

DATA-553 Lab 2 Report

Question 1:

In general, the research studies were conducted to investigate the nutritional needs of Indigenous communities, however, many experiments were harmful and done without informed consent. In many cases, individuals were subjected to dietary restrictions often leading to malnutrition and negative health effects [1].

Question 2:

Indigenous people were not consulted on the residential school program as these schools were part of a broader government policy to assimilate Indigenous people into society. The schools were typically run by Christian organizations and many times children were forcefully removed from their homes and sent to residential schools where they were subjected to strict discipline, culture suppression, physical and emotional abuse [2].

Question 3:

During the nutritional studies, informed consent was not taken prior to conducting the experiments, which led to long lasting physical and psychological trauma. In addition, many children in residential schools were also subject to invasive medical procedures to test new medication or treatment - also done without consent [1].

Question 4:

Some impacts of residential schools were cultural loss, emotional/psychological trauma, health issues, and loss of trust in government institutions.

Question 5:

Researchers viewed Indigenous people without empathy and often looked down on their culture/beliefs. Some biases that influenced research could be cultural superiority, racial bias, and lack of respect for Indigenous medicinal/agriculture knowledge.

Question 6:

The behaviour would definitely be considered unethical based on the Oxford definition of ethics. However, the nutrition experiments were conducted from 1942 to 1952, after the Nuremberg Trials, thus, even in the context of ethical practices in place then, the experiments would be considered unethical.

Question 7:

Data disaggregation is ethically important because it helps prevent bias by identifying disparities among sub-groups. By knowing the vulnerabilities, we can increase fairness and inclusivity.

Question 8:

Considering the history of Indigenous mistreatment, we should be careful that when conducting any experiment, informed consent must be received. In addition, we should not let our bias affect our research and not target vulnerable groups/communities who have minimal resources to defend themselves with.

Question 9:

My responsibility as a data scientist is to practice ethical data collection methods, respect an individual's right to privacy, and ensure any research being done does not harm any individuals.

References:

1. Mosby, Ian. "Administering Colonial Science: Nutrition Research and Human Biomedical Experimentation in Aboriginal Communities and Residential Schools, 1942–1952." *Histoire sociale / Social History*, vol. 46 no. 1, 2013, p. 145-172. *Project MUSE*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/his.2013.0015>.
2. Wolochatiuk Tim and National Film Board of Canada directors. *We Were Children*. Kanopy Streaming 2014. *INSERT-MISSING-DATABASE-NAME* <http://www.kanopystreaming.com/node/100814>. Accessed 28 Oct. 2023.
3. "Disaggregated Data Collection in B.C.: The Grandmother Perspective." *BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner*, BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, 23 Aug. 2022, bchumanrights.ca/publications/datacollection/.