The Usage of Photovoice to Empower Community Building

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Agenda

01  Rationale

02  Methodology

03  Findings

04  Recommendations

05  Reflections
Rationale

- Applied learning research project.
- Project designed to both teach students how to engage in qualitative research methodology.
- Lack of research regarding community building during remote learning.
- Instructor strongly implemented educating students on communities through methodology and research. But also urged students to give back to the community through research and program improvement.
What is Photovoice?

Community-based participatory action research.

Why did we use this methodology?

- Record-keeping
- Dialogue
- Advocacy

* And the most important thing: The senior cohort was able to utilize an advanced research method that not only enhanced their social work performance but interpersonal skills as well.
Remote Learning & Community Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Findings</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health and</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>New</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Zoom/</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Perspective</td>
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Findings

- Students expressed if one is not well then it impacts everything else and prevents engagement with peers. (1)
- Students excitingly spoke about the need for adaptation to the new learning environment. (2)
- Students voiced an appreciation for technology based communication platforms as well as attending online events. (3)
- “Our community has missed out and now that we’re together we’re still apart” (4)
- Students expressed pandemic fatigue and frustration with remote learning as one perspective, while others demonstrated resilience. (5)
Time’s Running Out . . .

Image By: Alexis Dominie
(Senior)
The Bare Minimum

Image By: Jose Montilla
(Senior)
Recommendations

- **Curricular Suggestions:**
  - Incorporate time in nature into the curriculum
  - More breakout sessions
  - Frequent breaks (including physical activity)
  - Free Apps to facilitate small groups
  - Interactive online game learning activities

- **For inclusive accessibility:**
  - Provide free wifi access for students (data-free app)
  - Video classes with closed captioning

- **Peer/study groups**

- **Mental and Physical Health**
  - Health and Wellness Workshops
  - Built-in wellness days with no technology
  - Music (micro-dosing)

- **Building networks (professional and support)**
  - Student social work club’s sponsored (movie/documentary) watch parties
  - Online social events
Personal Insight

Gains

- Self-reflection
- Share your experiences positive or negative
- Come together as a cohort
- Empathy comes into the picture
- Interpersonal Skills
- Building relationships with faculty
References


THANK YOU!

Do you have any questions? ssmit062@plattsburgh.edu and/or nchis002@plattsburgh.edu

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