

A Rapid Qualitative Evidence Synthesis: Challenges and facilitators of performing co-research with children and adolescents

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Background

- Co-research emphasizes **the active engagement** of co-researchers in the research process, highlighting that research is being conducted *with* them rather than *on* them
- They can **contribute at different stages**
- Involving children and adolescents in research **amplifies their voices and agency**
- Working with children and adolescents as young co-researchers **can present complex challenges**

Methods

- **Included studies:** Children/adolescents (8-19 yrs) as active co-researchers in multiple stages, qualitative, mixed-methods or syntheses (2000-May 2023)
- **Search:** Scopus, Web of Science, BASE + reference lists
- **Screening & sampling:** 742 abstracts, 169 full texts; 48 studies included, 30 sampled based on their data richness and youth involvement score
- **Analysis:** Data extraction, synthesis, and interpretation using qualitative content analysis

Aim

We conducted a **rapid qualitative evidence synthesis** to:

- (1) Establish a framework for successful co-research with young agegroups
- (2) Identify challenges and facilitators across the co-research process
- (3) Map target-group-oriented methods and methodological considerations.



Read the full article here

Results

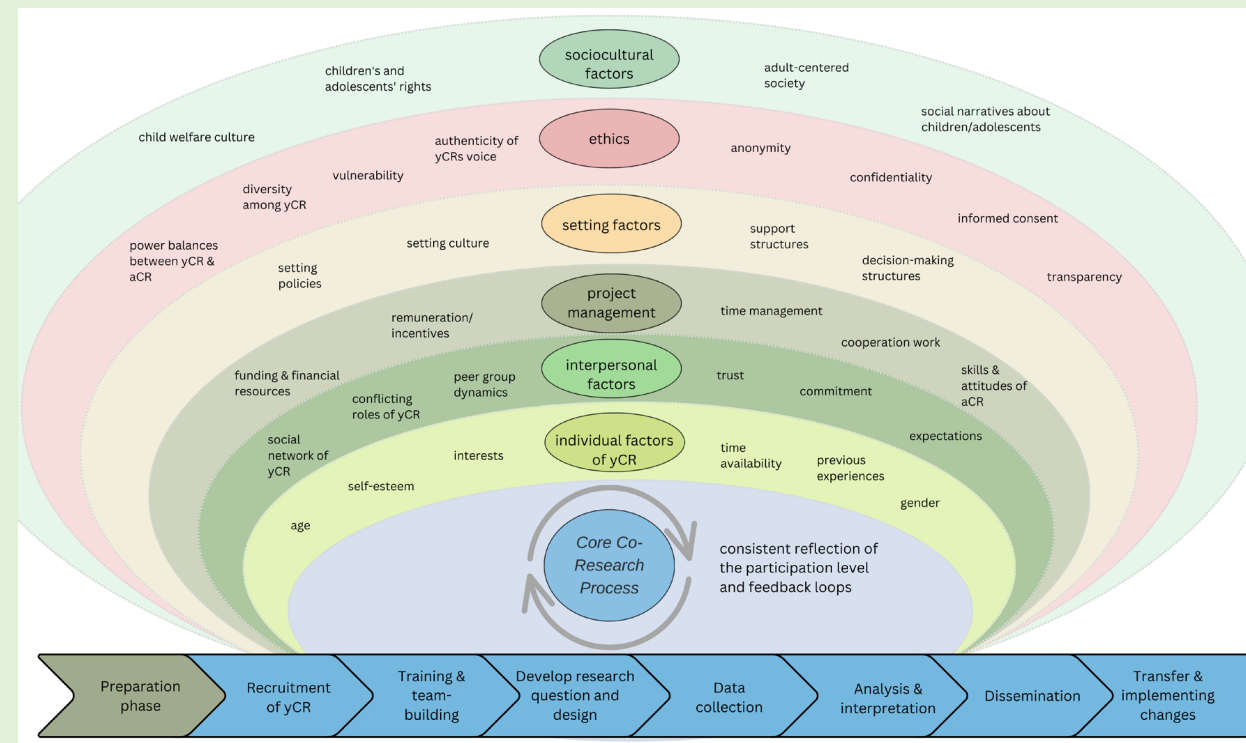


Figure 1: Framework: What to Consider for Good Co-Research With Children and Adolescents

Challenges

- Building trust with young co-researchers
- Avoiding tokenism
- Selection bias and misrepresentation
- Addressing power imbalances between young and adult co-researchers

Facilitators

- Flexible funding
- Clear and honest communication
- Peer-based recruitment
- Relationship building
- Methods tailored to youth contexts and capacities
- Feedback mechanisms

Implications

- Co-research with children & adolescents is relationship work
- Focus on interest, time, and living environment of young co-researchers
- Engagement in all research phases is feasible with suitable methods!