



Background

The Garden for Growth is a community center running a youth workforce development service-learning program with a gardening focus aimed at equipping young people with job skills and career readiness. The program has been successful in helping youth find jobs, but staff members have noticed a lack of engagement from participants. Many young people attend but don't seem motivated or connected to the program's goals. The team realizes they need to take a step back and reassess their approach.

Challenges Faced

1. **Understanding Young Lives:** Staff members have been focused on delivering skills training and job placement but haven't taken the time to learn about the individual circumstances of the participants. As a result, they miss understanding the challenges and aspirations that shape these young people's lives.
2. **Limited Reflection Opportunities:** While the program includes training sessions, there are no structured opportunities for youth to reflect on their experiences, both positive and negative. This lack of reflection leaves many feeling unheard and disconnected from their own progress.
3. **Inadequate Opportunities for New Experiences:** The program primarily emphasizes traditional job skills, which limits young people's exposure to new fields and activities that could spark interest or passion.

Question

1. What barriers do you think youth face in engaging with the program, and how can we better support them?
2. Could implementing structured reflection sessions improve engagement, and if so, how could they be designed?
3. What challenges do you foresee in introducing new activities, and how can we address those concerns?