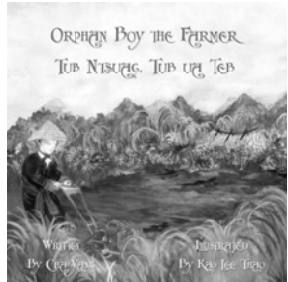


Storytelling as a Method of Farming Safety Education for Hmong Farmers



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Funding

NIOSH Childhood Agricultural Injury Prevention Initiative 1 R01 OH004215-01 funded the research that led to the creation of the safety folktales.

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National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, Marshfield WI – Storytelling & evaluation in Wisconsin.

Hmong

Were in China before the Chinese.
Long history of Chinese oppression.
Sought peace in SE Asia.
The CIA secretly recruited Hmong to fight in Secret War.
Refugees to US in 4 waves.
Highly structured culture.



Descriptive qualitative **design**.

One **purpose** of this project was to determine if storytelling was an appealing and effective way to convey safety information to Hmong farmers.

Target population: Hmong farmers ages 18-65 who grow crops to sell at farmers markets and who have children who help with the farming.

Convenience, non-random **sample** of Hmong farmers in Minnesota & Wisconsin, N=107 (72F, 35M).

Methods– Storytelling performance. Focus groups in Hmong.

Data analysis– FGs transcribed/translated. Atlas.ti 5.2 to organize data. Open-coded, double coded and analyzed (Strauss & Corbin, 1998; Boyatzis, 1998).



Storytelling in Hmong Culture

- ☛ Folktales used to tell of the world’s creation
- ☛ Teach moral and spiritual values
- ☛ Often a moral or lesson is learned from which the listener can make his/her own choices
- ☛ Even today, Hmong adults teach their children about farming safety by telling them stories

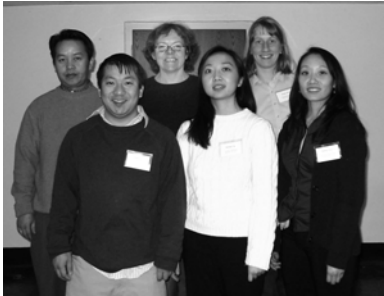
Limitations

- ☞ Some researchers do not speak Hmong
 - Dependent on bilingual team members for participant recruitment, folktale intervention, and focus group data collection
 - Not known if all participants in sample represented target population
 - Could not determine consistency and accuracy of folktale delivery
- ☞ Impossible to deduce from data how evenly each participant contributed to focus group discussion
 - Some participants dominated discussions
 - Cultural influence of gender inequity

Implications for Occupational Health

- ☞ Cultural components of workplace and safety education need to be considered
- ☞ Consider this study for future adaptations of traditional occupational safety education approaches for the Hmong
- ☞ This study demonstrates how a safety education program can be adapted to embrace a culture vs. vice versa
- ☞ Could be considered for other occupational health interventions with Hmong or with other populations

Research Team



Pao Lee, Tou Thai Lee, Michele Schermann, PaChia Vue, Penny Bartz, MaiKia Moua, & John Shutske (not pictured)