EXPLORING THE RELOCATION EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE THROUGH STORYWORK



Research Presentation

This study explores the question, "What stories of relocation are told by female Indiaenous youth in foster care who have relocated from rural northern communities and are residing in a Lower Mainland residential program?" Indigenous youth are over represented in the Canadian Child Welfare system as a result of colonization and residential schools. There is limited understanding of this populations' experience of relocation while in foster care. Using Métis Beadwork/Indigenous Storywork methodology, I used beadwork teachings combined with the seven Storywork principles to guide my research and engage with participants which include: respect, responsibility, reciprocity, reverence, holism, interrelatedness, and synergy. Findings from this study reveal the youth's perspective on their experiences of relocation and create space for youth voice in research. Findings may also guide service providers in providing culturally appropriate, effective, and meaningful services.

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