



Prairie Centre Regional Workshop

Workshop Presentation Abstract

Deriving Policy Implications from Action Research: Lessons from the Dragon Rise Health Team Project

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The Dragon Rise Health Team was formed in January of 1996 to enhance public health services to young families specifically in the areas of perinatal health and well child care. Three nurses who were themselves immigrants as adults (two from Hong Kong and one from Vietnam) were employed to work with Chinese and Vietnamese immigrant families receiving services from all four health centres in northeast Edmonton. An action research project was initiated at the onset of the initiative and data were collected during the first year. The purpose of the research was to explore potential roles and responsibilities of the three nurses in enhancing public health services and community development possibilities in Chinese and Vietnamese populations in northeast Edmonton. A conceptual framework based on Homi Bhabha's concept of *hybridity* whereby articulation of different cultures opens space in which opportunities for both cultures to change are created was envisioned as a guide to the research. A thirteen member research team, in addition to research assistants, was assembled and data were collected via research group meetings, questionnaires, staff interviews, client interviews and focus groups. Findings fall into four categories: tracking the process of introducing the change, benefits to clients, cultural knowledge relating to perinatal beliefs and practices in the target populations, and knowledge of the power of action research in mediating change. This presentation focused on the first two categories and how they related to policy with regard to targeting determinants of health, encouraging diversity in the workplace, and facilitating integration of immigrants with professional qualifications.