

Participatory Research: True or False

Definition # 1: Participatory action research is a recognized form of experimental research that focuses on the effects of the researcher's direct actions of practice within a participatory community with the goal of improving the performance quality of the community or an area of concern.

Definition # 2: Community-based participatory research (CBPR) is research that is conducted as an equal partnership between traditionally trained "experts" and members of a community. In CBPR projects, the community participates fully in all aspects of the research process. CBPR projects start with the community. Community is often self-defined, but general categories of community include geographic community, community of individuals with a common problem or issue, or a community of individuals with a common interest or goal.

Participatory research projects are thought up by university professors. _____

Once you document a problem with a participatory research project, your work is over. _____

The Tuskegee Syphilis Study showed the problems with conventional (non-participatory) research projects, and sparked a new interest in research that is accountable to the people. _____

In a participatory research project, the community has as much power and authority as a professional researcher. _____

Picture the Homeless has never used participatory research. _____

(Bonus! If you put false, name one participatory research project we've done)

Participatory research is popular way to teach adult learners in low-income communities. _____

(Bonus! If you put true, why is it true?)

Unlike conventional research, participatory research projects don't have biases or agendas. _____

Governments and corporations take participatory research as seriously as they take mainstream, big-budget research projects like the kind conducted by universities, pharmaceutical companies, etc.

Being able to understand and document a problem, such as through participatory research, makes us better at fighting to change it. _____