

Concurrent Facilitated Sessions: Research for Social Action

DISCUSSION NOTES: Working Group 7

Kaniela Room

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Team Leaders: Sudha Arlikatti and Lourdes Meyreles

Facilitator: Nuray Karanci

Recorder: Kristina Peterson

Participants: Barbara Flint, Patricia Stukes, Susan Cutter, Maureen Fordham, Brian Linneker, Sarah Bradshaw

Will planners use research- what is the best method to empower people?

Policy relevant research/applied research - not necessarily PAR-

Take foundational knowledge to affect social change

Action research means that the community is involved

What is the meaning of social action?

Does it have to be participatory?

People, ask “what good is this research”

What is the ethical use of research?

Can not the participatory community based research affect policy?

We can not expect the community to do everything- Policy makers and community members need access to research.

DR- policy makers may or may not use research but even if made into policy it may not make it to the community..... so community participation will at least have the working knowledge of the topic/issue and can form action independent of policy makers or waiting for the policy to be made. Think tanks- what are the latest in research results, then make policy then a trickle down process of change for the community. When working with the community some of the people get the information and form action (self education of emergency/risks issues) CBOs can then utilize this information to facilitate change.

Issue of economic resiliency in Grand Bayou- translate the language from the community- experts to the researchers which then can translate it to the academics who translate to the power structure/policy makers.....researchers model the interaction with policy makers for the community people – also the researchers can give power by association for the local community people to have direct access to policy makers

It is a scale problem and a disciplinary issue depending on the science.

Research is crucial- regardless

Participatory research has an impact – but has potentially added benefits at the local level

Some feel safer from a scientific mode than a more participatory

Does raising the threat help if there is no way to respond?

Both positive and negative results from potential actions-

Who initiates the research? Does it start from the research or from the community? Will that shape science? Research can be contaminated- how can research stay reliable...credible and scientific.

As researchers we are changing a community but the nature of asking questions with the research regardless of the style of research

Best research is from the problems of the everyday

Get the local community to test the theory of research- set up project of the theory- validation process of research

Research look at one perspective but from the (bottom up) grassroots look at the issues from a different perspective- how is it going to help? Do we need to go from top down and bottom up.

University has a PAR training group that will work with the local community on issues.... Action research driven by the grassroots that are on "loan" to the community to do their work- results belong to the community for use for the community...

What about clashes of values between the researchers and the communities?

Communities are messy

Do you believe in science, do you believe in development

Why is the research being done? Is it done for a coping technique or for justice change? Do we really start at the community or is it an idea that starts with the university for a degree or funding?

When do we talk justice? When do we do the research on the exploitation?

Gender- men and women issues as they apply to action research

1. Are the experiences and lessons learned described by the leaders applicable in my country/region/organization?

2. What would have to be done differently to make this work?

- **Strengthening the local participation with research**
- **How to get money and resources for a project that is not yet clearly defined**
- **Get funders to approve of the research models so that innovative approaches can happen at the local level**
- **Can we give some preliminary data to the funders to induce them to give money for the exploratory efforts initiated by community**
- **Educate the reviewers of the proposals that gender/disaster projects can produce results for social action that are initiated by local communities- along with transferable knowledge**

- World bank, United Nations support, Unicef – USAID- supporters of international projects
- Funding can be funded by gender roles/disaster through development context----
- Funding can happen outside of the disaster context by how the project is being defined depending on the funding guidelines then take this to the disaster funders
- Psycho-socio context as beginning point for research for funding
- Who are the funders and how do we access them
- Funders change their agendas so that research might not get funded under new guidelines
- Think opportunistic – what are the new agendas and then approach them under the guise of new agenda
- Partnerships that are outsiders and insiders might help in getting funding- such as someone from the UK working in Nica
- Barefoot researchers—like barefoot doctors used in researches in local settings
- Beware of research entrepreneurs that take resources and knowledge to the detriment of the local community
- International partnerships
- Impact evaluation money is available- that could be manipulated for the research- Use of language- reframe the project to fit ‘guidelines’
- Foundations are cutting back along with government sources
- How do we make changes so that more researchers are interested in gender research- do we need to be cautious so that others do not pick up on ‘gender’ as a way to get money if gender is funded
- Security money is being utilized by those who have no concept of what the disaster/gender community has produced- how do we infiltrate or influence this security trend...
- Who is funding projects and what is their goal
- Reframing research into ‘security’ mode such as public confidence (instead of psycho-socio) as being part of security mode.

3. What changes need to be made in practice and in policies?

- We can not adequately measure gender- how do we do this
- Latin America work done on gender indicators
- Need more research on gender matrix- gender measures away from biological differences

- Universities has data but not geared to asking gender questions such as do females read maps better and why/why not- how to help researchers to include questions that will help get information that can give us data on gender
- Take data sets and analyze the sets for gender information
Might be difficult to do – by not having proper questions

from the start

- Keep adding the gender aspect to all research
- Proposals are screened for prospects of secondary research purposes
- Take on gender and diversity issues within the research
- Social bias within research
- A lot of training information about training and education on gender in disaster but very little 'impact' research/evaluation of the education
- What about research results of projects and where does the information end up - how do we have accessibility to the research
- MDG- who is setting up evaluation measures in the gender context
- Evaluating policies (feminist critique) as a starting point for tracking
- Gender mainstreaming can hinder the work of gender research
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4. what are gaps to implementing policies?

5. what are the constraints we will encounter in making changes?

6. what resources are required to implement policies? Are these available?

8. What are the opportunities that lie ahead?

- Security- frame in masculinity
- Conference in Kobe
- Beginning of an opportunity through this workshop and conference
- Source book
- What has happened with Beijing plus ten

9. what do we need to recommend for the call to action and implementation strategy?

- **More funding opportunities and diversity of funding opportunities**
- **Research**
- **developed and underdeveloped countries - there are excellent researchers from countries with out funding sources – how do they get funded without their work being taken from them from richer sources**
- **source book to help fund partnerships**
- **international funds? How does this work across various country lines**
- **outside researchers are a problems**
- **cross cultural participatory research from the grassroots would need a facilitator to connect people then search for the funds**
- **need to translate, advocate and facilitate depending on the project**
- **scholarships to students who combine gender/disaster research- Kobe**
- **Supporting programs that link disaster studies and gender**
- **Language- translate that which already exists- and dissemination**
- **Difficulty between the language of the research community and the local community**
- **Difficulty of getting money to do the study in the indigenous language of the local community to understand local traditional knowledge.**
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What makes this sustainable

To move from a project to a program

Support the local informal community leadership and it's continuance

The arts are a means to make local knowledge project sustainable

Building the local capacity of local community to do research

Help NGO/voice of civil society to mentor and inform