



# Social Justice activities in out-of-school time (OST) programs and the impact on urban youth

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## About the Study

The Social Justice Youth Development (SJYD) framework is a set of guidelines and principles used to politically and culturally empower urban youth. The SJYD framework posits that youth can learn to navigate through the current injustices of the world and use that knowledge to be social agents of change. With these principles, youth discover the role they play into forging a democratic society and more equitable institutions. Lastly, SJYD fosters sociopolitical development among youth and enable youth to observe its impacts on their development (Ginwright and James, 2002).

## Research Question

What are OST programs using to implement Social Justice education as it pertains to the SJYD framework?

## Method and Criteria

For the study, we conducted a systematic scoping review which analyzed OST programs in search of relevant SJYD principles and keywords. We used peer-reviewed articles and selected programs that urban youth between the ages of 11-22 years old attended.

The scoping review consisted of five stages:

Stage 1: identifying the research question

Stage 2: identifying relevant studies

Stage 3: study selection

Stage 4: charting the data

Stage 5: collating, summarizing and reporting the results (Arksey and O'Malley, 2005).

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## Results

OST Programs	1	2	3	4	5
Good Trouble: Lessons in Social Justice for Minecraft: Education Edition	X	X			X
Targeting Urban African American Youth ...		X			X
Community Engaged Learning Courses Gives Students Exposure to Social ...	X	X		X	
'And school won't teach me that!' Urban youth activism programs as ...		X	X	X	
The role of youth engagement in positive youth development and ...	X		X	X	X
The Potential for Youth Programs to Promote African American Youth's...	X	X		X	
Building Youth Power Through Healing: How Healing is Critical to Youth...	X		X		X
The Impact of Oakland Freedom School's Summer Youth Program...	X	X		X	
Community Engaged Learning Courses Gives Students Exposure to Social...	X	X			
Just spaces: Urban recreation centers as sites for social justice youth...	X	X			

### Figure 1. Legend (Social Justice Principles):

1. Analyzing Power In Social Relationships
2. Makes Identity Central
3. Promote Systemic Social Change
4. Encourages Collective Action
5. Embracing Youth Cultures

Each program must follow at least two or more of the five Social justice Principles within their framework.



## Evaluative Summary

Started stage 2, N=110 articles. From those we were able to analyze and exclude 92 articles resulting in N=18 articles to review. Out of those 18, we evaluated and selected N=10 peer-reviewed articles with specific programs that best represent the SJYD framework indicated in Figure 1.

## Conclusion

- 80% of the programs implemented activities that covered both principles 1 and 2: Analyzing power in social relationships and Making identity central.
- 50% of program activities actively uses principle 4: Encourages collective action, while 40% implemented principle 5: Embraced youth cultures.
- Only 1/3 of the program activities implemented principle 3: Promoted systemic social change

## Future Directions

1.) Promote the SJYD Framework within the OST programs, enabling youth serving organizations to actively implicate the principles within their activities so that they may facilitate a more outlined Social Justice approach.

2.) Further research the social justice curriculum in primary and secondary educational systems to model SJYD principles, practices, and outcomes.

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