Participatory visual methods: tools for engagement and learning with women subsistence farmers in Papua New Guinea

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Papua New Guinea

- Melanesia/ PNG
- 800 languages
- Strong cultural identity and practices
- Challenges - infrastructure/ safety/ literacy/ education/ rural poverty/ gender inequality
Examining women’s business acumen in PNG: Working with women smallholders in horticulture

- Participatory action research
- Ethnography
- Methods
  - Participant observation
  - Workshops
  - Interviews
  - Survey
  - VISUAL METHODS
Visual research methods
Images and technologies such as photography, film, art, drawing, sculpture that are incorporated into qualitative social research

Realist observational approach
- Visual documentation of events and processes
- Aid memoir
- Formal reporting
Reflexive approach

- Constructedness of images and knowledge
- Representation
- Subjectivity of the photographer and viewer
- Dual perspective
  - Content
  - Meaning
- Meaning making of representation
Drawing in development research
10 seeds technique


http://www.fao.org/participation/Ten-Seed%20technique-revised.PDF
Photovoice

BASIC STEPS

Pose a question
Provide cameras and training
Selection and printing of images
Group discussion
Public exhibition
To gain a understanding of the experiences of young subsistence farmers in PNG
Explore young people’s strengths as young smallholders
Identify the challenges they face, what are the problems they encounter as growers.
Explore their perceptions of their future in growing/farming and business?
Photographic themes
Stregths and challenges of VM

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<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitate participation</td>
<td>Inadequaute time limits dialogue</td>
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<td>Increased self- competence through learning new skills</td>
<td>Logistics</td>
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<td>Opportunity for creative production</td>
<td>Lost in translation- language barriers</td>
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<td>Working together in new ways</td>
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<td>Emerging critical consciousness of ones environment/ lived experience</td>
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<td>Gives voice to marginalised</td>
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Power and empowerment

- Fosters researcher-participant relationship
- Unequal relations of power-impact on communication and dialogue
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Religion
  - Custom
  - Education/literacy
Dialogue, reflection and agency

• Did we achieve genuine dialogue?
• What learning resulted from reflection?
• Are visual processes in research agentic activities?
About the project

Our project uses a participatory action research, asset-based community development and appreciative inquiry methodology to understand and improve the business knowledge and practices of women smallholder food crop producers and their families in PNG. The project began in 2012 and is located in three geographically diverse sites (Western Highlands, Central Province and East New Britain).

http://pngwomen.estem-uc.edu.au/
References


References (continued)


References (continued)

Strack, R.W., Magill, C., & McDonagh, K. Engaging Youth through Photovoice. *Health Promot Pract, 5*(1), 49-58.
References (continued)


References (continued)

