

# Introduction to Action Research

**Sudhansu Kumar Pandey**

**{Assistant professor}**

**Department of B.Ed.**

**Maharana Pratap Government Postgraduate Degree College**

**Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh**

# Introduction to Action Research

- Systematic inquiry conducted by educators with vested interest in the teaching–learning process or environment for purposes of gathering information about how their school operates, how they teach, and how their students learn.
- A reflective process that allows for inquiry and discussion by teachers.
- Undertaken in a school setting, specifically within a classroom.
- Disciplined inquiry done by a teacher with the intent that the research will inform and improve daily practice and everyday real issues.

# The assumptions of action research include that principals and teachers...

- Work best on problems they have identified for themselves.
- Become more effective when encouraged to examine and assess their own work and then consider ways of working differently.
- Help each other by working collaboratively.

# Types of Action Research

- Individual teacher action research
- Collaborative (team) action research
- School-wide action research
- District-wide action research

# Individual Action Research

- **FOCUS**

- single classroom issue

- **POSSIBLE SUPPORT NEEDED**

- coach or mentor, access to technology, assistance with data organization and analysis

- **POTENTIAL IMPACT**

- curriculum, instruction, assessment

- **SIDE EFFECTS**

- practice informed by data, information not always shared

# Collaborative Action Research

- **FOCUS**

- single classroom or several with same issues

- **POSSIBLE SUPPORT NEEDED**

- substitutes, released time, close link with administrators

- **POTENTIAL IMPACT**

- curriculum, instruction, assessment, policy

- **SIDE EFFECTS**

- improved collegiality, formation of partnerships

# School-Wide Action Research

- **FOCUS**

- school issue, problem, or area of collective interest

- **POSSIBLE SUPPORT NEEDED**

- school commitment, leadership, communication, external partners

- **POTENTIAL IMPACT**

- school restructuring and change, policy, parent involvement, evaluation of programs

- **SIDE EFFECTS**

- improved collegiality, collaboration, communication, team building, disagreement on process

# District-Wide Action Research

- FOCUS

- a district issue, organizational structures

- POSSIBLE SUPPORT NEEDED

- district commitment, facilitator, recorder, communication, external partners

- POTENTIAL IMPACT

- allocation of resources, PD activities, organizational structures, policy

- SIDE EFFECTS

- improved collegiality & communication, team building, disagreement on process, shared vision



# STEPS IN ACTION RESEARCH

- Identification of problem area
- Collection and organization of data
- Interpretation of data
- Actions implemented based upon data
- Reflection

# Benefits of Action Research

- Focus on school issues, problems, or areas of collective concern
- A form of teacher professional development
- Collegial interaction
- Potential to impact school change
- Reflection on own profession
- Improved communication
- Connecting theory to practice
- Improvement of educational practice
- Teacher empowerment

# Overview of Action Research

- Call for school improvement...
  - Mass media and public outcry
  - Lack of applicability of more traditional research findings
  - Serious need for increased practice of teacher-led, classroom-based action research
- Action research
  - Focused on solving specific classroom or school problems, improving practice, or helping to make decisions at a local site
  - Overarching goal is to improve practice immediately

# Overview of Action Research

## *(cont.)*

- Reflection...
  - Act of critically examining one's own practice (i.e., what you do, why you do it, what are its effects)
  - Integral part of action research process
  - Reflective teaching—process of developing lessons with thoughtful consideration of theory, existing research, and practical experience, along with examination of lesson's effect on student learning
  - Process of systematic collection of information followed by active reflection, with the anticipation of improving the teaching–learning process is at *the core of action research*