Making Visible the Invisible: Uncovering the Impact of Period poverty with use of Photovoice

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Objectives

Upon completion of this presentation attendees will be able to:

- Define period poverty.
- Understand how period poverty impacts specific communities of people.
- Explore sustainable solutions to addressing period poverty.



Background

- Period poverty impacts comminutes in low and high come countries.
- Populations most affected by period poverty include women experiencing homelessness, teenagers, transgender and non-binary individuals.
 - Many of the individuals residing in the Philadelphia community have one or more of these characteristics.



(Tull, 2019)



Philadelphia





Background

- Literature reveals period poverty has an impact on the following
 - School attendance
 - Health
 - Self-esteem/confidence

Ability to obtain economic growth DNPs of Color

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Project Objective

 Utilize photovoice to obtain the lived experiences of individuals receiving Resources Education & Distribution Box services in order to determine the social, economic, mental, emotional and physical impact of period supply insecurity.



Methods

- Using participatory action research (PAR) photovoice was utilized to facilitate the project. PAR is an effective research method for women's health.
- Three main goals of photovoice are:
 - Enable people to record and reflect their community's strengths and concerns
 - Promote critical dialogue and knowledge about important issues through large and small group discussion of photographs
 - Reach policymakers



Methods

- Recruitment from Lincoln University.
- Nine participants.
- One training session held on photovoice with participants.
- Cell phones used to take photo over the course of 3 weeks.
- One follow up session held to discuss each photo guided by trained photovoice research team.

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Results

- Photovoice uncovered the impact of menstrual supply insecurity in the following area:
 - Physical
 - Mental
 - Emotional
 - Social





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Addressing the Problem





Conclusion

- Period poverty and menstrual inequities impact the lives of menstruating individuals in various aspects.
- Community participatory projects can help support advocacy in addressing this global issue.





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References

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- •Wang, C. C. (1999). Photovoice: A participatory action research strategy applied to women's health. *Journal of women's health*, 8(2), 185-192.



How will you address ending period poverty?



