

DISTRESSED PERSON PROTOCOL

4th Asia and the Pacific Youth Symposium (APYS4)

Online | Zoom Meetings

17–19 April 2024

Theme: Weaving the Future of Asia and the Pacific through Inclusive Climate Action

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The common ethical law in completing any engagement with a young person is “to do no harm” and any participant who partakes in a knowledge event should not be worse off in any way as a result of participation. In respect of this knowledge event, although no discomfort to participants associated with these sessions is envisaged, there is a risk that participants may feel emotional distress while answering questions or engaging with other participants.

If a person becomes upset, the Safeguarding Moderator will put in place the Study Protocol for Distressed Participants (see below) which mainly includes steps such as giving space to the distressed person, making clear that participants can continue in another time or opt out of the study at any time if they wish to do so.

APYS4 participants may be concerned about the impact that taking part might have on their time and in terms of unseen commitment. The level of time taken will be kept to a minimum and is not expected to be above 180 minutes for each online knowledge session or workshop or 6 hours for the in-person Participation Hub.

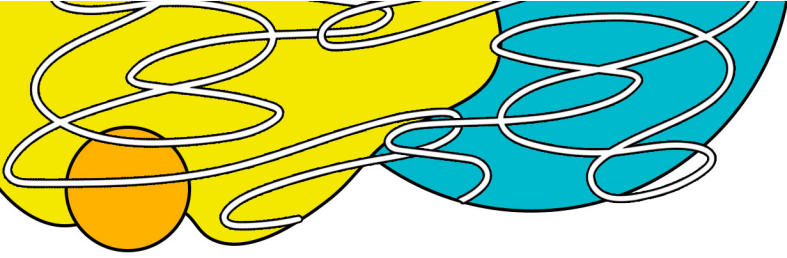
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Research that elicits stories of personal experience is by its very nature probing, particularly where emotive issues are discussed (e.g., parenting; child-rearing; division of responsibilities; immigration). The possible occurrence of feelings of distress or of a participant becoming uncomfortable with the topics depends on the person, their characteristics and personality, and their individual experience. Distress is therefore difficult to predict.

The methods of data collection for the APYS4 Knowledge Workshops include breakouts, virtual audience engagement using collaborative whiteboards, individual semi-structured interviews and observations. In the event of a participant indicating distress during interviews, the Safeguarding Moderator will immediately follow the Distressed Persons Protocol.

If a participant indicates that they are uncomfortable or experiencing emotional distress, or if they exhibit behaviors suggestive of such, the following course of action will be taken:

1. The participant will be immediately asked whether they want to continue with the knowledge event, discontinue at this time or withdraw from the session.



2. If the participant decides to discontinue at this time, they will be asked if they would like to continue at another time using a different venue and different method to speak about the problems or issues they are facing (e.g., face to face, phone call, social media platforms).
3. The participant can withdraw if they choose to withdraw, and the Safeguarding Moderator will reassure them that existing data will not be used if they so wish.
4. Both the Safeguarding Moderator and the participant can decide if another person (practitioner or partner) should be informed of the situation to ensure participant safety and well-being.
5. The participant can decide to seek further help from their local general practitioner or any other services. The first point of contact for determining appropriate Adult Contact is the Safeguarding Moderator who will seek appropriate solutions or the situation.
6. Time will be given to ensure that the participant's distress or upset has diminished sufficiently by asking the participant how they feel prior to concluding the meeting.
7. If the participant wishes to return to the consultation, they are free to do so after distress has diminished sufficiently and they have been reassured that they can discontinue, skip topics with which they are not comfortable or withdraw from the study at any point if they so wish.

In the event of the Safeguarding Moderator being aware or unsure in relation to an instance of distress in relation to completing consultation with a respondent, he/she/they should contact the Safeguarding Moderator. In case the participant wants to not involve the Safeguarding Moderator and reach out to Asian Development Bank staff member, they can do so by contacting the Head of NGO and Civil Society Center (civilsociety@adb.org or youthforasia@adb.org), Representative of Safeguarding Committee.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understood, and I agree to the terms stated above through my formal registration to APYS4.

Signature over printed name

Date signed

