Using Participatory Visual Methodology to Work with Young Women in Rural KwaZulu-Natal

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Introducing Our Team

- Co-Researcher Participants (CRPs): Young Stars Fighters & Snemfundo Nokukhanya
- Youth Researcher: Thandeka Mazibuko
- Community Partner: Xoli Msimanga, Thembalethu Care Organisation





Introducing Our Team

- University-based research team
 - Prof Relebohile Moletsane
 - Mr Nkonzo Mkhize*
 - Dr Lisa Wiebesiek
 - Ms Samkelisiwe Luthuli, Ms Silindile Myeza & Ms Khunjulwa Mhlungu



WE-SAY in South Africa

- Feminist post-colonial theory
- Post-colonial & post-apartheid context
- Mohanty (1984, p. 346): critique of approaches to research, particularly methodologies, reproduce & reinforce colonising power dynamics
- Neoliberalism & global politics of knowledge
 Speaking from the global South

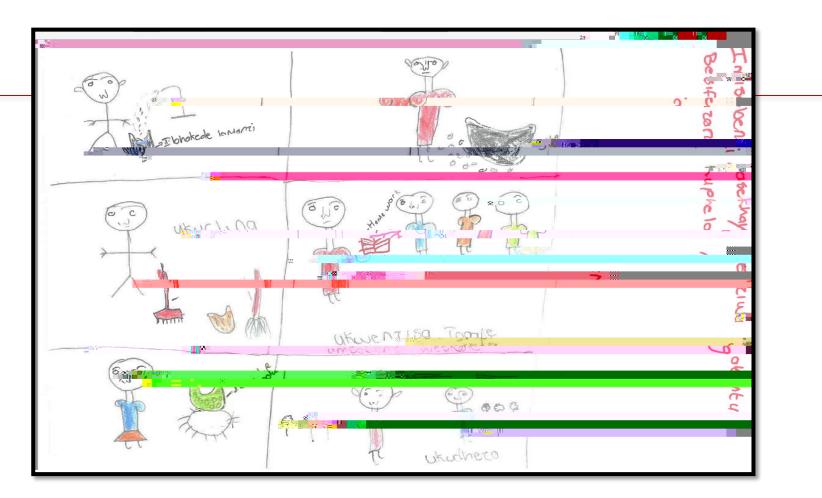
Methodology, Methods, Activities

- Participatory approach to working with CRPs
 - Collaborative, foregrounding the voices of CRPs, co-producing knowledge, decolonizing
- PVM: Social Change led by young women
- 5 PVM Workshops 5 methods:

Drawing Workshop

Aim: to uncover co-researcher participants' current understandings of 'work' & what significance it has within their lives & imagined futures

Prompt: Uyini umsebenzi la kulendawo yakini? (What is work in your community?)



Imisebenzi yasemakhaya yenziwa ngabantu besifazane kuphela [All of the domestic work at home is done only by females]

Photovoice Workshop

- Aim: explore what work looks like for CRPs; how they experience work
- Prompt: Njengoba sibone imidwebo kanye ne 'exhibition', manje thatha isithombe esikhombisa ukuthi uwuqonda kanjani umsebenzi empilweni yakho

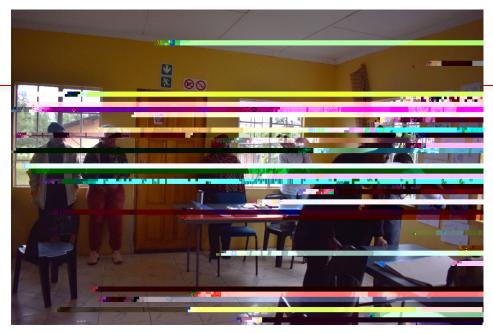
[Having looked at your drawings and the exhibition you curated, take 2 photographs to show how you now understand 'work' in your lives]



This picture shows me teaching children so that they can have a better future, grow up educated and not be like their parents

Cellphilm Workshop

- Aim: have a deeper understanding of how young women in Loskop deal with the demands work and education
- **Prompt**: How do young women deal with education and work?
- Groups (4-6)
- Storyboarding, filming tutorial



