

# Ethno-Racial Minority Youth: Community-Based Research Project on Sexuality, Intergenerational and Intercultural Issues Sexuality Education Resource Centre

**OBJECTIVE: TO DESCRIBE THE ORIGIN, OBJECTIVES AND PROCESSES INVOLVED IN THE PROJCT**

## How did this project start?

The *Ethno-Racial Minority Youth* (ERMY) project was the result of previous work on intergenerational communication and conflict regarding sexuality in ethno-racial/ immigrant and refugee communities, with parents but also with youth. Through this work we came to realize a gap in services and information for youth. This sparked an interest in learning about youth's perspectives about this dilemma. To do this effectively, a community-based research process was designed. This new knowledge would assist in the development of meaningful programming and other actions for ERM youth on these issues.

Dilemmas about sexuality for youth are often difficult during this important period of identity formation and are especially complicated for those from ethno-racial minorities. The intersection of ethnicity, race, gender and sexuality are important issues for ERM youth growing up in Canada. ERM youth have to deal with cultural influences both from their families and ethnic minority group and those of mainstream Canadian society. Trying to navigate both cultures can present specific challenges to both youth and their families. These challenges can lead to intergenerational communication breakdown and crisis.

Currently, there is limited research on ERM youth as it relates to intergenerational conflict, sexuality and other aspects of youth identity formation. The community-based research process is effective because it will engage ERM youth in the research, program decision making and community action on intergenerational communication, family relationships and sexuality. We believe that through this proposed research project ERM youth will provide pivotal leadership in generating knowledge and finding solutions about these issues.

## What are the goals of the ERMY Project ?

Our goal is to develop and implement an ERM youth-led community-based research process. This goal will be achieved through:

- The collaboration of ERM youth with service providers and academics.
- The design and implementation of community-based research capacity-building opportunities for ethno-racial minority youth.
- The design and implementation of ERM youth led community-based research in the area of intergenerational communication, family relationships and sexuality that enables ERM youth to acquire transferable skills in the area of community based research and community action.
- The dissemination and creation of opportunities for public dialogue with and community action for relevant audiences such as other ERM youth, service providers, policy-makers and academics.

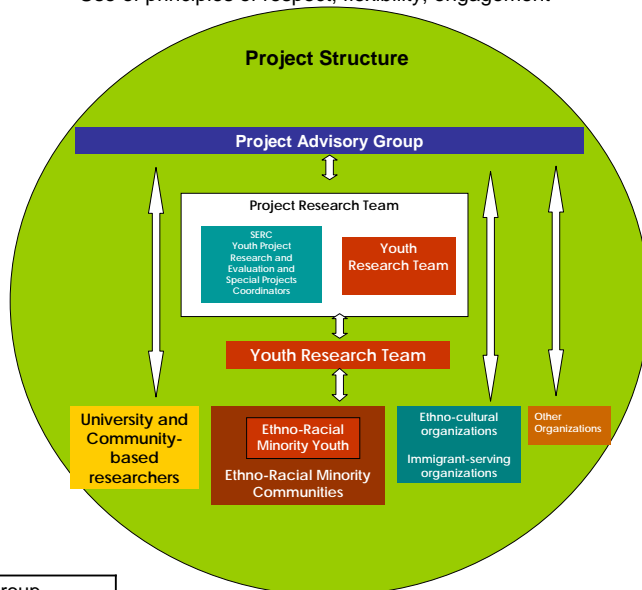
## Processes

- Hire a project coordinator "representative" of ethno-racial minority youth group
- Establish a Project Advisory Group that includes members of the academia interested in the issues of the research or community-based research approaches
- Establish a Youth Research Team

Youth Profile	
Gender	Male (11) and Females (7)
Ages	Range from 15 to 30
Ethno-Racial Backgrounds (self-identified)	African, Chinese, Filipino, Persian, Indonesian, Chinese, East Indian, Jamaican, Laotian and El Salvadoran
Generation	Mix of first and second generation immigrant youth

## Communication and Participation Strategies

- Regular meetings and sessions with members of Project Advisory Group and youth research team
- Online youth discussion group
- Use of small group work
- Use of agenda and note taking
- Development of group agreements with youth
- Establishment of Project Advisory Group Terms of Reference
- Use of principles of respect, flexibility, engagement



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Year One 04-05	Conduct Outreach and Establish Youth Research Group Develop and Implement Capacity Building activities, i.e., Research Methodology Curriculum Develop Research Protocol
Year Two 05-06	Conduct Research Conduct ongoing skill building activities as required, e.g., data analysis, sessions for new members
Year Three 06-07	Complete report Develop Dissemination Plan Disseminate Findings (also done through the life of the project)



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