

# Dialogue to Deliberation: Expanding the Empowerment Education Model

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**Objective:** To explore the importance of a theoretical framework, the Empowerment education model (EEM), that can be used in participatory research. A deliberative project in one community in eastern Kentucky exemplifies the use of the EEM in participatory research. **Methods:** Research techniques include surveys, focus groups, community forums, and photovoice. **Results:** This project presents preliminary evi-

dence that participatory projects might benefit if the dialogue phase of the EEM is followed by a deliberative phase. **Conclusion:** The theoretical underpinnings of the EEM could be expanded to include dialogue and deliberation in participatory efforts.

**Key words:** dialogue, deliberation, empowerment, health education theory, participatory action research

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