



Inclusive Research Case Study 5

Bereavement

Staff: Jeannette Littlemore

College: College of Arts and Law

School/Department: English Language and Linguistics

Overview

This case study highlights the importance of effective communication and collaboration with community organisations and charities in conducting sensitive research. By leveraging established networks and maintaining consistent communication, the researcher successfully engaged with participants and managed involvement challenges. The positive interaction with the ethics committee further strengthened the research design, emphasising the value of ethical considerations and community partnership in research involving underserved groups.

Research Area: How people use language, especially metaphors, to understand and share emotional experiences

Population: People who have experienced bereavements, the death of a child, or various forms of pregnancy loss

Research Methods:

- Interviews and analysis of the metaphors used by participants to describe their experiences

Facilitating Participation:

- Partnered with Sands Charity to access participants
- Collaborated with community organisations
- Demonstrated sensitivity to participants' trauma and vulnerability
- Prioritised effective communication

Outreach Activities:

- Participated in Grief Festivals
- Delivered talks at various events such as funeral conferences, bereavement midwives forums, care conferences, and church groups
- Engaged in networking and collaboration for knowledge transfer

Promoting Researcher Confidence:

- Gained confidence by communicating with experienced professionals working with underserved groups
- Benefited from peer support and communication with colleagues conducting similar research

Known Participants/Organisations:

- Sands Charity UK

Facilitating Contact:

- Engaging with the right organisations and charities
- Using established networks of community organisations and charities to reach participants
- Continued communication and engagement with partner organisations
- Managed participant dropout rates through frequent and regular communication and engagement

Experience with Ethical Review:

- The ethics committee provided valuable suggestions and ideas to improve the study design

Funded by Research England under the Enhancing Research Culture funding stream, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration West Midlands and the NIHR Midlands Patient Safety Research Collaboration. We thank our patient and public team members and those who have supported and taken part in this work.