Conceptualizing indicator domains for evaluating collaborative and sustainable change in action research

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Focus

- To show the rationale for evaluating AR

- To report on development of indicator domains for evaluating over 170 global AR projects in the Evaluative Study of Action Research (ESAR)

- To offer an experiential approach to exploring, dialoguing and providing feedback/critique on, the indicators

Rationale for evaluating AR

Meta-level evaluation has been rare in AR beyond project implementation and participant satisfaction (see detailed support for this statement in Piggot-Irvine, Rowe & Ferkins, 2015).

The ESAR has two overall objectives:
* to explore process and outcomes of multiple projects to determine if often touted espousals of individual, community, organizational, and/or societal impact of AR are actually realized;
* to advance knowledge and understanding of elements enhancing outcomes and impact of AR, including why or why not these collaborative projects have been effective in sustaining change.

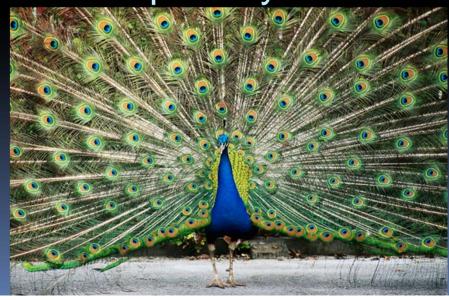The overall objectives closely link to the questions underpinning this conference.

Indicators were important for the mixed method (Qn and Ql) tool development of a broad scale survey (to be employed with all 170 project participants) and 14 in-depth case study projects using documentary analysis, focus groups, semi-structured interviews and goal attainment scaling (GAS).

Creating indicators is a critical initial step in any evaluative study.

Our values emphasized for indicator development and the overall evaluation methodology mirrored the collaborative, flexible, responsive, transformative ideals of AR itself.

Indicator domains were scrupulously derived from multiple sources of literature associated with elements of effectiveness of AR and other aligned action oriented research methodologies (see Piggot-Irvine et al., 2015).

Indicator domains included:
- Precursors and Preconditions
- AR Processes and Activities
- AR Outcomes and Impacts

Reviewing, dialoguing, critiquing, indicators!

Please work in groups of four to review the Figure 1 indicators from Piggot-Irvine et al. (2015)

.Use 'post-its' to record suggestions, rewordings, additions etc (one point per post-it) for each individual indicator.

We welcome your input!

References and Acknowledgement

Piggot-Irvine, E., Rowe, W., & Ferkins, L. (2015). Conceptualizing indicator domains for evaluating action research. *Educational Action Research*. doi:10.1080/09650792.2015.1042984.