

Why do Practice Research and **what** is it?

Lars Uggerhøj
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Aalborg University, Denmark

Why?

No individual is skilled enough to give sufficient answers. The role of both researcher and practitioner is to advance parts of the answer as an input in an ongoing dialogue concerning issues and risks mankind is confronted with and concerning how eventually to solve these issues

Research and practice possess both part of the answer and part of the solution – by which position everybody (researchers, practitioners and service user) is producing knowledge

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Flyvbjerg

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Why?

Research is part of democratic societal processes where citizens are expected to be included in as many parts of the processes as possible

Practice research must be part of this agenda and has in its own DNA the potential to support democratic processes

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

**The DNA of research
includes distance towards
the phenomenon being
studied**

Why?

**The DNA of practice research
is to reduce distance and
support inclusion**



Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Societies are in need of establishing new kinds of processes where knowledge production can be based and established bottom-up

If we want scientific knowledge, and especially empirical evidence, to play an effective role in professional action, then we have to focus on the contexts where the processes of generating knowledge for action actually take shape, that is, on the organizations engaged in social work

Gredig and Sommerfeld

.... and with the people working with and/or being influenced by research findings

Why?

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Practice, vulnerable groups and society as such need the knowledge coming out of the research

Researchers need the expertise of social workers and the vulnerable groups to qualify their research

Why?



Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Practice research is any disciplined empirical inquiry (research, evaluation, analysis) or theoretical/conceptual analyses, conducted by and/or negotiated between researchers, practitioners and service users that is intended, wholly or to some significant degree, to shed light on, support learning processes or explain social work intervention/practice with the purpose of qualifying social work through new knowledge and/or developing social work actions

What?

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Practice research on social work

Research questions, research design, data-collection, analysis and information about the research and the findings are led, directed and carried through by external researchers

- The phenomenon is understandable to practice
- The problem can be turned into a research question
- It is possible to collect data
- It is possible to apply the findings in practice

What?

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

What?

Practitioner Research

Practice based research is the use of research inspired principles, designs and research methods in everyday practice enabling participants to answer questions, which originates from practice, and which will give answers in ways that will inform practice

Epstein

Practice research is the phenomenon that occurs when practitioners commit themselves to something they call research in their own practice while they, at the same time, practice social work

Ramian

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Participatory Practice Research

The research stakeholders develop every part of the process in common

Research is part of a learning process

Practice – practitioners and/or service users – will manage the learning process while researchers will manage the research process

What?

Why do Practice Research and what is it?

Service User Focused
Practice Research

Service users can act as:

- **Consultants**
- **Research 'holders'**
- **Stakeholders**

What?



Why do Practice Research and what is it?

- The approaches are prototypes
- To be discussed; To help the stakeholders to choose a way to approach the phenomenon they want to study; To discuss their roles in the process

Rather than trying to make the collaboration fit into one of them

- Most practice research approaches will not be 'clean', but place themselves *in between* two or more of the approaches
- The discussion of types and 'in betweens' is an important part of the negotiation and of the establishment of the partnership in practice research

What?

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What?

Dialogue is central in Practice Research

A dialogical research communication will concurrently establish a negotiation between different forms of knowledge – knowledge based on service users lived lives, knowledge based on social worker experience and knowledge based on researchers' theories and findings

Through this dialogical research process knowledge is shared and new knowledge is developed collectively