

Action Research

Presented By:

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Key Points of Presentation:

Meaning

Definition

Characteristics

Meaning of Action Research

- Action Research was introduced in the U.S. by Kurt Lewin working in the late 1940s at the Research Center for Group Dynamics at the University of Michigan.
- Action research is a method based on our real world experience.
- It is an approach of identifying & introducing problem, planning & implementing action, evaluating the solution, and recycling into teaching.
- It is a way of humanistically scientifically examining the way we teach and how we can do it better, for positive Educational Outcome. We learn by feeling & action.

Definition of Action Research

- According to **Kurt Lewin** action research is “ a comparative research on the conditions and effects of various forms of social action and research leading to social action ” this type of research uses “a spiral step,” each of which is “ composed of a circle of planning, action and fact-finding about the result of the action ”
- **Wilfred Carr and Stephen Kemmis** define action research as “a form of **self-reflective enquiry** undertaken by participants in social situations in order to improve the rationality and justice of their own practices, their understanding of these practices, and the situations in which the practices are carried out”.
- **Geoffrey Mills** described this method as the research done by teachers for themselves.

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Definition of Action Research

According to Stephen M. Corey one of the earliest proponents of action research, it is the process by which practitioners attempt to study their problems scientifically in order to guide, correct and evaluate their decisions and actions.

Characteristics of Action Research

On the basis of different definitions of Action Research it has few characteristics :

It is participant-driven and reflexive in nature.

It is **collaborative**.

It is specific to contexts and has a practical focus.

It leads not just to the production of knowledge, but improvement of practices as well.

It is conducted not by outside researches, but practitioners or teachers themselves.

Characteristics of Action Research

McDonough proposes four characteristics of 'pure' action research as follows:

- It is participant-driven and reflective
- It is collaborative
- It leads to change and the improvement of practice not just knowledge in itself
- It is context-specific

Characteristics of Action Research

Mertler, Craig A. (2006) in his book “Action Research: Teachers and Researchers in the Classroom” has described the characteristics of Action Research as follows:

- Action Research is a process that improves education.
- Action Research is a process involving educators working together to improve their own practices.
- Action Research is a persuasive and authoritative, since it is done by teachers for teachers
- Action Research is collaborative, very often team approach.
- Action Research is participative, since educators are integral members.
- Action Research is practical and relevant to classroom teachers, since they have direct access to research findings.

Contd.

Characteristics of Action Research

Contd.

- Action Research develops critical reflection about one's teaching.
- Action Research is systematic approach for understanding the learning process.
- Action Research is a process that requires us to examine out ideas of education.
- Action Research demands open mind.
- Action Research involves critical analysis of educational places & processes.
- Action Research is a cyclic process of planning, acting, developing and reflecting.
- Action Research is a Hof one's teaching practices.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTION RESEARCH AND FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

According to Corey the basic difference between Fundamental Research and Action Research is as follows:

| Fundamental Research | Action Research |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fundamental Research is usually conducted to establish broad generalizations. | Action research is conducted to improve practices. |
| Fundamental research is done by outside specialists. | Action Research is done by people who want to evaluate their own work situation. |
| Fundamental research is based on the belief that the dissemination of research findings is an effective way to improve educational practices. | Action research represents the belief that teachers are more apt to learn by their own experimentation and evaluation. |

Thank You
