables students to reflect on different perspectives before developing their own opinions and can also be used as formative assessment through verbal and written feedback as well as effective questioning. (Framing questions with a public focus)

Task: Divide the class into groups of four/five and give each group a different scenario/individual situation. As a group they must visualise being in that person's situation and discuss the impact that the introduction of a Universal Basic Income could have on each of their particular scenarios/individual cases.

They record the feedback as a group before they are given a different scenario in which they do the same again.

A selection of key questions to consider are presented to each group to assist with this.

Each scenario is displayed on screen at the end of the activity where feedback is recorded from each group. This enables all perspectives to be displayed for the class after discussion has taken place.

Following on from this student will reflect on their learning around this issue.

1. I am a sixty-year-old male working as a full-time sheep farmer in the West of Ireland. I'm living on my own but I am surrounded by family. I own my house, a four-bedroom two story farmhouse. I have noticed that my food bill has been increasing and the price I am getting for my live stock has been decreasing. Farming has become a difficult sector to make a living from even with subsidies and grants with my overall earnings last year just over €16,000. This type of farming is a low margin business to be in now. I do not receive any welfare payments and I survive on the return from the farm. I put in the hours to make sure I can survive and earn an income. Minimum wage laws do not apply to me.

2. I am a stay at home mum and I care for my three young children aged between 2-9 years of age. My husband is a bus driver with a private bus company, earning €21 p/h and generally works a thirty-hour week. We are paying a mortgage on our four-bedroom detached house in Waterford. As well as my husband's income and child benefit payments we are finding our cost of living increasingly difficult and we worry about our savings for the future. My husband had to avail of the PUP payments this year when his company closed for a period of time. He is back working now and has agreed to take on more hours into 2021.

3. I am a twenty-five-year-old student completing a Masters in engineering in UCD. I have a part-time job working in a busy restaurant in Dublin City to help fund my studies and help pay for my rent. I found the impact of Covid -19 extremely difficult but I did get to avail of the Pandemic Unemployment payment which helped me to survive over the last few months. I am back working now since restrictions were lifted but I really feel under pressure for time as I try to complete my masters.

4. I am a migrant worker working in a meat factory in the midlands earning €12.00 ph. and I do not receive sick pay. I work long hours but I do not receive overtime pay. I find my work physically and psychologically difficult but it is a job and I want to look after my future and that of my family. I dream of owning my own business someday and I would like to complete a part-time training course in Business.

5. I own a flower shop in a bustling town in county Kerry. I am married with two children age 18 and 20. Both of whom will be in college next year which does add a financial pressure. I enjoy running my own business but I have challenges ahead with Brexit and getting access to fresh flowers for each season for my business. This is a supply challenge that I have never had before. I employ two local people and I am proud to be able to do this. I had planned to expand the business last year but the pandemic and the restrictions that came with it meant that I had to close and look after my staff using the wage subsidy scheme. My husband also works part-time in a local hardware shop.

6. I am a single parent, unemployed with four young children living in social housing in the city. I receive jobseekers' allowance of €203 and I get an increase on this for dependent children. I find our standard of living is very low and I cannot afford to pay some of our bills each month. My money goes towards food and clothes for my family. I would love to find work but I cannot afford the childcare and I am not skilled in any particular area.

7. I am a male nurse working in a busy hospital in Dublin. I am two years qualified and I am earning €33,500. I work three twelve hour shifts but I have a long commute as I cannot afford to live in the capital and save money. I love my career and this year has been a challenge mentally but I cannot imagine doing anything else. I would love to save more money or at least have a bigger discretionary budget each week to improve my standard of living but it is not possible. I live with my parents and I contribute financially to them each month also. I know there are worse off than me in society.

8. I am a qualified barrister earning over €180,000 per year. I pay all my taxes under the legal rates and I have three adult children all in university. My wife passed away three years ago so I manage all of our finances individually. I work long hours and I am dedicated to my profession. I have a good standard of living but I work extremely hard for it. I contribute to my local economy as much as possible and I encourage others to do the same.

9. I am a full-time carer for my elderly father as well as a mum of two school going children. I left full-time employment to be able to commit my time to caring and I have no regrets for doing so. However, I am finding it difficult to afford to live. My husband works part-time in a retail business but his earnings are simply too low to cover our basic cost of living. We are hoping he picks up extra hours but this is not a secure situation.



Other Peoples shoes Activity Key Questions



Q1. Discuss how a universal basic income would have a positive and/or negative impact on this individual's situation?

Q2. Describe how society may be impacted if this person had a universal basic income?

Q3. Discuss how the economy may be impacted if this person had a universal basic income?

Q4. Consider if a universal basic income would impact a person's supply of labour and/ or level of business innovation? Give a reason for your answer

Student Reflection

Issue: Universal Basic Income

1. Is there new knowledge and /or understanding I have gained and why is this knowledge /understanding considered to be important?
2. Have I developed a skill through engagement with this issue and how could this skill positively impact on future learning/experience?
3. Has my engagement with this issue changed my thinking, behaviour or opinions in any way?
4. Has my engagement with this issue raised other/new questions?
5. Is there new knowledge and /or understanding I have gained and why is this knowledge /understanding considered to be important?