

Democratizing sexual violence research through youth peer research:

Exploring the value and challenges in using youth peer research approaches in sexual violence research

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'Small steps can make a big difference'

Project brief

- Youth participatory action research (2020-2022)
- Builds on previous work and partnership
- Addresses a problem identified by young people: criminal justice responses in Albania
- 6 female young researchers (aged 16-27)
- Face-to-face survey engaging 13 female peers as respondents (aged 15-25)

Purported benefits of peer research

- Enhanced **rapport** and **relevance**
- Access '*insider*' knowledge and '*hard to reach*' target groups (Angotti & Sennot 2015; Coupland & Maher 2005; Kilpatrick et al 2007; Porter 2016; Devotta et al 2016)
- '*I am like you, I used to walk in your shoes.*' (HIVE conference, Feb 2022)

Rapport and Relevance

I felt good and free with the researcher.

I liked it because she was very polite and treated me very well.

I had a lot of problems so when someone ask me about these things I feel hurt

I felt good because it was an important topic.

Anonymity and confidentiality

"It was little uncomfortable... they must have seen me before. It was a bit difficult, they gave short answers... a bit inhibited because they had seen me around."



Implications

- Thoughtful planning, risk anticipation and mitigation (*risk cannot be completely eliminated so prepare for them!*)
- Rigorous training and ongoing, flexible, trauma-informed support
- Adequate time and resources

Get in touch!

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