Importance of Student’s Perceived Value and its Effects on Learning

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The purpose of this presentation is to address the social and identity-based concerns that minority students face in the school environment, and address how these can be challenged to promote students’ perceived value, mental health, and safe learning spaces using evidence-based practices. There are steps that school staff members and administrators can take to help eliminate these challenges for our students so that all students feel safe in our classrooms, as well as ways to partner with parents and guardians to encourage student success.
Objectives

➔ Attendees will be able to describe how marginalization affects students and their learning.
➔ Attendees will be able to describe understanding of three social inequities in the school environment.
➔ Attendees will know two ways to foster safe learning environments for all students.
<table>
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<th>Why is it important?</th>
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<td>Evidence-based research</td>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
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What do we mean when we say “perceived value”?
Activity
What is Marginalization? Privilege?

Who is typically marginalized?

Definitions from Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Marginalization
noun
   treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral.

Privilege
noun
   1. a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group of people.
Social Inequities

May go unaddressed
Shamed for participating in activities related to ethnic groups
Microaggressions
Tokenism
Isolated
Social mistreatment

(Strauss & Pollack, 2003; Dupper, Forrest-Bank, & Lowry-Carusillo, 2015; D’hondt, Eccles, Houtte, & Stevens, 2016)
How does this impact learning?
Symptoms
On an individual level:

- Disinterested in school
- Low graduation rates
- Issues with psychological adjustment
- Disorders
- Suicidality
- Homelessness
- Substance use
- Self-worth

(Gummadam, Pittman, & Iofe, 2016; Joyce, 2015)
On a community/system level:

- Reduction in school funding
- Less educated population
- Perpetuates inequality
- Physical and mental health issues and treatment
- Higher rates of poverty

And… COST
Cost

- Productivity Loss ($83.5 Billion)
- Health Care ($25 Billion)
- Special Education ($4.6 Billion)
- Child Welfare ($4.4 Billion)
- Criminal Justice ($3.9 Billion)
Special Consideration:

Countertransference, which occurs when a therapist transfers emotions to a person in therapy, is often a reaction to transference, a phenomenon in which the person in treatment redirects feelings for others onto the therapist.

(Chi-Ying Chung, Bemak, & Grabosky, 2011)
How can we create safer learning environments?
Inclusive Language & Other inclusive topics

1. Edit your assumptions
2. Play it safe with pronouns
3. Ditch ableist language
4. Ignore criticism

(Kassab, n.d.)
School Connectedness

School environment
  Teachers, principals, administrators
School policy
Academic outcomes
Lower health risks
Lower rates of suicide attempts

(Joyce, 2015; Marraccini & Brier, 2017; Denny et al., 2016)
Mental Health Prevention Programs

- Mindfulness strategies in the school
- Mental health workers in school
- Psychoeducation to teachers and parents
- Mentorship programs
- Physical activities

(Montañez et al., 2015; Toomey & Anhalt, 2016)
Questions? Discussion?


