

research in brief

4-H Participation

Participation by 325 members attending 25 4-H Club meetings in 4 Washington counties in 1969 was the primary focus of this study. The researcher used a simplified sociometric sheet to record verbal interaction among members attending each meeting. Each member evaluated the meeting at its conclusion as successful, average, or unsuccessful.

Fifty-four percent of the meetings were held in the homes of members, with the remainder being held in public buildings, parks, or churches. The location of the meeting wasn't significantly related to its success.

Success of the meeting was related to participation by the member. As the number of verbal interactions per member increased, the likelihood that the member would rate the meeting as a success also increased.

The total verbal interactions tended to decrease when the number of club members attending exceeded 20.

Editor's Note

Since 77% of the club members in this study were 10 to 14 years of age, is this study evidence that younger members would find 4-H meetings more interesting if the group discussion method were used more?

"An Analysis of 4-H Club Meetings: Its Findings and Implications," Simon W. Tai, Master's thesis, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, 1969.

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