

THE SPIRAL MODEL OF POPULAR EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Spiral model starts with a reflection on lived experience, knowledge and the positionality of both the people you are engaging as well as yourself as project staff member/ researcher/ union leader etc. After sharing experience the idea is to engage in a process of critical reflection which involves analysing and questioning your experience to uncover underlying power dynamics and social structures. This process Paulo Freire¹ describes as the reflective process of developing critical consciousness. All of this happening in dialogue. As themes emerge new information and theoretical perspectives are sought so as to collectively co-create new knowledge. It is in this process that consciousness is deepened and connections are made between personal experience and the broader social and historical context. All of this leads to more effective experimentation with action plans based on the insights gained through the reflective cycles.

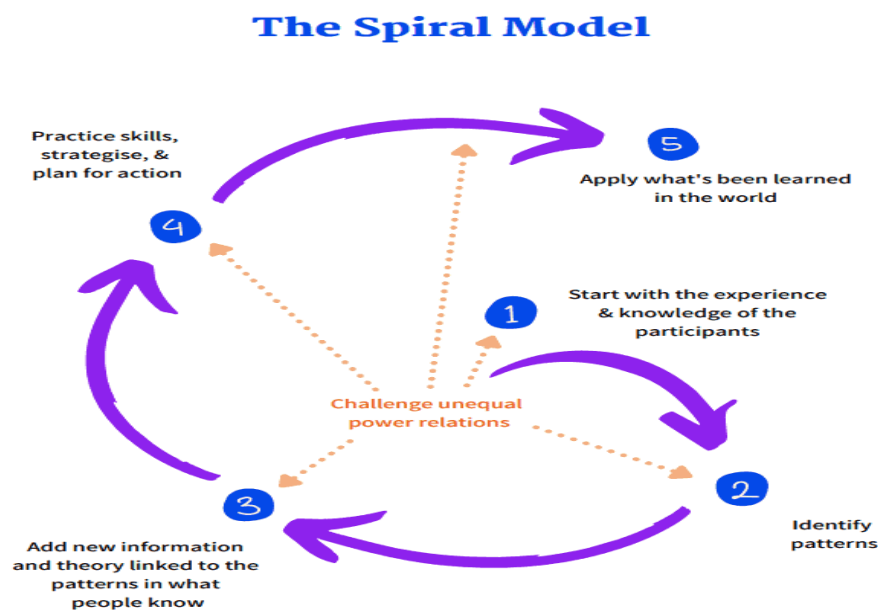
WHEN AND HOW TO USE THIS POPULAR EDUCATION SPIRAL MODEL

The spiral model is a useful tool for both understanding and planning for a Just Transition. It is particularly important when lived experience and collective wisdom is needed for driving action.

The spiral model is more than a framework for learning it represents a way of thinking. It helps us think of learning and action as an iterative process where you are revisiting and refining ideas through multiple cycles of reflection and action to strengthen your thinking, commitment and activities.

TOOL

<https://commonslibrary.org/the-spiral-model-a-learning-framework/#:~:text=The%20Spiral%20Model%20is%20a,anchors%20to%20the%20comfort%20zone.>



¹ Paulo Freire was a Brazilian educator and philosopher, best known for his influential work in the field of critical pedagogy.