

A comparison of theoretical and practical aspects in action research

Key points about action research as identified by Kemmis and McTaggart (1988, pp. 22-24).

1. Action research is an approach to improving education by changing it and learning from the consequences of changes.

2. Action research is participatory.

3. Action research develops through the self reflective spiral. *

4. Action research is collaborative.

5. Action research establishes self-critical communities of people.

7. Action research involves people in theorising about their practices.

8. Action research requires that people put their practices, ideas and assumptions to the test.

9. Action research is open-minded about what counts as evidence.

10. Action research involves keeping a personal journal.

11. Action research is a political process because it involves us in making changes that will affect others.

12. Action research involves people in making critical analyses of the situations in which they work.

13. Action research starts small.

14. Action research starts with small cycles.

15. Action research starts with small groups of collaborators at the start.

16. Action research allows us to build records of our improvements.

(a) records of changing activities and practices

(b) records of the changes in language and discourse

(c) records of the changes in the social relationships and forms of organisation

(d) records of the development in our mastery of action research.

17. Action research allows us to give reasoned justification of our educational work to others.