

Action Research: Identifying a Problem

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Identifying a Problem

- Identifying a clear and focused problem is one of the most challenging parts of the research process
- In action research, the problem should be something that a stakeholder within the school (e.g., teacher, administrator, students) has the power to resolve
- Two parts of the Problem:
 - Clear statement of the problem
 - “The problem addressed in this study is _____.”
 - Justify why the problem is important
 - State reasons why the problem is important for improving educational outcomes

Areas for Action Research

- **Academic:** Student achievement, Teaching methods, Special student needs
- **Social:** Lack of cooperation amongst students, poor student discipline, coming late to class, attendance, not doing assignments
- **Curriculum:** Textbooks, Topics of study, Arrangement of content, Coverage of content
- **Assessment:** Tests, Continuous assessments, Feedback
- **Administration:** Timetable, Professional development, Planning for lessons
- **Professional:** Attitudes, Motivation, Leadership

Example Problems

- Students do not show up to the first day of lectures
- Students do not complete assignments on time
- Students perform poorly on their exams
- Students do not pay attention in class
- Teachers are overwhelmed at their workload
- Teachers are frustrated at large class sizes
- Teachers are not showing up to teach their classes