

Session No.: PS 12

Session Title: Reflection-On-Action: Participation Action Research

Speakers: Nancy A. Carlson, Ph.D. OTR/L Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA, USA.

Contact: carlsona@etown.edu

### *Students as Researchers in Program Assessment: Reflecting on Action*

#### **Participatory Action Research (PAR)**

*Put simply, this method of research is about a group of people who are affected by some problem or issue and decide to get together to work out how they want to tackle the problem. As a collaborative research methodology it offers significant benefits in that it can contribute to the discovery and development of the conditions and actions for change that are sustainable, and thereafter the PAR element disappears (p. 90).*

#### **Intentions**

- Historically associated with developing countries and human rights activism
- Practical & problem solving
- Gives the voices of the "knowers" power
- Focuses on the collaborative nature of research - "with individuals"
- Emphasis on self-reflection

Wimpenny, K. (2013). Participatory action research: An integrated approach towards practice development. In M. Savin-Baden & C. H. Major (Eds.) *New Approaches to Qualitative Research: Wisdom & uncertainty*. New York: Routledge.

#### **Students-as-Researchers (SAR) Ethical Considerations**

Students are not a vulnerable population, but they are vulnerable to coercion, undue influence, non-voluntary participation, and violation of confidentiality/ privacy.

Definitions of Terms (Source <http://phrp.nihtraining.com/glossary.php>)

Coercion - Influencing an individual's decision about whether or not to do something by using explicit or implied threats (loss of good standing in a job, poor grades, etc.). (45 CFR 46.116)

Undue influence - "An offer of an excessive, unwarranted, inappropriate, or improper reward or other overture in order to obtain compliance." (45 CFR 56.116)

Voluntariness - "Individuals' decisions about participation in research should not be influenced by anyone involved in conducting the research: "...consent must be freely given or truly voluntary." 45 CFR 46.116(a)

Confidentiality - "means holding secret all information relating to an individual, unless the individual gives consent permitting disclosure." 45 CFR 46.111

Privacy - means being "free from unsanctioned intrusion." 45 CFR 46.111

Vulnerable populations - Pregnant women, children & prisoners 45 CRD 46 Section B

### Resources

Tickle, J. J. & Heatherton, T. F. (2006). Research involving college students. In E. A. Bankert & R. J. Amdur (Eds.) *Institutional Review Board: management and function*. Sunbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 46 --

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/guidance/45cfr46.html>

Protecting Human Research Participants: NIH Office of Extramural Research

<http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP)

<http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/index.html>

### Added Value of Journaling

#### Student's Perspective

- Focusing the discussion for the weekly team meeting
- Developing a more in-depth understanding of concepts
- Providing insights, especially with regard to new learning
- Making connections, or "ah-ha" moments
- Building skills as a researcher
- Heightening an awareness of learning process

#### Mentoring Faculty's Perspective

- Journals provided a forum to express emerging confidence & confidence as researchers.
- Faculty mentor gained further appreciation of the emotional journey of students as they progressed through the graduate research experience

Carlson, N. (2013). Beyond Consumers and Stakeholders: Students "reflecting-on-action" as active partners in program evaluation. *Education Special Interest Section Quarterly*, 23(2), pp. 1-4.