

Using the Photovoice Methodology to Assess Community Strengths and Weaknesses in Community/Public Health Nursing Education

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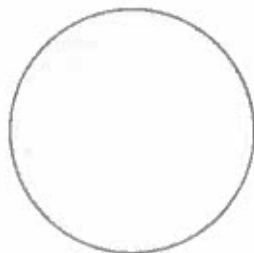
Presenter Disclosures

Rosemary W. Eustace

The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

"No relationships to disclose"

Purpose



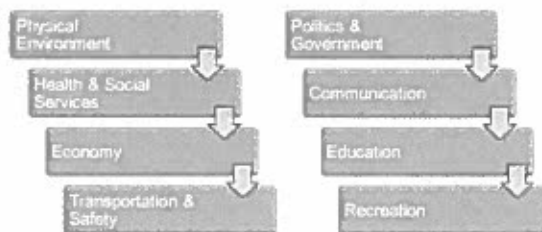
Background & Significance

- **Photovoice methodology:**
 - Utilized in higher education as a critical reflection methodology (Horwitz, 2012).
 - Engages individuals in direct active experiences, human discussions, interactions, and observations (Billings & Halstead, 2012; Kritsonis, 2011).
 - Has not widely been used as an educational tool in nursing education (Riley & Manias, 2004).

Method

- Descriptive qualitative design.
- Convenience sample of 96 students enrolled in the Fall 2013 and Fall 2014 community/public health nursing class.
- Students asked to take pictures of activities, places and/or symbols that describe the health of the community utilizing the ShowEd instrument.
 - Some of the pics were used in the students' final poster presentations.
- Content analysis method was used to analyze the students' narratives using the community-as-partner model.

Community as Partner Model – 8 Subsystems



(Anderson & McFarlane, 2010)

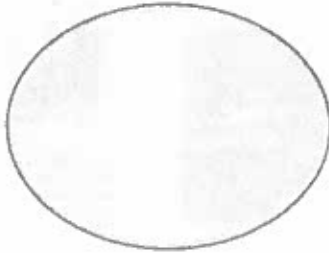
Major themes

Students' Reflections & Photographs

Community Strengths and Weaknesses:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strength: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive outlooks for thriving communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaknesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of economic opportunities • Unsafe communities • Lack of access to healthy food choices |
|--|--|

Student's Proposed Actions for Change



Physical Environment

"This picture relates to my life because I realize how fortunate I am. I do not live in an area where you see houses boarded up and vacant so I am fortunate to have a good family and roof over my head."



Economy



"This photo shows that people are having trouble keeping their houses which could be caused by a recent rise in unemployment! The lack of housing puts not only adults, but also children onto the streets without a home to live in. Looking at the sidewalks and yard, this photo also shows the lack of the city to maintain a clean and well-kept status of its properties."

"It is a source of food for the neighborhood, we can petition a large scale grocer to consider building closer to the neighborhood to give the residents better food options."



Communication

"The board that displays local small businesses empowers the community by adding to the economy and showing the diversity of the community. This empowers the community members by allowing them to be themselves and express their opinions."



"My life would be quite difficult without a cell phone. I take my cell phone everywhere and use it daily. This is how my family, my job and my friends get in touch with me."

Recreation

"This picture can reflect the financial standing of the neighborhood and community it appears to be well maintained and a highlight of the community it gives insight into what the community deemed necessary for the community, a gathering place where people can relax and enjoy a safe environment."



Transportation & Safety

"This would educate/motivate people to use a healthy mode of transportation"



"A safety concern exist because often abandon buildings bring homeless or unruly individuals to the area and buildings can be vandalized and property can be destroyed and bring about fear in the community"

Politics & Government

"We as public health nurses could develop a volunteer group to pick up trash, or work with city officials to develop a plan to raise money so they can employ more workers to help keep the streets clean"



Education

"Empowers children of the community Empowers them to further their education and allow them to have future options."



"We can help children grow We can continue to do screenings and health education at small schools like these to foster the development a young children and help make their future brighter"

Lessons Learned

- Beneficial tool for student engagement and reflection
- Develop a training session within the course to highlight the goals and steps of the photovoice strategy.
- Buy-in from faculty to utilize the method as a teaching strategy in community/public health.
- Consider ethical limitations (violation of privacy).
- Find meaningful community events/venues for students to advocate for change through photography presentations (e.g. to policy makers).

Selected References

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