

Independent Resource Centre Govan

Sheet ⑥ Cycle of research

Common Good Awareness Project – Farmhouse Resource Centre

What is Participatory Action Research?

First it is not what is done for you, it is what you do for yourself and others, It is about participating and taking action about what you have found out. It is not about complaining, but rather trying to find solutions to problems creatively, then acting to solve them.

1. LOOK. We first look at things, gather information.

2. THINK. Think about what are the key issues, interpret, analyse.

3, ACT. Resolving problems, planning and implementing sustainable solutions.



Then, we regroup and repeat the process till we find paths through problems to solutions. Thinking afresh about how we go about things. Understanding our collective power to get things done. There is nothing complex or hard to understand how community change is achieved once the basic ingredients are understood: **Communication, Solidarity and an understanding of aims.**

The basic idea is to find ways and issues we can work with each other, not to find reasons why we can't. We do not need to like each other or be the same to find shared interests and goals. The more different we are the more we have to offer.

In this we put difference and creativity together because for us the two are inseparable. The reason difference is celebrated is because of its connection to creativity. The greater the difference we confront, the greater are the possibilities for creativity. Difference makes departure from the norm possible.

It is important to emphasise that acknowledging difference is not the same as acknowledging every groups agenda and every persons viewpoint as being equally deserving of acknowledgment and as containing merit in its own terms. This project has a bias to represent those at the low end of the financial food chain. We will endeavour to ensure the interests of the grass roots are key and that they are not inculcated by events that detract from those interests.

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

