



Steps: Participatory Co-Design for Community Projects

Step 1: Relationship Building

- Research, seek permissions, and know the background cultural context of the community.
- Spend time with the community before introducing technology.
- Use culturally respectful introductions.
- Establish community trust through long-term engagement, rather than relying solely on short-term data collection.

Step 2: Co-Design Use Cases

- Host focus group discussions with elders, youth, women, and traditional leaders.
- Use visual and oral methods (such as storyboards, sketches, proverbs, and songs) to elicit needs and ideas.
- Let the community define the problem, not just react to external definitions.

Step 3: Ethical Data Collection

- Collect stories, songs, and oral histories using FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent).
- Ensure data sovereignty through community control and ownership.
- Respect limitations or refusals of access to sacred places, sites, or knowledge.

Step 4: Build the Prototype Together

- Design and develop localized AI systems that utilize local languages and dialects
- Consult community members in choosing names, icons, and features.
- Organize workshops in the community for training and testing the prototype
- Test the prototype with locally available devices

Step 5: Feedback Loops

- Encourage feedback through locally established communication mechanisms such as village gatherings, the Chief's baraza, and person-to-person proximity-based sharing.
- Hold regular check-in meetings with the community to adjust the tool as needed.