

People-centred research and training designed to bridge the gap between people and the policies and programmes intending to serve them.

Empatika is a small international research and training organisation specializing in people-centred studies and customised capacity building. We are passionate about providing in-depth insights and fresh views on development aid and programmes through participatory and experiential research and training. We believe that this requires sensitive and empathetic research approaches which enable people to share their perspectives and their experiences. The inclusion of people's voices in programme design and policy making is a means for empowerment and ensuring that multiple perspectives contribute to the generation of knowledge.

Our Team

Empatika has a core team of twelve people with a larger community of practice which currently includes over 75 trained researchers in seven countries. While our operations and most of the core team are based in Jakarta, Indonesia, some members of our core team are based in South Asia along with Western Europe. Recently established as an independent organisation, most of our team has been working together for over six years.

We believe our small core team allows for flexible, quick and effective engagement with clients. Along with the different expertise within this team, Empatika can also draw upon our community of practice as needed and to support full research studies.

Get in touch!

hello@empatika.org

www.empatika.org



people-centred
research and training



RESEARCH

We specialise in immersion studies whereby researchers stay in people's homes and join in their everyday lives. In addition we facilitate video projects/workshops and other qualitative research such as focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, bringing our skills in participatory processes to each.



A grandfather and his grandchildren chatting and drawing about their family and village with a local Empatika researcher in Uganda.

Immersion Research

Immersion research using the Reality Check Approach (RCA) is a qualitative research approach involving trained researchers living with people in their own homes. This relaxed approach of informally 'hanging out' with families and other community members enables easy and open conversations as well as first-hand experience and observation of daily life, providing unique insights into how context shapes the processes, motivations, behaviours and attitudes of people. Since 2010, Empatika team members have conducted over 30 immersion studies in nine countries across a wide range of topics including education, governance, health, market linkages, post disaster recovery, security and social protection.

Human-Centred Design

Empatika has developed approaches to link insights from immersion research to HCD processes, providing

a strong basis for developing highly contextualised, practical solutions. These approaches improve the quality of design of policy and programming and help ensure they are not only 'evidence-based' but also 'people-based.'

Video Projects and Workshops

Digital storytelling (DST) processes encourage people to share first-hand experiences and analyse their own situations. These stories provide powerful insights to complement findings from other qualitative research approaches, or may be analysed as primary research.

Other Qualitative Research

We facilitate focus group discussions and undertake in-depth interviews but bring to these our special skills in participatory processes and experience in using empathy and informality to ensure people are enthusiastic to engage and share openly.

We also support communities and people to develop their own indicators of change which reflect the direction and pace of change they want to see. These may be regularly monitored by them or reviewed by other externally supported means.

To date, we have undertaken research in over ten countries, including as part of mixed method evaluations where we work hard to ensure that the qualitative research approaches are customised and fully integrated to provide the best possible research outcomes.



A qualitative research training in Jakarta incorporating working on sensitive issues.



Parents work on story ideas for their DST videos about how farming has been changing in their communities.

TRAINING SERVICES

- » **Immersion research (6 days)**
Immersion Research (RCA) Level 1 training for field researchers (including field practicum)
- » **Putting quality into qualitative research (3 days)**
Focus on using research tools effectively, attitudes and behaviour, ethics and rigour
- » **Mixed methods research (3-5 days)**
Using real life cases, the course covers research design, implementation, analysis and documentation of truly integrated mixed methods
- » **Digital storytelling (4 days)**
Workshops organised around a theme; can also be used as part of action research
- » **Community-led monitoring (3-5 days)**
Using the Citizen-Led Approach to facilitate communities in measuring meaningful change