

The Fabric of our Lives: What ACE means for Women

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 So it's this invisible thing, the fabric of our lives – which actually makes life what it is.

Deana,

Helen-Margaret Centre.

What we'll cover in this workshop



- The Research
- Related Literature
- Themes

- Women's Words
- Implications for ACE

The Government focus of ACE



ACE priorities -

- targeting learners whose initial learning was not successful
- raising foundation skills
- strengthening social cohesion.

Tertiary Education Strategy 2010-15.

Your Thoughts?



- Find someone who has the same fabric as you
- Please discuss what do you think women learn from attending ACE courses?



Research Study



 Women and Learning: Women's perspectives on the impact of their involvement in adult and community education.

Methodology



- Interviews with 40 women in Christchurch
- A range of settings
- Involvement with Adult and Community Education (ACE).

Interview Sites



- Women only
- Men and women
- Mothers of young children

- Refugees and migrants
- Young women

Data Analysis



- Please find someone with the same colour quote as you.
- Gather together and share your quotes.
- Discuss what you think the quotes mean for women learners and record the key points.

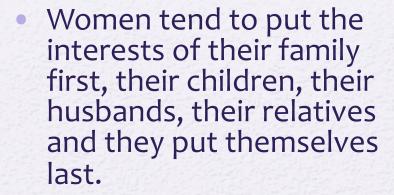


Gaining an educational focus



- Often that's what happens, people have a good, positive experience and then people often do go on and pay more and focus more, as they know that's what they want to do.
- Jane, Helen-MargaretCentre

Women's Mental Well-being



And as a result they feel exhausted, wiped out, empty and that leads to a lot of resentment and anger. And in the end it affects their health and their mental well-being and the family pays for it, so everyone loses.

 Madeleine, Helen-Margaret Centre





Family Survival

- I think, by and large it's just my general equilibrium in the house, with my husband and my kids if I'm happy, we're all happier. I mean families are so tightly intermeshed....
- Jacqui, Millie-Jack Centre

"A need to learn"

- The courses that I've done have all been a need that I've had, I mean right from the word go, I've wanted to sell my own clothing, it's cheaper, it's easy, so I went to a class for that and yes, it's because I've had a need to learn something.
- Mo, Alison Leahy Centre



Self Esteem

- I think it's starting to change my behaviour, because I feel better about myself and makes my family life more positive.
- Tracey, Helen-Margaret
 Centre

Making friends and companionship

- "meeting other people",
 (Annie, Helen Margaret Centre)
- "meeting women that I wouldn't normally meet" (Madeleine, Helen-Margaret Centre)
- "company and friendship (Linda, Alison Leahy Centre)
- "companionship and learning". (Claire, Alison Leahy Centre).



Themes



- Advantages of ACE
- Women and Learning
- Impact on family
- Learn new skills
- Change
- Meeting new people



Discussion



 Does the current policy on ACE recognise any of these themes?

What do the quotes say about the oppression of women?

Reflection



- Choose a piece of fabric that appeals to you
- Write on your piece of fabric a message that you'll take away from this workshop.
- Then share with someone you haven't spoken to about the implications for you from the workshop.



• I like to learn. I like to see the sky not only the roof!

Jamyang, Caitlyn-Nita Centre

Whakatauki/Proverb



- E-i-a-i-e
- Wahine ma! Wahine ma! Maranga mai, Maranga mai,kia kaha
- E-i-a-i-e All you young women!
- All you young women rise up, rise up, be strong

Useful Literature



- The Adult and Community and Further Education Board (1996)
- National Organisation for Adult Learning.
 (NIACE, Lavender, 2000)
- "Wider Benefits of Learning Project" (2001)

