The Månha Project: Resilient Enabling Community-Based Initiatives

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Guam In a Nutshell
In a Nutshell (Cont.)

Challenges

- Geography
- Cultural-Political Climate
  - Migration
- Infrastructure
  - Education
    - Wealth Inequality
  - Industry
  - Healthcare

Tin-Wood Structure in Dededo

Photo: Rick Cruz/PDN)
Månha Project

- Young Coconut
  - Chamorro
- Est. 2011
- Projects
  - Youth Camp
  - Community Development
Project Design

Månha Project

Decolonizing Methods

Resilience Research

Bronfenbrenner
Resilience Research

• “In the context of exposure to significant adversity, resilience is both the capacity of individuals to navigate their way to the psychological, social, cultural, and physical resources that sustain their well-being, and their capacity individually and collectively to negotiate for these resources to be provided and experienced in culturally meaningful ways.”

  — (Ungar, 2008, p. 225)
Resilience Research

Deaf Specific Risks to Resilience

- Caregiver child attachment
- Institutional & Structural Discrimination
- Communication disadvantages

Achievement and Desirable Outcomes Life
- Academic
- Employment
- Social

Some Potential Risks to Resilience (Young, et al., 2008; Zand & Pierce, 2011)
Resilience Research

Social Structure
- Accessible Communication
- Rich Participation

Individual
- Not use deafness as an excuse
- Interpersonal skills
- Good Communication Skills
- Advocacy
- Independence

School & Employment
- Collaborative Early Identification
- High expectations
- Extracurricular activities
- Family Involvement
- Academic supports
- Accessible Communication

Family
- Accessible Communication
- Problem-Solving skills
- Religion
- Acceptance of the child
- Routines
- Togetherness

Nutshell of what we know (Ahlert, & Greeff, 2012; Jacobs et al, 2012; Luckner & Muir, 2001; Rogers et al., 2003; Zimmerman, under review)
“Resilience rests, fundamentally, on relationships. The desire to belong is a basic human need, and positive connections with others lie at the very core of psychological development; strong, supportive relationships are critical for achieving and sustaining resilient adaptation. (p. 780)

— Luthar (2006)
Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory

1. Macrosystem (Outer Skin)
2. Mesosystem (Coir)
3. Mesosystem (Seed Coat)
4. Mesosystem (Meat)
5. Individual

Project Design
Decolonizing Methods

Of, By, and For
• Smith (2012)

Dialogic
• Freire (1970)

Cultural practices functioning to support creative invention
• Tomasello (1999)
Dialogic

• “Leaders who do not act dialogically, but insist on imposing their decisions, do not organize the people--they manipulate them. They do not liberate, nor are they liberated: they oppress.”
  — Paulo Freire, (1970)
Månha Project at a Glance
References

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