



Putting
Youth
on the Map

Making Youth
Data Matter
Curriculum

2nd Edition

Center for
Regional
Change

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UCDAVIS
CENTER FOR REGIONAL CHANGE

Activity 4.2.A: Other Tools for Community Change Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) Concept Activity

Goals

- Learn about participatory processes that can drive community change (YPAR and participatory mapping/PGIS)
- Gain a basic understanding of how to use participatory mapping/PGIS in combination with PYOM

Materials

- Laptops
- Projector
- Markers
- YPAR Concepts Handout (Appendix 4.2.A)

Activity Preparation

- Write down the YPAR brainstorm terms on a piece of butcher paper
- Print out the YPAR Concepts Handout

Activity

60 min



Introduction and Key Concepts

Suggested Language: We've been exploring the Putting Youth on the Map tool for the past few activities. We've learned about the importance of data and maps in community work, and especially the importance of youth using data and maps to advocate for positive changes. Now we want to try out some complementary strategies. These include Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) and Participatory Mapping.

- Does anyone have any experience with YPAR or Participatory Mapping?

Activity 4.2.A: cont.

Instructions

- Organize participants into four small groups.
- Create a sheet of butcher paper for each of the four following terms: Youth-Led, Research, Participatory and Action. Each term should be written in large font at the top of the butcher sheet. Place the four labeled butcher sheets around the room in a way that the participants can easily move from one butcher sheet station to the next.
- Have each group start at a butcher sheet station. Give each group 2 minutes to brainstorm definitions for the terms and write them on the sheet.
- After 2 minutes at each station, ask the groups to rotate to a new station.
- Repeat this until every group has had the chance to brainstorm for each of the four terms.
- Ask the participants to get back into a large group and then discuss each term.

Prompts for Introduction to YPAR Concepts Activity:

- What is Youth-Led?
 - What does it mean for a process to be youth led?
- What is research?
 - What is your experience?
 - Who does it?
 - Why do it?
- What is participatory?
 - Define
- What is action?
 - Define
- Put it together...
 - Youth Participatory Action Research is...
 - YPAR Key Concepts (handout)
 - o Go through the Handout with students (Appendix 4.2.A)



Activity 4.2.A: cont.

Activity Debrief:

Suggested Language: Often when decision-makers are making decisions for youth, young people are not asked to be part of the discussion. YPAR provides a way for youth to bring information and insights to planning, policy-making, design, organizational development and/or advocacy processes.

Discussion prompt

- Do you feel that it is important to have young people as participants at the decision-making table when the decisions being made directly affect young people? Why or why not?



Facilitator Notes

- 1) Use these as prompts to help youth at each station think about what to brainstorm for the terms.
- 2) For a great example of the power of YPAR visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARx77Di9SXc>

4.2.A Youth Participatory Action Research Concepts (adapted from Youth in Focus Stepping Stones Curriculum (2002))



Young people define the project (often in collaboration with adult allies)

- What they want to accomplish with their research in order to foster stronger, more equitable conditions
- What they want to research

Young people design data collection tools

- Consider the trade-offs of different data collection methods and select those that will work best
- Develop instruments such as: surveys, interview or focus group protocols, observation guidelines, photo voice prompts, etc.
- Decide how to use these tools to hear from a specific population
- Clarify whose perspectives are missing or under-represented given our approach

Young people collect data

- Put the tools to use to collect the data needed

Young people analyze the data

- Come up with a systematic way to look at the data collected and see what themes emerge with respect to our questions
- See if themes emerge that our questions did not anticipate
- See if new questions or puzzles emerge

Young people create recommendations

- Based on the findings, suggest ideas, options, solutions, and/or other research that might be important

Young people develop and implement action plans

- Figure out how to share findings and recommendations with key stakeholders
- Figure out next steps for follow-up to support action