

Using Traditional Concepts to Address Victimization in Native Communities

Jeremy NeVilles-Sorell
Sarah Curtiss



Workshop Overview

- Nanda Gikendan “To Seek Knowledge”
- Presenting Tools for Engaging Community:
 - “Where Do You Stand?”
 - Bystander Scenarios
 - Traditional Concepts
 - Building Empathy with “Digital Stories”
 - Using Surveys

Seven Grandfather Teachings

- **March** **Honesty**
- **April** **Humility**
- **May** **Courage**
- **June** **Wisdom**
- **July** **Respect**
- **August** **Generosity**
- **September** **Love**

Wisdom

- Debwe' = the truth
- Debwe'win=drum
- Dewi' = heart



Respect

- Defining respect
- Communication exercises
- Remembering we are all connected.



Stone Soup

- Toolkits for stone soup party.
- Ways to engage our friends and family in discussing domestic and sexual violence



Honesty: "Where Do You Stand?"

Domestic and Sexual Violence
Awareness Quiz

Honesty: Where Do You Stand?

- Choose "true" or "false" in response to the following statements
- Stand to the LEFT of the screen if you think the statement is TRUE
- Stand to the RIGHT of the screen if you think the statement is FALSE
- Stand in the MIDDLE of the screen if you are UNSURE about the statement

Where Do You Stand?

1. Domestic violence occurs mostly in lower socioeconomic groups

- TRUE UNSURE FALSE

Where Do You Stand?

2. Women are most often the victims rather than the perpetrators of abuse

- TRUE UNSURE FALSE

Honesty: Where Do You Stand?

3. Alcohol and drug abuse cause violent behavior so staying sober, or with sober people, will prevent sexual or physical assaults

- TRUE UNSURE FALSE

Courage: Bystander Scenarios

- Based on work for engaging sports teams – MVP curriculum
- Scenarios designed to raise awareness of Battering, Rape, Peer Pressure, Sexual Harassment:
 - Slap Shot
 - Rejection
 - Illegal motion
 - Talking Trash

Humility: Digital Stories



Using Digital Stories

- Have community members collect the stories from relatives/trusting friends
- Have them create the stories (assembling pictures, finding narrator and editing)
- Have them show what they produced and talk about what they learned

Public Awareness Survey

- Assess perceptions
 - Demographics
 - Having a relationship
 - Having a sexual relationship
 - Gender roles in relationships
 - Decision making in relationships
 - Behaviors in relationships

Demographics

- 46 survey responses
- 38 women and 8 men
- Ages ranged from 18 yrs to 70 yrs old



Having a Relationship

- Many felt it wasn't important to be involved all the time but there was social pressure - especially if their friends were is currently in one

Having a Relationship

- "It's OK for me to see other people" 37% strongly disagreed and 20% agreed

VS

- "It's OK for the person I'm dating to see other people", the strongly disagree spiked to 53% and the number who agreed dropped to under 6%

Having a Relationship

- 68% preferred a long-term relationship



gender roles in relationships



Decision Making in Relationships

- If conflict is normal in a relationship...
 - Do I have the necessary skills to handle conflict?
 - Are both people responsible for their part of the fight?
 - Should I understand my partner's point of view?



Behaviors in Relationships

- Our community understands elements of violence
- Still need to challenge long-held social stereotypes



Behaviors in Relationships

- 75% agreed that name calling was just as abusive as slapping or pushing
- 81% believed that someone can be controlling without using insults or physical force
- “Being mean in a relationship makes you controlling” 44% disagreed and 30% undecided
- People could name the abusive behavior but struggled with connecting that with everyday descriptions

Tools Requested

- Individual Reflection
- Practical Application
- Vocabulary, and
- Conversation material



Don't stop in the middle!

- The beginning of a journey.
- Utilize the energy created.
- Always be thinking, "What's next?"

Contact Information

Jeremy Nevilles-Sorell
jeremy@mshoop.org

Sarah Curtiss
sarah@mshoop.org

Mending the Sacred Hoop
202 E. Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55802
218-623-HOOP

