

What's in your toolbox?

Studying Community-Based Research Workshops as a Capacity-Building Tool for Mobilizing Knowledge



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Acknowledgments

Mobilizing Knowledge About Development (MKAD):

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MKAD Project

Seeks to:

- Build CBR capacity across campus and community, and
- Engage in collaborative, interdisciplinary, and sustainable relationships for creating and sharing knowledge.

Two initiatives:

-  Knowledge-Mobilization Evaluation & Research
-  Community-Based Research (CBR) Capacity-Building

Why Study the Workshops?

Adult education literature:

- certain kinds of workshops may be more effective than other kinds of workshops for learning purposes,
- lecture-oriented sessions have been the convention for learning, but their effectiveness for KM has been minimally studied.

Studying our workshops to ensure that they are:

- Good quality
- Effective for mobilizing knowledge about CBR

CBR Workshop Series

Goals:

- Create networking opportunities
- Build capacity



Fosters competency in three areas:

- **Conceptual**
- **Methodological**
- **'Partnerological'**

Evaluation

Survey

- 2.5 pages (~10 minutes)
- Questions about usefulness and quality
- Completion and submission as participants' informed consent.
- Requested volunteers for future research

Analysis

- Quantitative
- Qualitative



Findings

Quantitative

- 'Good' quality
- 'Quite' useful
- Gained 'moderate' – 'quite a bit of knowledge'

But *why?*

Qualitative

- Networking
- Concrete examples



So what?

❏ What makes the workshops successful is:

- Opportunity to network, and
- Concrete, real-life examples of CBR in action



❏ The literature shows that interactive workshops:

- make for meaningful learning (adult learning)
- help move course content into practice (KM)

Recommendations

CBR Workshop Series:


Continue to:

-  integrate guest speakers with their concrete examples
-  ensure sufficient time to network

Draw further on participants' real-life experiences

Add more 'hands-on' time

Tips for others seeking to use workshops for KM about CBR:

- ### Know that to share content meaningfully, dedicating time to participant interactivity and networking is critical
-  a good investment

Next steps

- In-depth interviews
- Offer and evaluate Workshops 3, 4, 5, 6 in Fall '08 and Winter '09



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