

**Empowerment Theological Action Model (ETA): A
Qualitative Case Study Analysis Among Inner-City Youth
Exposed to Violence**

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Introduction Background and Context:

Youth violence is an overwhelming problem in African-American inner-city communities in the Midwest (third largest city). Can Empowerment Theological Action (ETA) help solve this problem? (Ries, 2009).

Statement of the Problem

- In the United States inner-city youth violence has gained a national spotlight as a major public health concern.
- African-American communities experience 64.5 youth mortality per 100,000 state population.
- The three leading causes of youth mortality are:
 1. Unintentional injury
 2. Homicide
 3. Suicide(Ries, 2009).

Purpose of Empowerment Theological Action

- The ETA model offers outlets and opportunities to form and sustain healthy habits.

Research Design Qualitative Study

- Partnerships were created between researcher, THP, and participating youth.
- Participants offered narratives about their experiences to violence directly or indirectly.
- Pre and post interviews were given to evoke discussions and compare results.
- Pre and post narratives were written that assessed any patterns, themes, and behavioral change.

(Creswell, 2013; Salkind, 2012).

Participants

- The targeted population were 33 at-risk youth 9th through 12th grades who had been exposed to some type of violent act and expelled from the public school system.
- 33 youth throughout GIA were court mandated to JHAS and enrolled in The Heart Program (THP).
- Slide 14: The sample was youth chosen by non-random voluntary selection to participate in the ETA research.
 - Seven (n=7) 18-year-old and older inner-city at-risk African-American youth participated in the research.
 - Each participant was assigned a number for ID coding.

Components of the Empowerment Theological Action Use

- Dialog
- Reflection
- Narrative experiences
- Participatory engagement
- Spiritual support
- Emotional support

(Shepard, 2012; Lowdermilk & Brunache, 2013).

Research Questions

Research Question 1

What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have on inner-city African-American youth's self-esteem, self-control, hope, and self-efficacy?

Research Questions

Research Question 2

What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have on reducing self-reported acts of violence among African-American inner-city youth?

Research Questions

Research Question 3

What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have in the faith of God among African-American inner-city youth?

Findings and Conclusions

Research Question 1: Findings

RQ. 1: What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have on inner-city African-American youth's self-esteem, self-control, hope, and self-efficacy?

- Community development
- Extracurricular activities
- Higher academic achievement
- Fewer behavioral and psychological issues

(Gibbs & Greene-Bankhead, 1997; Ries, 2009).

Findings and Conclusions

Research Question 2: Findings

RQ. 2: What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have on reducing self-reported acts of violence among African-American inner-city youth?

- Having a voice
- Further violence
- Adult mistrust

Findings and Conclusions

Research Question 3: Findings

RQ. 3: What relation, if any, does the ETA approach have in the faith of God among African-American inner-city youth?

- Decision making

Research Question Conclusions

- RQ. 1: It was community improvement that related to the youth's self-esteem, self-control, hope, and self-efficacy and not the ETA.
- RQ. 2: Nothing could be done amid the overall issue of youth violence; There was no relation between the ETA and self-reporting acts of violence.
- RQ. 3: The ETA did not serve as a effective evangelistic tool awakening or increasing faith.

Implications

- (a) Youth need support from adults
- (b) Creating a safe and desirable environment
- (c) Socio-economic barriers
- (d) Develop local organized facilities

Recommendations for Further Research

- (a) Compare and contrast youth who positively transitioned toward empowerment against young people who did not transition positively.
- (b) Research into the best practices for addressing youth violence may offer positive youth empowerment outcomes.
- (c) Look into the relation between empowerment models and whole family relationships.

Conclusion

- Ed. D.
- Dissertation
- ETA

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