

Community Action and Empowerment Using Community Based Participatory Research to Create CBPR Methodology Curriculum and Pilot Course

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Abstract: A missing component in traditional research methodologies is that populations studied are left without an explanation of what the research will do, who it will help, and what actions may result. This is especially true when researching unhoused populations. Access to electronic communication may be out of reach, the ability to understand complex terminologies is often not present, and everyday challenges make routine tasks impossible. This project creates a curriculum for a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) Methods course for Chico State graduate students and the local unhoused population. CBPR empowers the studied population by partnering with them as community researchers who engage in all levels of the project (Campbell et al. 2021). This partnership creates connections between the academic community and community researchers and gives co-ownership over the research. It also enables researchers to uncover variables that would have remained unknown without direct partnership. The most important aspect of a CBPR project is disseminating the findings through an action plan. Community researchers bring the results to the community in creative and accessible ways. Over six weeks, graduate students met with community researchers, developing relationships using icebreaking activities. The research found variables graduate students could not have envisioned before the community researcher's involvement (Montague 2023). The CBPR research methods course launches in spring 2024 at California State University, Chico. The goal is to empower the local community to create a plan of action to disseminate the findings to the community and leaders.