SR 890 Research Project Prospectus

Elsworth B. Neale

Omega Graduate School

February 15, 2024

Professor

Dr. Curtis McClane, Ph.D.

Assignment 1: Introduction and Problem Statement

• Draft the Introduction and Statement of the Problem sections.

• Introduce the topic, define the scope, and clearly articulate the issue

The post-Covid 19 pandemic era has seen an increase in suicide among young people in Barbados. This is due in part to the increasing prevalence of mental health problems among young individuals within the Barbadian society.

The problem is a lack of adequately trained persons to recognize and apply intervention strategies to mitigate the increasing prevalence of mental health problems among young individuals within the Barbadian society and thus reduce the number of suicides. This deficit in training leaves both the church and young individuals in vulnerable positions, potentially exacerbating the emotional, psychological, and spiritual struggles the latter faces.

How can devising a comprehensive and ethically informed training program in mental health for church volunteers equip them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to interact sensitively and constructively with young individuals facing mental health challenges, and thus reduce the prevalence of suicide in the Barbadian society?

This action research project aims to foster a more compassionate and understanding environment within religious communities by bridging the gap between spiritual guidance and mental health support. This, in turn, can contribute to reducing stigma, promoting holistic well-being, and facilitating a more inclusive and empathetic approach towards those navigating mental health difficulties. Through diligent research and thoughtful implementation, this action research project aspires to cultivate a nurturing space within Christian congregations where young individuals can find solace, understanding, and holistic care.