Nanâtawihowin Âcimowina Kika-môsahkinikêhk Papiskîci-itascikêwin Astâcikowin

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BACKGROUND

Academic research conducted in Indigenous communities has historically employed "helicopter research" in which little to no engagement is done with community before and after data extraction. Morning Star Lodge (MSL), an Indigenous health research lab, seeks to eliminate helicopter research by introducing innovative Indigenous research practices to all academic fields. To ensure Indigenous sovereignty in the process of data collection and analysis, it is essential that community members be involved. Utilizing Dr. Judith Bartlett's Collective Consensual Data Analytic Procedure (CCDAP), Morning Star Lodge has designed a process in which Indigenous stakeholders are consulted and guide the research process. This process was named in ceremony as Nanâtawihowin Âcimowina Kika-môsahkinikêhk Papiskîci-itascikêwin Astâcikowin [NAKPA], a Cree translation of Medicine/Healing Stories Picked, Sorted, Stored.

METHODS

NAKPA is a collaborative process where members from the community in which research took place are gathered in a physical or virtual panel to organize raw data into structured major and minor themes. This process is completed as follows:

1. Data Collection : Qualitative data is collected through methods such as recorded interviews and research circles and then transcribed.
2. Data Pre-analysis : Transcriptions are entered into NVivo software to remove irrelevant data and to reduce qualitative data into brief nodes.
3. Data Digitization : These nodes are placed onto powerpoint presentation software so that they may be displayed for a panel.
4. Data Reduction and Display : Spreadsheet software is utilized to provide columns with a symbolized header on each. Facilitators and panel members place similar nodes from the presentation software into columns with similar nodes. A node may not be placed into a column until a full consensus has been reached that it belongs there.
5. Verification : The panel reviews the columns and reaches a consensus that it is accurate. Once completed, the heading symbols are replaced with major and minor themes that are named and agreed upon by panel members.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

As this is a relatively new modality of qualitative data analysis, it has yet to be used extensively in academia. The intention of MSL is to provide academic institutions the training and mentorship necessary to implement this method to all research regarding Indigenous populations on an international scale. If Indigenous sovereignty over their research data is to be accomplished, research practices must first be decolonized and must be designed so that Indigenous community members direct all facets of the research process. Research is ceremony, therefore MSL holds Indigenous research with a high level of reverence. In the words of Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis, the CEO of All Nations Hope Network in Regina, SK, "Research is alive. It's something that's living. It can bring life to communities. When it's done in a good way, and in a respectful way, that's when we see change begin to take place." (Margaret Kisikaw-Piyesis, 2018).

CONCLUSION

NAKPA is an innovative method for sorting qualitative data as it allows for the prompt organization of raw data, values Indigenous ways of knowing, and strengthens community capacity by privileging community voices. The risk of researcher bias is greatly reduced as all conclusions are drawn and agreed upon by a collective panel of community members. As research has historically removed Indigenous voice from its methods, Morning Star Lodge resists this notion by practicing Indigenous Research Methodologies and NAKPA to privilege and centre the voice of Indigenous community members.