BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ETHICAL RESEARCH WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Including children as participants in social research raises many ethical dilemmas for researchers, particularly with regard to balancing children’s rights to participation and protection. The guidance available to researchers is variable and can lack specificity, and ethics committees vary widely in their responses, tending to focus on children’s vulnerability and need for protection.

In April 2010 the Board of the Childwatch International Research Network approved the establishment of a new Thematic Study Group entitled Building Capacity for Ethical Research with Children and Young People. The group had two key aims:

- to identify the ethical issues and challenges in undertaking research with and for children and young people in different majority and minority world contexts;
- to identify and collate existing ethics guidelines and resources in use in different countries that could potentially be shared amongst researchers in the Childwatch network - and beyond – as a way of promoting the conduct of ethical, respectful research in different cultural and social contexts.

The research team for this project surveyed 257 researchers from 46 countries via an online questionnaire as a scoping exercise to inform the Thematic Study Group’s work. The findings indicated that the ethical issues concerning researchers differ across Majority and Minority world contexts but that researchers in both contexts, particularly Majority world countries, need greater access to resources to help guide and inform their work undertaking research with children.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

November 2009 – June 2011

PROJECT PARTNER

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