

Visual Images in Research:

Practical tips when setting up a project using photography

RECUP
Research Consortium on
Educational Outcomes &
Poverty
<http://manual.recoup.educ.cam.ac.uk>



A clear focus is needed...

- Clarity with regard to the research question to be answered

For example, participants maybe asked to take photographs of:

- the best parts of school
- the safe spaces in your community

As a researcher you might wish to gather data about:

- how the community is laid out
- People participating in a social event

Basic functions...

- Do you (the researcher or the research participant, as the case may be) know how to
 - Turn the camera on and off
 - View and delete photographs (in case of digital)
 - Adjust the resolution and why it shouldn't be adjusted
 - Replace batteries
 - Use the zoom function

Practice gives confidence...

- Have you had the opportunity to practice taking some photographs and ask any questions about the camera?

Practical issues...

- Do you know:
 - The ideal number of photographs it would be best to take
 - What to do if the camera is lost, or stolen (or even sold)
 - The length of time for which you will have the camera (and when and how you will return it)
 - If researching as part of a team, when you will meet with the team to talk about your photographs?

Using the photographs...

- If researching as part of a team, do you know how these photographs will be used and have you given the research coordinator your permission for them to be used in these ways
 - Use in an academic environment – conferences and printed academic papers
 - Use in an international exhibition
 - Use in a local and public exhibition (where people in my community may see them)
 - Use in a local book (where people in my community may see them)