

Participatory Photography

Type: Sharing Ideas



What Is It?

A way for participants to express themselves by taking photos that show how they view a particular issue.

Note: this activity takes quite a bit of time and may occur throughout the workshop.

Why Use It?

Provides a non-threatening way for participants to express their ideas and feelings about a topic

Provides a powerful way to allow people to show the reality of their daily lives

How to Use It

1. Decide what you would like participants to photograph and how it relates to your learning outcomes (what do you want them to learn about themselves or their communities?)
2. Train participants on how to use cameras and compose pictures.
3. As a group, decide what participants will be photographing (what story do they want to tell?)
4. Give the participants time to go take photographs individually or working together in small groups.
5. After photographs have been developed (or transferred to a computer), allow each participant or group to share several photographs they took.
6. Discuss what the photographs mean and what common themes they share about the topic.
7. Present the photographs externally (for example, put them in a public space like a school, or create a book of photographs that can be shared with friends and family).

Trainer Notes

Make sure you discuss the importance of consent with participants and ensure that they ask permission before they take photographs of other people.

Cameras can be expensive: find ways for participants to share cameras, or use inexpensive disposable cameras, cell phones, etc.