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Action Research Project Prospectus

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Assignment 3: Ethical Considerations and Intervention Design

Develop a detailed plan for the intervention.

Link the intervention to sociological and faith-based analyses.

Discuss and address potential ethical issues related to the intervention

**Designing the Intervention**

The restorative intervention to be conducted for this particular action research will involve the Youth Training Centre (YTC), a rehabilitation centre for young people. Although it is not a prison, the facility falls under the ambit of the Prison Service and is guided by the Young Offenders Act of Trinidad and Tobago. The YTC is designed to ; properly administer and manage sentences imposed by the court on young offenders, provide secure custody and physical care which fosters mature development and minimizes the damaging effects of incarceration; provide constructive and satisfying activities including vocational training, general education and quiet, active and creative activities [(*New Board at Youth Training Centre | Local News | Trinidadexpress.Com*, 2014)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?x9xcOf).

The intervention will include two components: a skill-based vocational training session to be determined based on the preferences and needs of the YTC participants and a personal development coaching session to encourage employability, civic-mindedness, and a better sense of self with the goal of lessening recidivism. Following the National Youth Policy (2020-2025) Pilar 1; Prioritizing Youth Economic Participation and Empowerment, this intervention strategy emphasises the promotion of youth skills for inclusive economic growth. A focus is placed on modern and “future-focused career guidance and planning, targeted career and employability skills development, education-related work experiences and opportunities for career growth” .Pillar Two (2) promotes harnessing youth social and intellectual capital. It further emphasizes lifelong learning and TVET by developing modern Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes that are more responsive to emerging labour markets, youth interests, and the nation’s sustainable developmental needs. The skills portion of the intervention will be done by a collaborating agency that does TVET programmes within the prison system of Trinidad and Tobago. This researcher will conduct personal development sessions where she seeks to use an appropriate curriculum that will holistically benefit the participants, two of these sessions will be conducted by appropriate guest speakers.

## Purpose and Objectives

To reduce recidivism by harnessing youth social and intellectual resources by encouraging lifelong learning through the introduction of Technical Vocational training in core skill areas which should:

1. increase the marketability of inmates by training them in appropriate skills
2. changed the mindset of participants towards productive activities.
3. reduce recidivism rates of the inmate population

## Sociological Theory

Labelling theory is derived from the symbolic interactionism theory in sociology, which asserts that facts are based on and directed by symbolism. The foundation of this theory is meanings, it examines the meanings emerging from the reciprocal interaction of individuals in social environment with other individuals and focuses on the question of which symbols and meanings [(Aleksandar & Rustemi, 2021)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?jLBttt). Becker believes that the first consequence of labelling a person is consolidating his deviant status, which automatically becomes dominant. The theory of labelling is considered an essential approach in deviant research, suggesting that people become deviant because political authorities and others name their behaviour by assigning specific labels [(Aleksandar & Rustemi, 2021)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?mdQTQi). Based on these considerations the intervention strategies will include personal development sessions that focus on the empowerment of the young men. The strategy will provide a juxtaposition to the labels that they would have previously received and should aid in improving their sense of self.

## Faith-Based Considerations

NT Wright describes justice as one of the universal longings humans have to see in the world; it is humanity`s need to see things put right where people experience consequences for their actions;

We all know justice matters, but we all f ind it difficult or sometimes downright impossible to achieve it. In other words, we find that justice serves as a signpost pointing toward what is foundational or essential to our lives. At the same time we find that it is a broken signpost in that, no matter how hard we strive to live up to the ideal, we fail, often in ways that create more injustice (Wright, 2020, p. 16).

Scripture not only encourages justice to be met but also the restoration of individuals who may have deviated from the Lord’s original plan for humanity. Jeremiah 22:3 says, “This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.” [(*Bible Gateway Passage*, n.d.-b)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?cCnsDt). However, 2 Peter 3:9 reminds us that the Lord would prefer the restoration of those who have fallen short; “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”[(*Bible Gateway Passage*, n.d.-a)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?nCDjtq). Based on these principles, the intervention will seek to aid in that longing that humans have by aiding in the justice system as these young people are in a rehabilitative institution along with encouraging a component of Christianity by incorporating sessions with a biblical emphasis.

## Target Group or Issue

YTC participants who are between the ages of 16 and 25 and are interested in learning a vocational skill that the institution does not consistently offer.

## Strategies and Activities

A two-pronged approach will be used: a practical vocational session will be conducted along with personal development sessions that will aid participants in developing their self-efficacy, employability, and civic-mindedness.

## Resources Needed

Vocational (Barbering tutor), barbering equipment, handouts, two speakers for personal development session

**Timeline**

Six weeks with two sessions per week.

## Anticipated Challenges

Suitable barbering tutor to volunteer service, funding to buy barbering equipment if not donated or lent by tutoring agency

## Measuring Success

Competency Standards will be assessed based on Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) for the barbering course.

A pre-and post-test will be administered during the personal development sessions.

# Ethical Considerations

## Adherence to Professional Ethics

As a Youth Development Practitioner, it is imperative that ethical boundaries are established and complied with when working with young people to ensure the professionalism of the field is maintained. Although, there are mentor/ mentee relationships that begin to develop there are identified standards, principles, and ethical guidelines for effectively working with young people, especially when meaningful engagement is desired [(Lansford & Banati, 2018)](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?87ij0g). In working with young people, especially those who are institutionalised, the privacy rules of the establishment must be adequately followed for the entire duration of the project to ensure exploitation of the youth population does not occur although, they may not all be minors.

**Respect for Persons**

The write up will include analysis of the group as a whole and not individual discreprancies

## Confidentiality and Privacy

Confidentiality agreements will be administered to participants although there will be no individual identifying traits used in the writeup of this action research project.

## Avoiding Harm

For this project, this researcher will work closely alongside the YTC staff to ensure that the project is relevant to the participants' needs so that best-practice interventions can be implemented.

## Cultural Sensitivity

Fortunately the researcher is familiar with this demographic of young people through their community work, the speakers chosen will also be those who are familiar with working with youth in conflict with the law.

## Addressing and Disclosing Bias

Biases will attempt to be avoided by working in close contact with the assigned DSL committee to ensure that any writing or analysis done are neutral and objective.

## Transparency and Accountability

Regular check-ins with the DSL committee will aid in the accountability of the researcher.

## Site Permissions

The prospectus template will be adapted to a proposal to be submitted to the Commissioner of prisons to gain access to the YTC participants.

WORKS CITED

[Aleksandar, J., & Rustemi, A. (2021). *Theory of Labeling: Contemporary Concepts of the Sociological Understanding of Deviance*. *12*(7).](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?kynNT7)

[*Bible Gateway passage: 2 Peter 3 - New International Version*. (n.d.-a). Bible Gateway. Retrieved August 3, 2024, from https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%203&version=NIV](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?kynNT7)

[*Bible Gateway passage: Jeremiah 22 - New International Version*. (n.d.-b). Bible Gateway. Retrieved August 3, 2024, from https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah%2022&version=NIV](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?kynNT7)

[Lansford, J. E., & Banati, P. (2018). *Handbook of Adolescent Development Research and Its Impact on Global Policy*. Oxford University Press.](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?kynNT7)

*National Youth Policy*: 2020-2025. (2020). The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

[*New board at Youth Training Centre | Local News | trinidadexpress.com*. (2014). https://trinidadexpress.com/news/local/new-board-at-youth-training-centre/article\_49615ab6-10ce-50df-ac32-36acb836574e.html](https://www.zotero.org/google-docs/?kynNT7)