



## Voices That Echo: The Power of Collective Storytelling as a Pathway out of Internalized Voicelessness among BIPOC Communities

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### Abstract

Collective storytelling has emerged as a vital praxis for BIPOC communities seeking to reclaim agency and counter pervasive silencing. This paper synthesizes over two decades of interdisciplinary scholarship to examine how shared narrative spaces function as pathways out of internalized voicelessness. Drawing on critical race theory, liberation psychology, and decolonial frameworks, conducted a systematic literature review of empirical and theoretical works (2000–2025) that foreground collective storytelling modalities, such as story circles, digital oral histories, and community performance.

The thematic analysis identified three core dimensions through which collective narratives engender empowerment: (1) **Emotional Resonance and Validation**, wherein participants experience affective alignment and mutual recognition; (2) **Identity Reclamation and Re-Authoring**, through which individuals reconstruct self-narratives counter to dominant, oppressive discourses; and (3) **Solidarity Networks and Collective Agency**, wherein shared stories cultivate communal bonds that catalyze social action. Case studies from Black “Truth Be Told” initiatives to Indigenous oral history revitalization illustrate the transformative potential and contextual variations of these mechanisms.

Further highlighted emergent challenges, including sustaining intergenerational transmission and scaling digital platforms without diluting cultural specificity. Implications for practitioners and researchers are discussed, underscoring the need for intersectional, longitudinal evaluations of narrative interventions. By charting the contours of “Voices That Echo,” this review offers a conceptual scaffold for designing, implementing, and assessing collective storytelling as a decolonial strategy for healing, solidarity, and social change.

**Keywords:** collective storytelling, internalized voicelessness, BIPOC empowerment, narrative counter-storytelling, decolonial healing practices