

## **ACTION RESEARCH: KEEPING GOING.**

### **ACTION RESEARCH IS.....**

Action research...”aims to contribute both to the practical concerns of people in an immediate problematic situation and to the goals of social science by joint collaboration within a mutually acceptable framework.

(Rapoport, 1970, p.499).

Action research includes “active and democratic community participation, non-traditional power relations,...emergent design, praxis, a focus on empowerment and science as a tool for change.

(Kaplan and Alsup, 1995).

Action research is undertaken by participants in social situations to improve their practices and their understanding of them.

(Bowling, 1997, p.366)

Action research is collaborative, critical and self-critical inquiry by practitioners (eg teachers, managers) into a major problem or issue or concern in their own practice. They own the problem and feel responsible and accountable for solving it through team work and through following a cyclical practice of

1 Strategic planning

2. action ie implementing the plan

3. observation, evaluation and self evaluation

4 critical and self-critical reflection on the results of points 1-3 and making decisions for the next cycle of action research, ie revising the plan, followed by action, observation, reflection etc.

(Zuber-Skerrit, 1996, p. 14)

Community based action research is a collaborative approach to inquiry or investigation that provides people with the means to take systematic action to resolve specific problems.

(Stringer 1996, p. 15)

AND

- ✓ There are as many ways of doing action research as there are action researchers.
- ✓ There are nearly as many definitions.
- ✓ There is a whole family including close siblings and distant cousins of action research/action learning/appreciative enquiry/ participative action research/action research as a management tool etc
- ✓ SFLEX has consciously chosen a participative model and that has to some extent been reflected in the requirement of projects to have a community participation component.

## References

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