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

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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.
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 9\textsuperscript{th} through 12\textsuperscript{th} 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 an 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
REFERENCES


