



An Exploration Utilizing Mixed Methods Research to Study NNMC CAMP Students' Sense of Belonging, Spring 2017

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Abstract

My research is designed to measure the sense of belonging in CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program).

Statement of the Problem

I feel that students need to learn to interact with one another and be comfortable of being around more surroundings rather than the one in CAMP. This can help them feel or get a better grasp of belonging.

McMillan and Chaves. Sense of Belonging. (1986)

Theory

My theory is that CAMP helps new students gain a sense of belonging in school, in particular, an aspect that may affect sense of belonging in CAMP is gender. My theory is that females may have a stronger need for belonging to a group. This theory is based on non-participant observation of CAMPers made by the researcher.

Hypotheses

My hypothesis is that gender will affect the sense of belonging. More females will express higher sense of belonging than males. In my research I will assume the null and if my data supports my hypothesis, I can reject the null, which is that gender has no effect in the sense of belonging in CAMP.



Data Collection & Methods

I had N=12 last semester and N=17 this semester. I will lack some information due to the students missing from the family meetings who did not take the survey.

Data Analysis & Findings

I had a group last semester that took my survey that will were participants as old and new recruitments and then a whole new survey that has new participant with a mix of old. Gender is a part of this research and females seem to find the more comfort in CAMP as to males it seems like it is harder to follow and feel that sense of belonging as quickly, but in the findings both male and female seem to find that sense of belonging.

Data Analysis & Findings *cont'd*

The sampling method that I will be using would be the mixed method due to the student in the program of CAMP. Although random sample is the best method that we should use in our research because it is unbiased I will not be about to use this in my project.

Table I Sample Results: Gender

Q3 Are you male or female?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

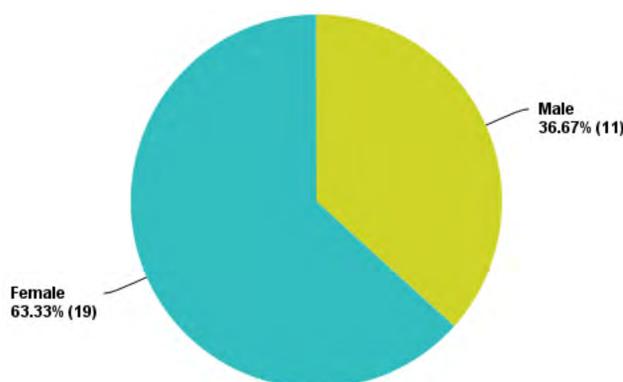


Table II Independent Variable

| | disagree strongly | disagree somewhat | neutral, in the middle | agree somewhat | agree strongly | Total |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| I feel a strong sense of belonging to CAMP. | 0.00% | 12.50% | 12.50% | 6.25% | 68.75% | |
| | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 16 |

Table III Dependent Variable Measuring overall Sense of belonging

| | disagree strongly – | disagree somewhat – | neutral in the middle – | agree somewhat – | agree strongly – |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CAMP is definitely helping me stay in college. | 0.00% | 0.00% | 12.50% | 18.75% | 68.75% |
| | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Overall, I'd say I have a strong sense of belonging to CAMP. | 0.00% | 6.25% | 6.25% | 18.75% | 68.75% |
| | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 11 |

Conclusions

Throughout this research I have found that CAMP is very helpful with the students throughout being in this program. They have taught many of the CAMP members how to be strong and be positive about themselves.

Ethics

In the process before I administering the surveys to each of the CAMP members I introduced myself using my name, major, the instructor I am working under, the purpose of the survey and study. I introduced the survey by explaining what the questions consisted of, how many questions there were and generally how long it would take to fill out the survey. I informed students and the facilitators that the survey was completely confidential, that participation is voluntary, and informed students that names and Eagle ID numbers are asked for tracking purpose only and would not be released or used by anyone for any other purposes.

References

Babbie, E. R. (n.d.). The practice of social research.

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