

**ACHIEVING SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH
PARTICIPATION AND ACTION:
AN ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH
AND RELATED THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

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GLOBALIZATION AND YOUR COMMUNITY

- **Historically, how has social change occurred in your community?**
- **Who usually wins? And who loses?**
- **When research is conducted...who usually generates and uses the “knowledge”?**
- **How do we respond to the impacts of globalization and achieve desired social change?**

COMMON APPROACHES TO PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

1. Participatory Research in Community Development

(Selener 1997; SPRA 1982)

2. Action research (in organizations and education)

(Dewey 1929; Selener 1997; Whyte 1989)

3. Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) and Rapid Participatory Appraisal (RPA)

(Chambers 1994; Pretty et al 1995; Townsley 1996)

4. Participatory/Empowerment Evaluation

(Coombe 1997; Dugan 1996; Fetterman 1996)

THE GOALS OF COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH, AS A SYNTHESIS OF APPROACHES

- 1. Democratize knowledge generation and use (share power of decision making and ownership of process and products)**
- 2. Ground problem identification and solutions in everyday experience**
- 3. Promote grassroots mobilization, self-reliance, empowerment, and emancipation (provide people with “space”)**
- 4. Take action to change social and economic conditions, improving the lives of people**

ADDRESSING COMMON RESEARCH ISSUES

For Community-Based Research...

- **Role of the Researcher(s): co-learning; reciprocal expertise**
- **Validity / Trustworthiness of Methods, Data, and Process**
- **Authenticity of Participation in the Research Process**

THE DELTA IN GLOBAL CONTEXT: SOME ACTION STRATEGIES

- 1. Focus groups, interviews and other research methods – qualitative and quantitative
(e.g. asset mapping, needs assessment, surveys relating to specific issues, such as employment, health, transportation, and agriculture)**
- 2. Policy review, development, and the policy communication network**
- 3. Collaboration (linkages) between community organizations, government, and public and private institutions**