

Preparation and Training of Data Collectors

PRS ToT in Accra, Ghana

3rd-12th Sept 2015

What is Participatory Action Research?

Group work

- What is participatory action Research?
- What is its role in PRS?
- What is the process?
- Which stakeholders need to be involved at different stages in the process?
- What is the criteria for the selection of data collectors?

Definition

Participatory action research (PAR) is an approach to research in communities that emphasizes participation and action. It seeks to understand the world by trying to change it collaboratively and following reflection.

Principles of Action Research



Importance of Participatory Action Research

Action research can be used to:

- Understand one's own practice
- Understand how to make one's practice better
- Understand how to accommodate outside change in one's practice
- Understand how to change the outside in order to make one's practice better

Data Collectors

Data collectors should be drawn from the local community including:

- Local education authorities
- Teachers (including union members)
- Parents and children
- Professional researchers (either by partnering with a university or research institute)
- ActionAid staff

Criteria for selection

- Partner staff with research skills and involve them from the outset to ensure they share their skills throughout the process
- Knowledge in the use of participatory tools
- Ensure that any consultants/researchers engaged as part of this process have the relevant background, skills and experience including a sound understanding of education issues including the existing legal and policy framework
- Knowledge of human rights
- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods including participatory approaches.

What should the training include?

- Welcome and introduction of participants
- Objectives & expectations, norm setting
- Overview of the education context in the country: Legal and policy framework; identification of gaps in implementation of the rights at national district/local level
- Human and children's rights including the right to education
- The PRS framework and its use as a tool for implementing an HRBA to education
- An introduction to participatory action research including ethics, child protection and practical methods

Training contents

- Data collection methods - sampling and tools
- Adaptation of survey indicators
- practising the use of the survey tool,
- Practical field work
- Analysis of the data
- Validating findings with key stakeholders at national and district/local level- triangulation
- Report writing – drafting school reports/ district/a Citizen Report
- Strategic dissemination of findings amongst key stakeholders including media, MoE, civil society etc.

Link to HRBA

- PRS tool is essentially an HRBA framework tailored specifically for education and therefore, it is not just something you use when you want to develop a citizen report, but also as a basic framework for all project design.
- The resource book, is generic and flexible and you can use it as it is if you want a general analysis to produce a Citizen Report for advocacy.
- It can also be used as a framework to design, implement and evaluate specific projects .

Link to HRBA

- We need to be aware that you can use the questions and indicators to fit your project objectives so that when you develop your log-frame and M&E framework you include key indicators from the PRS resource-book
- As any other project specific ones so you are sure that you are using a rights-based framework for programming and measuring progress and impact.
- How many have used the PRS framework to design specific projects in addition to compiling citizen's report

Experiences sharing from CPs

- Ask some participants to share their experiences and challenges of such trainings in their countries and how they have involved the multi-stakeholder groups at the various stages

Familiarization with the 10 Rights and their indicators

Group exercise:

- In groups of 5, ask participants to take one right each from the manual and review
- Legal framework
- Tools and methodologies
- Target groups - children, teachers, parents and SMCs, mothers groups etc.
- Indicators
- Generate questions and adapt them to suit their national context and programme

Developing skills in data collection

Group Exercise

- Ask each group to go through the process of data collection - assign roles of what to do when they get to the field; identify tools that will help in the collection of the information
- Using role play on how it will be done with various stakeholder groups
- Feedback from the rest of the group

Child Protection Policy

- Make sure that the team members are familiar with ActionAid's child protection policy.