SR890 Action Research Project Prospectus

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Professor

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

1. Asynchronous Cores 2 and 4: Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with

cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this discussion in DIAL

Discussion Forum. Then, provide two peer responses of 100 words each (total of

200 words) in the Discussion Forum.

1. The professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

# Principles of Action Research

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is a modern format for creating and fulfilling dissertation requirements (Herr & Anderson, 2005, p. 1). It is particularly valuable as it creates knowledge outside of academia through relationships (Alfaro-Tanco et al., 2023, pp.1-2). According to Herr and Anderson (2005), partaking in PAR can be similar to “sailing in uncharted waters” as it demands innovative research approaches and bridges the gap between local and generalizable data (pp. xii, 52). PAR’s focus is more transformational than informational (Tardieu et al., 2023, pp. 2-3). Action Research (AR) is participatory, requiring additional considerations for its research participants, who become co-researchers themselves (Tardieu et al., 2023, p. 3).

Action Research is also iterative and generally consists of three phases: Identifying a sociological issue and literature review, conducting the research, and then disseminating that research (Oddone, 2023, pp. 12-13). Frequently pilot programs are utilized to gather data before finalizing the research direction (Herr & Anderson, 2005, p. 71). Various data collection forms are used throughout the research cycle (Kemmis et al., 2014, pp. 175-185). It is understood within PAR that once a direction is established that “methods, design, and participants may all shift” (Herr & Anderson, 2005, p. 70).

Beyond the AR principles mentioned above, PAR also contains concepts of ethics, data collection methodologies, and social responsibility (Kemmis et al., 2014, pp. 172-174). PAR recognizes that what is considered “valid research” depends on social context (Herr & Anderson, 2005, p. 10). As such, participatory teams must be well-thought-out and diverse (Alfaro-Tanco et al., 2023). Consensus regarding the research process is equally essential, requiring much documentation and discussion (Herr & Anderson, 2005, p. 92).

When conducting sociological research, ethical considerations are paramount. Kemmis et al. (2014) note that AR goes beyond the ethical issues of confidentially and respect for persons and defines appropriate ways of working with other participants, including ethical behavior within an organization. (p. 172). Bradbury (2015) adds the ethical use of technology (p. 5). Tardieu et al. (2023) note that while PAR may not strictly require participants “fully understand the overall vision of research,” ethically, participants should be made aware and their voluntary involvement (p. 5).

WORKS CITED

Alfaro-Tanco, J. A., Mediavilla, M., & Erro-Garcés, A. (2023). Creating new knowledge while solving a relevant practical problem: Success factors for an action research-based PhD thesis in business and management. *Systemic Practice and Action Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11213-022-09628-6>

Bradbury, H. (2015). *The SAGE Handbook of Action Research*. SAGE Publications Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781473921290>

Herr, K., & Anderson, G. L. (2005). *The action research dissertation: A guide for students and faculty*. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Kemmis, S., McTaggart, R., & Nixon, R. (2014). *The action research planner: Doing critical participatory action research*. Springer Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-4560-67-2>

Oddone, K. (2023). Action research: Creating evidence-based change. *Access (Online)*, *37*(1), 12–19. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2784004498/abstract>
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Tardieu, B., Donna, H. F., Bonita, B., Randell-Shaheen, S., Maya, E. R., & Barbas, A. (2023). The Ethics of Participatory Action Research with People Living in Poverty. *Civic Sociology*, *4*(1). <https://doi.org/10.1525/cs.2022.57386>