

Photo voice: Pushing the boundaries of participatory research



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Outline

- Why photo voice?
- Challenges
- Alcohol use among youth in Tanzania
- Intimate partner violence trial (MAISHA)
- Lessons and recommendations

Why photo voice?

- Expand ‘space’ for *participatory research*
 - Participatory photography
- Address **power imbalances**
 - Researchers vs. participants
- ‘*Democratisation*’ of research’?
- Additional insights into the community perspectives
- Identifies **priority** problems of communities even if not focus of research

Why photo voice (2)

Complements limitations of other methods

- ‘Intrusion of outsider’ effect
- Captures information that is difficult to get through conversation
- Reduces effect of language barriers & illiteracy in data collection
- **Impactful** *presentation of research results*

Development & use


- Historically used on marginalised groups
 - Homeless women
 - Women experiencing violence
 - Youth (e.g. those living in streets)
- Used in combination with other methods
 - Interviews & group discussions
- Community engagement
 - Photo exhibitions

Challenges

•Safety

- Retaliation from those who misunderstand the purpose
- Theft of cameras

•Ethics

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- Appropriateness of 'unprofessional' researchers collecting data
 - Obtaining consent to take & use photos
 - Exposing data collectors and community members to risk of retaliation
 - Use of images – could be abused -especially if posted online

Alcohol use among youth in Tanzania



Objectives

Document alcohol availability, pricing, packaging, promotion and advertisement

Explore how young people experience the effects of alcohol in their daily lives; how availability, promotion, price etc drives risk

Explore how alcohol consumption interacts with economic livelihood of youth

Document existing national and local level policies; opportunities to better protect youth

Methods

GIS Mapping

Photo documentation

PhotoVoice + Participatory Group Discussions (PGDs)

PhotoVoice +PGDs

Key informant interviews
Desk review

Methods

- Photo voice and Participatory Group Discussions
 - Purposive sampling
 - Youth 18-24
 - Informal sector employees
 - Women: food vendors and tailors
 - Men: garage mechanics, carpenters, welders
- Youth recruited from their working sites
 - Owners and local leaders used in recruitment
- Participants
 - Mwanza; 12 men, 8 women
 - Moshi; 8 men, 5 women

Training of research team

- Young researchers trained on:
 - Photography
 - Ethics
 - Anonymity
- Researchers trained youth
 - One day intensive & focused training
 - 3 days of additional mostly practical training



Training of youth

Skills

- Basic photography
- Photo techniques
 - Concealing identities of individuals



Consenting

- Verbal consent
- Written consent



Data collection

- Given camera & took pictures for one week
- Support visits
 - Technical support
 - ‘Gentle reminder’
 - Moral support
- Later selected photos for use in group discussions
 - Explained what each photo represented
 - Made captions for each photo

Photo exhibition



Effects of alcohol use

Economic consequences



This photo shows a young man who has drunk a lot of alcohol and is highly intoxicated...you can see he is already regretting wasting his money. A lot of young people spend much more than what they earn...(Male group, Mwanza)

Environmental consequences



-People who use alcohol regarded as having little respect for the environment

Children exposure to alcohol



Alcohol adverts



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) trial (MAISHA)



Objectives

Explores:

- Structural, socio-cultural and individual factors associated with IPV
- How the intervention impacts the lives of the participants and their families
- Risk factors that contribute to women's vulnerability to violence and how the intervention may reduce these risks

Methods

- In-depth interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews with key informants
- Photo voice with women

Methods(2)

- 9 women purposively selected for data collection
 - 5 intervention arm; 4 control arm
- Women from 2 wards (admin units) in Mwanza city
- Underwent two days training
 - In class lectures & discussions (day 1)
 - Practical training on participatory photography (day 2)

Training of women

Skills

- Basic photography
- Photo techniques
 - Concealing identities of individuals

Consenting

- Verbal consent
- Written consent



Data collection

- Given phone with camera & took pictures for one week
- Support visits
 - Technical support
 - 'gentle reminder'
 - Moral support
- Later selected photos for use in interview

Healthy relationship



Daily activities of women

Domestic activities



Income generating activities



Poverty



Family responsibilities



Lessons & recommendations

- Feasible to conduct in resource limited settings
- Both cameras and phone cameras worked well
 - Photo quality of cameras better
- Choice of type of cameras should consider:
 - Context
 - Topic & study population
- In Mwanza normal for women to have phones with cameras BUT not actual cameras

Lessons & recommendations (2)

- Support visits crucial
 - Resolve technical hitches
 - ‘Reminder’ about taking photos
 - Moral support to participants
- No cases of security threats
- Only one cameras lost - Youth & alcohol study
- Photo exhibition successful – Youth & alcohol study

Lessons & recommendations (3)

- Some women took fewer pictures than expected
 - This could be due to partner or community interference
- Some of the images were of things ‘not directly related to the topic of inquiry’

Lessons & recommendations (4)

- For MAISHA study
 - Pictures enabled women to talk about relationships and violence more freely and with clear examples
- For youth & alcohol study
 - Pictures enabled youth to capture powerful images about effects of alcohol

Thank you!



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- Joyce Wamoyi

Study participants

- Young people in Mwanza and Kilimanjaro regions
- Women in the MAISHA study

For more information on STRIVE
www.strive.lshtm.ac.uk

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