



Creating a Positive Form of Expression for Marginalized Youth

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INTRODUCTION

Since the 1930's zines have been a form of mass communication among like-minded people. There were fanzines, political, music, poetry, and comedy zines.

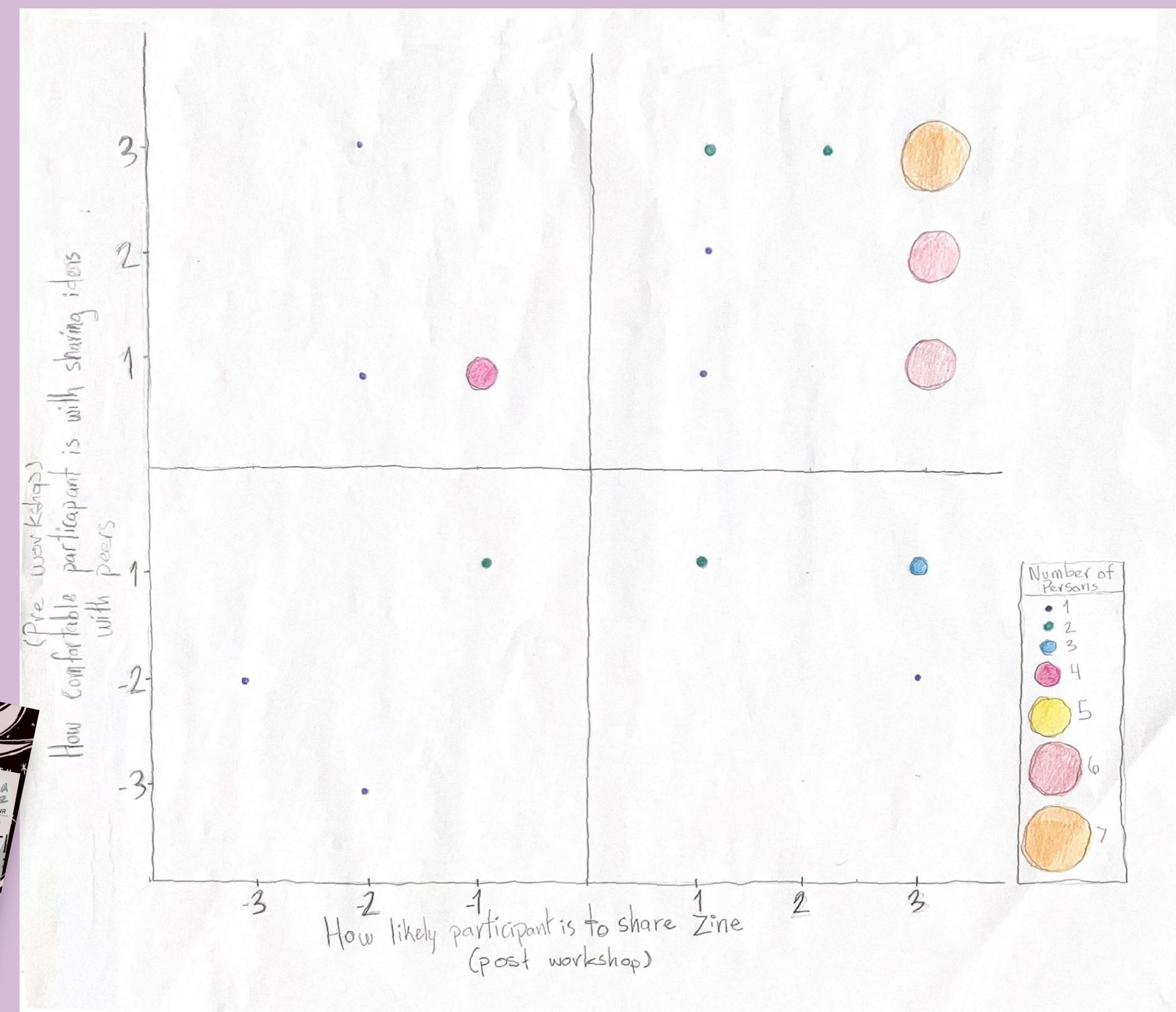
Zines were used to express people's interests, and connect to communities. Many people used them to make a better life for themselves.

Marginalized groups such as people of color, Queer people, and punks most commonly used zines to communicate. A zine is a noncommercial homemade publication It's a tool to uplift and share marginalized people's ideas.

A study was conducted to find out if can zines create a positive form of expression for marginalized youth? The question was tested with a workshop and survey.



DATA AND FINDINGS



CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

There has been a positive trend throughout each workshop conducted. Many participants reported being more **creative** and **happy** after creating a zine. Though people outside of the target demographic were positively affected, marginalized youth had higher rates of positive growth.

The less a person felt comfortable sharing ideas with their peers before, the more likely they were to want to share their zines. Often in middle and high school there is a silent judgment of the people that don't fit. Marginalized youth need an outlet to feel comfortable expressing their interests.

The workshop has impacted many people positively including me. It has inspired me to teach people about my passions. I hope to continue my impact through zine workshops.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

When studying the positive effects of marginalized youth there are many things to consider. The workshop has to be a safe space for all people. Though there is a target demographic, marginalized youth, being inclusive to everyone benefits everyone.

The workshop must consist of instructional time, then personal work time. A survey is given to participants to fill out before and after. When conducting the workshop it's beneficial to explain the history of zines. It will give zines an impactful meaning. It is a form of communication instead of just being a cheap paper booklet.

Three workshops were conducted using this method all of varying demographics. The first group consisted of mostly young adults, the second were high schoolers, and the last was middle schoolers. When teaching these workshops methods were reworked and changed in order for better results. Some things to consider when conducting a zine workshop is to make the class structured, give people enough time to create, loosely organize art materials, and leave an allotted amount of time at the end to clean up.

DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

33% of participants that were **already comfortable** sharing ideas before the workshop became **more inclined** to share their zine.

70% of participants that were **not comfortable** sharing ideas before the workshop became **more inclined** to share their zine.

60% of participants that were **not comfortable** sharing ideas before the workshop became **overall positive** towards sharing their zine.

96% of all participants reported being **positively affected** by zines

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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***Works Cited:

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