
Lecture Notes: GROW Social Network Application Example

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Scribes: Farley Lai and Tina McCarty

1 GROW

Introduction GROW is a mutual help group for people with psychiatric problems. It was founded in 1957 by Father Cornelius B. "Con" Keogh, a Roman Catholic priest and former mental health patients in Australia.

Theory The idea that shared problems is far more important than shared background. This particular idea contradicts all social psychology and sociology literature.

History In 1978, GROW was invited to start in central Illinois by UIUC O.H. Mowrer. This was the start of the 1st 15 GROW groups. In 1990, with seeding money from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, GROW expanded to several east coast states. Around 2005, there were more than 800 GROW groups.

Study In 1978, NIMH funded a large study of their groups for 10 years. For 27 months, 10 graduate students attended meetings of 15 central Illinois groups (12 towns).

Data

- N=861 group members followed (individuals who attended 1 or more meetings at any of the 15 sites)
- start date > start date of study
- end date < end date of study

Observers attended every weekly meeting for local groups and every other weekly meeting for those outside of the local area. Assessments were conducted with every new member, every utterance was recorded and coded and attendance was recorded.

Grow Meetings

1. Opening routine and leader selection
2. Problem solving I
3. Brown and Blue Book readings (sayings)
4. Problem solving II
5. closing routine
6. social time/refreshments

Instruments

- BSP: Brief Screening Procedure (demographic data)
- MHOS: Mutual Help Observation System
- BIC: Behavioral Interaction Coding
- ORF: Observer Rating Form
- PRF: Participant Rating Form, participants view of completed

BIC Every utterance is coded

1. Index (unit) in chronological order
2. Speaker
3. 1 of 12 "interaction codes" (excludes inaudible, false starts, "oilers", private dialogue and speech corrections)
 - Level I
 - A = agreement
 - N = negative behavior
 - Level II
 - P = process
 - T = talk
 - Level III
 - Helping
 - * S = support
 - * I = interpretation
 - * G = guidance
 - Guidance
 - * R = request
 - * Q = personal question
 - * ? = impersonal question
 - D = personal disclosure
 - Level IV
 - F = fact (default)
4. 1 of 5 "events"
 - Change in topic
 - Reference to Blue Book
 - Personal story

- Disclosure of helpful behavior
- Group reaction to off task or disruptive comments

5. Notes (free talk)

Outcomes 3 desirable outcomes:

1. Participation (information retrieved from BIC)
 - demographic data: age, sex, religion, marital status, education, SES and work status
 - meeting data: date of 823 meetings, group number, (861) subjects with 6364 observations
2. Reciprocity (information retrieved from BIC)
3. Supportiveness (information retrieved from PRF, shows density and size of social network over time)