



ASSETS COMING TOGETHER FOR YOUTH

The ACT FOR YOUTH PROJECT (2009-2014) brings together a cross-sectoral alliance of community stakeholders and an interdisciplinary network of scholars to undertake a programme of research, capacity building, knowledge transfer and evaluation that is focused on developing a comprehensive strategy for youth in urban communities using the Jane Finch community as a case study.

RESEARCH APPROACH

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- Youth are not problems, but assets for their communities.
- There are social, political and economic forces such as racism, sexism, poverty, zero-tolerance and unemployment that are "toxic" to the well-being of urban youth.
- Research is a community dialogue that must fully engage community stakeholders.
- Youth should be involved in defining the focus and implementation of research that concerns them.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND METHODS

What assets do youth in urban communities have?

We are conducting a survey to understand the assets of youth in Jane-Finch.

What are the perspectives of youth in urban communities concerning their needs and well-being?

We are exploring youth perspectives on various community issues.

What are the diverse pathways of urban youth into regular participation in the labour market?

We are examining the barriers and facilitators to employment and economic opportunities for youth.

How can communities reframe the negative public discourse about youth?

We are analyzing media and public documents to understand the social/cultural structures behind the negative framing of youth.

How can we build sustainable, equitable, community-university research partnerships?

We are thinking of a good answer for this one.

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