Activism as method: Strengthening social justice movements through Feminist Participatory Action Research

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Overview

• Acknowledgement of Country
• Introduction to Feminist Participatory Action Research
  • Key principles
  • Research cycles
  • Methods
• Feminist Participatory Action Research Case examples
  • Just Home Margaret River
  • Women’s Action for Voice and Empowerment
  • Climate Justice and the WA Community Sector
• Small group discussions
Feminist Participatory Action Research: Key principles

1. The purpose of FPAR is structural change.
2. FPAR amplifies women’s voice.
3. FPAR is owned by the community.
4. FPAR takes an intersectional approach.
5. FPAR aims to shift power.
6. FPAR fosters movement building / collective action.
7. FPAR builds capacity of all.
8. FPAR involves Free Prior and Informed Consent.
9. FPAR prioritises safety, care and solidarity.

Principles of FPAR

Image: https://apwld.org/feminist-participatory-action-research-fpar/
Feminist Participatory Action Research: Cycles of FPAR

Planning → Acting

Reflecting ↔ Observing

Images: Naomi Godden
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feminist Participatory Action Research methods</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drawings, collages and sculptures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Storytelling and oral herstories</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Participatory interviews</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Peer review</strong></td>
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Example: Just Home Margaret River

- Grassroots movement for housing justice led by people with lived experience of homelessness and housing stress
- Augusta Margaret River Housing Advocacy Project
- Working in solidarity with people experiencing homelessness
- Gathering data (evidence) to inform advocacy
- Activism through cycles of action and reflection

Just Home Margaret River Inc.
Our vision is secure, stable shelter for all

Images: Naomi Godden
Women’s Action for Voice and Empowerment program: 16 women’s organisations in Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, PNG, Solomon Islands and Australia.

Mid-Term Reflection using FPAR to identify impacts and learnings of WAVE.

Autonomous, strong women’s movements are vital for transformational change for gender equality.

MTR findings strengthened WAVE program

Image: Naomi Godden
Use FPAR with community sector to:

- Understand the social justice implications of climate change in WA.
- Document ways that social justice organisations can mainstream climate justice in their work.
- Develop strategies for the community sector to take collective action for climate justice and emissions reduction.
- Support the integration of the community sector into the broader WA climate movement.

Example: Climate justice and the WA community sector

Augusta-Margaret River Mail, 25 September 2019, p.1
Small group discussion

- What are some opportunities to apply FPAR in social work research for transformational change?

- How can we work in partnership with communities through FPAR?

- How can we combine activism and research to facilitate social change?
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