



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 cut-out human figures holding hands, laid out on a sandy beach. The figures are dark against the light sand. The background is a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is one of unity and connection.

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

Reason, P & Bradbury, H (2008) The Sage Handbook of Action Research (2nd ed) London, Sage

McArdle, K (2018) Freedom Research in Education: Becoming an autonomous researcher. Palgrave Macmillan. Cham. Switzerland.

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