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SOCW 417 Radu

Due: 9/13/07

Research Outline

Introduction:

*The problem that I am focusing on deals with middle school age girls who are experiencing stress. I will look into what makes children stressed, how one's family plays into the girls being stressed, and determine if there is a difference in male vs. female stress. My main concern is whether there is a difference of stress levels between girls who attend after school programs.

* Questions will address whether middle school age girls who attend an after school program demonstrate a lower degree of stress as compared to other girls in their age level who do not?

*My rationale for studying this is to determine the degree of stress. To see why so many children are left alone after school with nothing to do but get into things that will lead them to stressful situations and to behavioral problems. I would like to observe how after-school programs can guide children in the proper way and help them with not only support but also engages them into activities and educational assistance in through my observations will hopefully prove a degree of less stress.

Methodology:

*I will be using a majority of qualitative approach or rationale because it involves an in depth understanding of human behavior and the reasons behind various aspects of those behaviors. It looks at the questions "why" and "how" and since I am doing a survey on the stress levels of girls who are involved in after-school programs compared to the girls who are not, then I will need to know why stress levels are different and how did they get that way. I will interview the girls and use charts to visually show the difference.

*I plan to transform the data that I have collected from the interview and make a chart so that one will be able to get a glimpse of what I researched and came up with and can visually be able to compare and understand my results.

*I will be conducting a survey of around 20 people over a one-week period and I will subject the results to statistical analysis. The survey will be held at two locations. The first will consist of girls from Harding middle school and the second will consist of girls from Brown Academy. This survey will be conducted at approximately the beginning of October. As of now my sample will be based on a Representative Sample or a Stratified Sample.

*Due to the status of my agency I might not be able to include people of diverse groups so the

majority of my sample will be young African American girls. Consent forms will be given to the girl's parents before the interviewing process begins. I will take the initiative in showing my field advisor the questions that I am going to ask the clients and have her go over them with me to make sure that they are acceptable and that they adhere to the guidelines.

*I am planning to use a tape player to record what the clients have to say as well as taking notes and perhaps giving them a check list that rates different stress levels.

*I will use SPSS to analyze my data, which will be a summary of all the interview, recording, and questionnaires that I converted.

*The study that I am conducting is socially competent. Even though the research may not include a diverse background, if the questions were asked to people who were not African American they could still be able to understand and answer them without any problem or issues. This will be done in a professional manner in that I will give out a consent form as well as have a higher authority review the potential questions before hand. The research strategies are based on what was studied. Confidentiality would be put into effect if needed. The place where the survey will be taken is accessible to all clients because they will be at that location anyway so no driving needed. The survey will be given out at a time where they would already be meeting in that particular location so it is very convenient. The girls will not have to feel uncomfortable because they are use to being asked questions, they have seen me before, and they are use to each other where there is a friendly environment. This concludes how it abides by the social work principles.