Visual Images in Research:

Practical tips when setting up a project using photography
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)