

Coady Workshop*

13 evaluation forms were received from the Coady workshop, representing the views of 17% of the 78 participants.

Overall, the participants were split half and half in finding the workshop excellent versus average. They especially appreciated the case studies and group discussions due to the shared stories and lived experiences. Also, respondents liked the composition of participants and resource people, and found the facilitators to be good. One respondent summed up a common theme by stating: "I loved the participation of the Coady students! This made the learning very rich."

The Coady participants were fairly evenly split in their assessment of the resource people, ranging from "average" to "excellent". One respondent highlighted that "despite the fact that the topic faced a lot of criticism, the facilitators laboured to make the participants follow up to the end". Again, the presence of the Coady students represented a valuable pool of resource people.

The most useful sessions, according to the participants, were the sessions on: Donor/Development Policies and Strategies (found useful by 10/12 of respondents); Theory and Concepts of Civil Society (9/12); Case Studies and Principles for Action (9/12); and Reflections on Civil Society in South Asia (6/12).

Some participants felt that the resource people should have had more in-depth ideas on their themes, and for others the presentations were too academic or the concepts were not sufficiently clarified. In terms of format, one of the respondents noted that the small group discussions were much more valuable and energizing than the larger group sessions, and some commented that they would have liked more time in these discussion groups, and more time for participants to speak and ask questions. Two other respondents would have liked to see more discussion on the roles of the World Bank and the IMF in relation to donor agencies and the destiny of civil society.

Constituency

Based on the 10 responses to this question, it appears that the workshop participants primarily represented organizations involved in community development (9/10 of respondents), program/project development and management (6/10), capacity development/training (6/10) and advocacy (4/10).

* 55 participants at this workshop were full-time students of the Coady International Institute.