

Community-Based Research: An Intersectional Rights-Based Framework

Localizing Canada’s Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals Project

OBJECTIVE			
To deepen knowledge and increase understanding of issues through equitable and reciprocal partnerships. All partners share expertise and direction of the project with attention to power dynamics. Knowledge is integrated into action for justice, policy and social change.			
GUIDING PRINCIPLES			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A commitment to a critical understanding of intersecting structures of oppression and the interdependence of inequalities. * A commitment to centering communities who are marginalized and the knowledge of people with lived or living experience of poverty; to being accountable to these communities; to relationship-building grounded in solidarity; to transformational change; to working across categories, organizations and departments; to flexibility and adaptability; to room for complexity in the research process; and to the human rights principles of universality and inalienability, indivisibility, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness, non-discrimination and equality and participation and inclusion. * A commitment to a vision of a just and equitable future. 			
PROJECT TEAM	METHODOLOGY	DATA ANALYSIS	ACTION
Team is created with attention to removing barriers, valuing diverse and non-traditional skill sets, and prioritization of lived and living expertise. Team engages in ongoing critical reflexivity with a recognition of own biases, privileges and power. Team commits to intent of structural change.	A range of research and communication methods used to engage communities (ie. storytelling, conversations, interviews, visual mapping, photography, etc.). Community members are co-creators and partners.	Process is iterative and collaborative. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis attends to intersecting systems of power and engages communities at multiple stages.	Project outputs (engagement, recommendations, accountability framework, events, meetings with officials, etc.) seek to effect change and create a just and equitable future.

QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK	QUESTIONS TO ASK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What knowledge, values and experiences do team members bring to this project? * What are the team members' personal values, experiences, interests, beliefs and political commitments? How do these personal experiences relate to social and structural locations and processes, particularly in relation to the project? * How are team members addressing the biases and power dynamics inherent in research? * How is the project team influenced by/accountable to advisory bodies, project partners, funders, communities with lived experience, and other stakeholders? * How does the project team recognize and name its own limitations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How do the proposed methods centre the knowledge and lived experience of participants? How do they emphasize the way communities define and address their own concerns? How is the project implementing a rights-based approach that emerges from community action? * What relationships is the project building or deepening? * What practical accommodations are implemented in the data collection process to reflect a rights-based approach (e.g., compensation, accessibility, translation)? * Is the project team using accessible language in all communications? * Does the consent process reflect the dynamic relationships we are building, grounded in solidarity and care? Is it an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How do systems of power interact to create the experiences and/or inequities expressed in the data? How does this analysis add to existing findings on the project topic, and how could it go further? * How is the project team partnering with/centering the affected communities in the data analysis process? * What is the method of analysis and how might that shape our results? Does it reflect our guiding principles? * How does the analysis consider the social, economic, and political relationship between those in poverty and those in relative positions of power and influence? * What perspectives and diverse knowledge systems are not being considered? How might those perspectives change the interpretation/analysis? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Are the project recommendations equitable in effect (not just intent)? Does the input from lived experts directly influence advocacy and knowledge mobilization? * What role will diverse communities play in these developing recommendations/actions? How will they be centered and supported? * How will results address intersectional inequities and rights violations? How will they promote social justice and structural change? How will we ensure that the proposed actions do not produce further inequities for some communities? * How will the recommendations interact with existing policies? * How do the recommendations encourage solidarity and coalition building across divergent interests, groups, and departments?

	<p>ongoing process rather than a box to check off?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Does the data collection method challenge dominant modes of knowledge production? What are the power dynamics at work in the methodology? * What kinds of reciprocity does the project offer in addition to compensation? * How does the methodology adapt to the specific community context? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What is the historical, social, cultural, and temporal context of this data? How does this context affect the analysis and findings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * What factors will be measured in the evaluation process? How will they be measured, and how do they reflect the project principles? * What will be the measure of success? How will affected communities be engaged in assessing the reduction of inequities? * What are the means of communication and information sharing for the results of the project?
GOAL	GOAL	GOAL	GOAL
Project team involves diverse range of skillsets and experience, commits to critical reflexivity, holds vision of systemic change through community-based research.	Methodology dismantles traditional research power dynamics with ongoing consent process, reciprocal relationships, and community-centred methods.	Analysis is collaborative, reflects complexities of intersecting systems of power and resulting inequities, highlights themes identified by community partners, and attends to project context.	Action is centered in existing local movements, prioritizes partnerships, reflects research findings, and has tangible, measurable, equitable results.

List of References

Please Note: this reference list covers the content in the research framework and does not include the references for the entire literature review.

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