

Seven Quality Choicepoints of Action Research¹

1. Articulation of objectives

The extent to which the objectives and the choices are clear.

2. Partnership and participation

The extent to and means by which participative values and concern for the relational component of work is maintained. By the extent of participation we are referring to a continuum from consultation with stakeholders to stakeholders as full co-researchers.

3. Contribution to theory/practice

The extent to which the work builds on (creates explicit links with) or contributes to a wider body of practice knowledge and or theory.

4. Methods and process

The extent to which the action research process and related methods are clearly articulated and/or illustrated. Statistics are often best accompanied by analysis of data that includes the voices of participants in the research. It is important to “show” and not just “tell” about processes.

5. Actionability

The extent to which the work provides useful ideas that guide action in response to need.

6. Reflexivity.

The extent to which self location as a change agent is acknowledged. By self location we mean that participants take a personal, involved and self-critical stance as reflected in clarity about their role, clarity about the context in which learning takes place, and clarity about what led to their involvement in this research.

7. Sustainability

The extent to which the insights developed are significant in content and process. By significant we mean having meaning and relevance beyond their immediate context in support of the flourishing of persons and wider communities. Clarifying the infrastructure that can support on-going maintenance of the work is key.

¹ Used in peer review at Action Research <http://arj.sagepub.com>