Youth Participatory Action Research

Youth undertake a research project and take action on issues relevant to their lives.

In YPAR, youth decide upon a research topic, design and implement the research (including choosing methods, collecting and analyzing data, interpreting and sharing results), and then plan a service project based on the research findings to improve their lives or community.

A key factor is the presence of supportive, caring adults, who are willing to share power and establish productive youth-adult partnerships.

Youth Outcomes

• Repositioning of Science as a Tool for Social Change
  Youth begin to grow their awareness that science can be a tool for social transformation; science becomes a set of practices youth may use to change something directly relevant to their lives.

  [YPAR] helped us analyze the problems of society, and if we would teach it to someone else, I think they would be equally equitable with all people.

• Growing Critical Consciousness
  Youth participants grow their awareness of social injustices they experience while living in their communities. They analyze inequities, strengthen their common purpose and aspirations by conducting a collective research project, and begin to actively seek to make positive change.

A lot of discrimination on the part of people who tell you that you are less for not knowing how to speak the language (English), because this is a country where only that language is spoken, or it is the main language of the country. And you could have regular classes as a normal student, so to speak, for the ones who do speak the language.

Preparation Checklist

- Identify your learning objectives relative to both scientific literacy and civic engagement.
- Explore other YPAR projects (ypar.cfcl.ucdavis.edu/Stories.html)
- Identify funding and capacity (YPAR requires 40+ hours with a cohort of youth, thus is a long-term commitment).
- Find your partners, implementation sites, and organizations that share the same goals.

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