



Action Research : An introduction

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Definitions

Action research is a family of practices.

It is not a methodology but an orientation to inquiry

that seeks to create participative communities

in which qualities of engagement, curiosity, creativity, innovation and question asking

are brought to bear on practical problems.

(Derived from Reason & Bradbury, 2008)

The link between theory and Thepractice

Theory is not something that can be applied;

Rather it emerges from practice itself.

* Praxis – linking theory and practice ‘knowing doing’ rather than tacit knowing

* Phronesis – practical wisdom



Typically

Action researchers engage in cycles of action and reflection.

The action phase is the gathering of evidence

Reflection phase makes sense of this and plans further actions.

No gap between knowing and doing.

Questions

Action research nearly always starts with the question:

How can we improve this situation?

People who do action research often have a commitment to :

- * human flourishing

They believe in

- * being participatory and empowering others.



Importance of Self Knowing

As it is about practice in a particular
context, self knowing or

REFLEXIVITY

Is important.



A photograph of a paper chain made of human figures, laid out on a sandy beach. The figures are connected by their arms, forming a continuous line. The background is a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The lighting is warm and golden, creating long shadows on the sand.

The particular Context

Not generalizable

BUT

Transferable



Holistic Conception of Pedagogy (Derived from Niemi, 2019)

- *. Approach to Narrativity;
- *. Approach to pupil/participant agency;
- *. Approach to curriculum;
- * Approach to practical theory;
- *. Approach to ethics

Freedom Research (McArdle, 2018)

Is the name given to a form of educational research that seeks to be;

Vigorous

Rigorous

Robust

Authentic

Imaginative

Creative

And above all Ethical.



Research is socially constructed

Can be elitist

Confidence sapping

Anything goes as long as ethics are in place.

Shining a Light



References

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Niemi, R. (2019) Five Approaches to Pedagogical Action Research. Educational Action Research. Vol.27 no.5 651 - 666