

The Insider-Researcher

As work-based learners, your research will be engaged with your particular place of work. Costley, Elliott & Gibbs (2010: 6-7) give the following advice:

“As an insider in your professional field, you have expertise and experience that gives you an advanced level of knowledge of issues in your area of practice.....To some extent, as a researcher, you have to take on the tradition of what is accepted as good research practice in your professional area of research. If you are able to combine these two roles well, you will be a successful insider-researcher....”

They suggest that:

“....Insider –led, work based projects are approached from the perspective of bringing about contributions to practice that are informed by underpinning knowledge. The purpose of the project is to bring about actual change, either during or at the end of the research project...”

In what ways might your research be personally and professionally relevant to you?

What do you think the challenges of researching within your own organisation might be?

How might you deal with these?