Left: Reviewing Drawings & discussing prompt

Right: Brainstorming their story



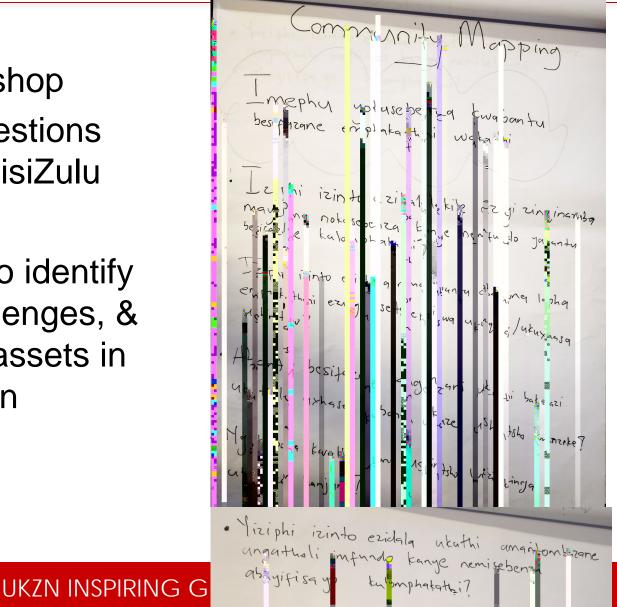
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Example of a Cellphilm Storyboard

Participatory Community Mapping

- One-day workshop
- Prompt = 5 questions translated into isiZulu

Aim: For CRPs to identify & locate the challenges, & the resources & assets in their community in relation to work

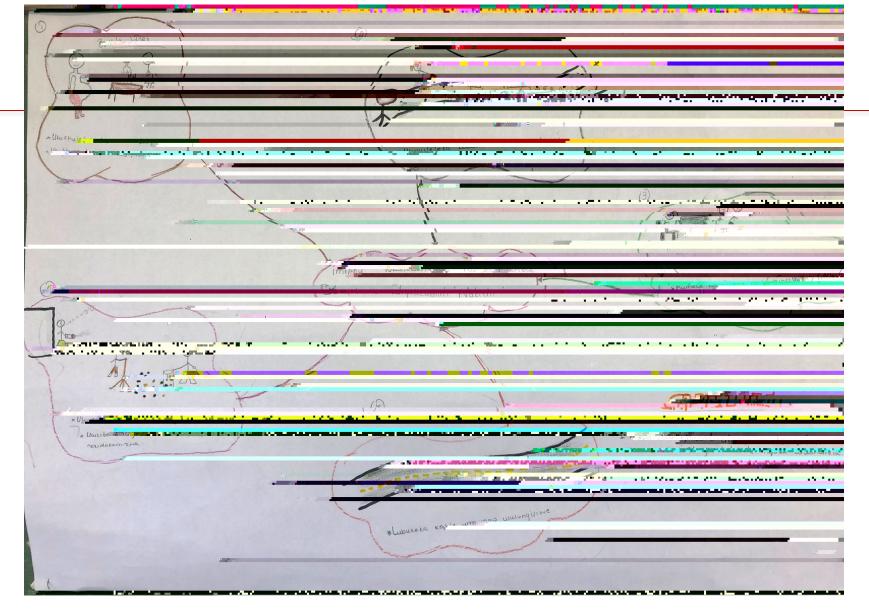


Discussed the prompt questions & process

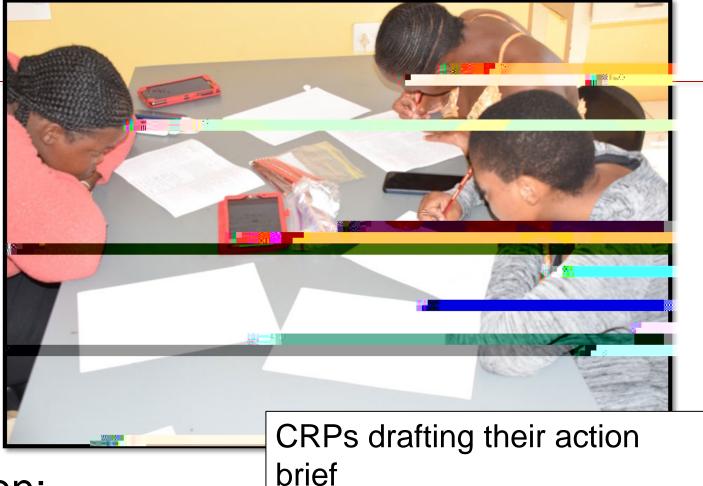




- CRPs worked in pairs
- Each pair presented their map
- Discussion!



