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participatory learning and action



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Robert Chambers

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● Are you new to participatory approaches and seeking practical tips and guidance?

● Or an experienced practitioner or trainer looking for new ideas and ways of sharing your experience with others?

Participatory Learning and Action is the world's leading informal journal on participatory approaches and methods, reaching over 10,000 readers in more than 50 countries. Since its first issue in 1988, it has provided a forum for those engaged in participatory work – community workers, activists and researchers

– to share their experiences and learning with others, providing a genuine 'voice from the field'. All the material is copyright-free.

Participatory Learning and Action draws on the expertise of guest editors and authors to provide up-to-the-minute accounts and critical analysis of the use of participatory methods in specific fields.

It is a vital resource for those working to enhance the participation of ordinary people in local, regional, national and international decision-making, in both North and South.

Contents:

- Editorial
- Special themed section on latest developments and emerging fields of participation
- Articles on participation in a wide range of sectors and countries
- Practical tips for trainers in participatory methods
- In touch section: book reviews, events and websites

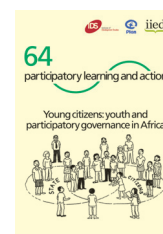
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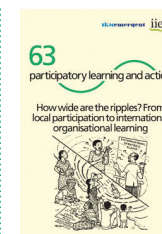


Young citizens: youth and participatory governance in Africa (PLA 64)

All over the world citizens are starting to demand accountability from those in power. We are seeing exciting experiments in participatory governance. But are they working for young people? What spaces are most promising for the participation of children and young people in governance?

Across Africa youth (particularly boys and young men) are seen as a frustrated and excluded 'lost generation' who are marginalised from decision-making processes. Contributors to this special issue demonstrate how this is changing. Young people in Africa are challenging the norms and structures that exclude them, engaging with the state and demanding accountability.

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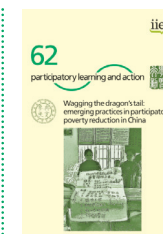


How wide are the ripples? From local participation to international organisational learning (PLA 63)

Do you work with or in an international or northern office of an international non-governmental organisation (INGO)? Do you facilitate participatory processes at the grassroots? Have you ever wondered how wide an impact the process might have?

This issue shares reflections and experiences of bringing grassroots knowledge and information from participatory processes to bear at international level. It examines the possibilities and challenges involved – as well as strategies for strengthening practice. It aims to inspire other empowered activists working with INGOs to be a conscious and active part of change: to bring about more accountable, equitable and participatory development.

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Wagging the dragon's tail: emerging practices in participatory poverty reduction in China (PLA 62)

China's social transformation over the last 30 years has been dramatic ones. Fundamental changes are taking place in the relationship between the state and citizens. While in the past rural citizens were seen as passive recipients of target focused top-down programmes, official development planning in China now emphasises 'people-centred' development. Participatory approaches are playing a significant role in this transformation.

This issue reflects on emerging practices in participatory poverty reduction in China, and draws on case studies from a number of projects, including the Poor Rural Communities Development Project (PRCDP). It includes other articles of relevance, as well as resources and tips for trainers.

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