Designing a Mixed-Method Study to Investigate Post-secondary Education Program Participants’ Social Inclusion in the Campus Community

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Student Guided Participatory Art Project:
In the spring of 2012, eight UP participants took photographs to educate the campus community about their college experiences. The photographs were displayed in the A.K. Hinds University Center Gallery.

Lessons Learned:
- Participants captured typical college experiences: going to class, doing homework, living in residence halls, attending sporting events and working on campus.
- In their art show, participants captured places where they were spatially included. UP participants often described the importance of FRIENDS.

Research questions:
- How do UP participants conceptualize social inclusion in their campus community?
- How do UP participants evaluate their social inclusion in their campus community?
- How do natural supports evaluate UP participants’ social inclusion in the campus community?
- What strategies for facilitating social inclusion can the UP Program develop from evaluations?

Design:
Natural Supports
- Quantitative perceptions of participants’ social support: online surveys
- Qualitative perceptions of participants’ social support: focus group interviews

UP Participants
- Photovoice: photography
- Semi-structured interviews

Proposed Photovoice Training:
- Narrative
- Technical skills
- Ethics practice
- Practice & scavenger hunts

Perceived Quality of UP Participants’ Social Inclusion

Preliminary Quantitative Results:
- These results address research question 3: “How do natural supports evaluate UP participants’ social inclusion in the campus community?”

Correlation Analysis
There was a significant, negative correlation between natural supports’ perceptions of UP participant loneliness and perceptions that UP participants had supportive friends ($r = -0.47, p < .001$), strong emotional connections ($r = -0.27, p < .05$) and frequent positive social interactions ($r = -0.40, p < .001$). A large neural network supporting the novel word-learning.

M=4.54; N=68
Multidimensional scale of Perceived Support, Friends’ factor

M=4.47; N=62
Sense of Community index 1 ‘Membership’ factor

M=4.57; N=62
Sense of Community index 2 ‘Emotional Connections’ factor

Subjective frequency: 1 (Never) 2 (Always)

I will respect the confidentiality of the stories that were discussed during the photovoice reflection sessions.

I will get the signature of all individuals represented in my photographs.

I will not reveal the name(s) of any subject(s) in my photographs, and will not use them when discussing or writing about my photographs.

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