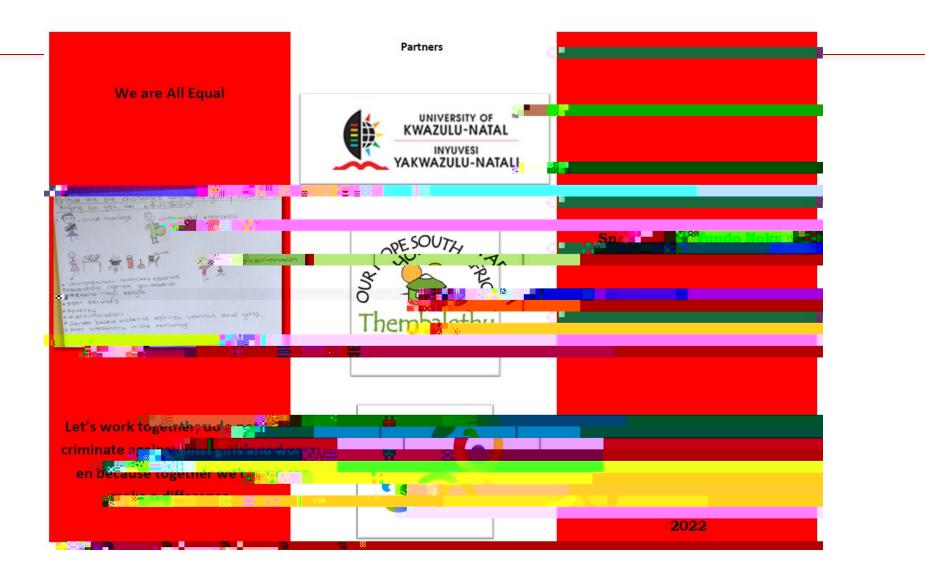
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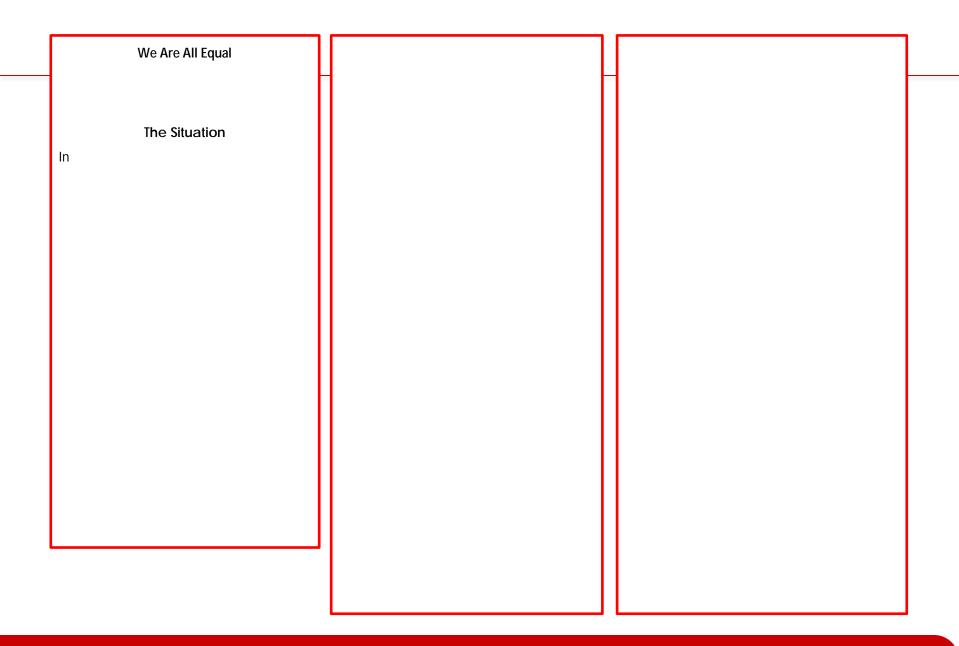


• Then:

We create digital versions

• review &/or revise; finalise, print, distribute





Community Dialogues

- CRPs: Programme design, invitations, MCing, presentations
- Exhibition of visual artefacts & presentation of policy posters & action briefs
- The groups attended each others' dialogues to support
- Well-attended including the Ward Councillor
- Positive feedback from community

Youth Summit

- Aim:
- Revisit visual artefacts as a complete data set, refine themes
- Create Digital Vision Boards

Create a vision board collage that represents your vision for what life should be like for girls and young women in your community in relation to education, work and gender equality

Right: Developing Above: Reviewing visual data, refining themes





