

Participatory action research (PAR)

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What is participatory action research?

- geographic roots: Global South
- philosophical roots: democratization of knowledge production

Definition of PAR

- “ordinary, underprivileged people ... collectively investigate their own reality, by themselves or in partnership with friendly outsiders, take action of their own to advance their lives, and reflect on their ongoing experience” (Rahman, 2008, p. 49)

--- participatory

--- action

--- research

Models of PAR

- pragmatist approach: achieving a practical purpose
- critical approach: undermining the status quo

Depth of participation

- PAR light
- Deep participation

Techniques of PAR light

- interviews
- surveys
- focus groups

- public hearings
- visioning sessions / charrettes
- citizen's councils/citizens' juries/consensus conference

- research advisory board
- peer research

