



PROGRAM EVALUATION GLOSSARY

Biying Zhou



Content

Accountability	1
Accuracy.....	1
Accuracy Standards (A)	1
Action Research	1
Active Stakeholder Engagement.....	1
Activities	1
Adolescent Empowerment	2
Advocacy Strategy	2
Agency Theory	2
Alumni Mentoring	2
Approach	2
Assumptions	3
At-Risk Assumptions.....	3
Attention to Stakeholders	3
Attribution.....	3
Audience.....	3
Audit and Accountability	3
Autonomous Motivation	4
Awareness	4
Barriers	4
Behavioral Engagement.....	4
Benchmarking	4
Benefits	5
Breadth	5
Case Management.....	5
Case study	5
Causal inference	5
Causal Link Assumptions	5
Causal Pathways	6
Census	6
CES (Canadian Evaluation Society)	6

Civic Engagement	6
Clarity and Fairness	6
Client Demographics	6
Client-Evaluator Relationship	7
Client-Identified Needs	7
Cohort Model	7
Collaboration	7
Collaborative Evaluation	7
Collaborative Framework	8
Communication and Reporting	8
Community Conversations	8
Community Engagement	8
Community Service	8
Community-Driven Evaluation	9
Comparison group	9
Comprehensive Evaluation	9
Comprehensive Healthcare	9
Comprehensiveness	9
Conceptual Vagueness	9
Concern for Consequences and Influence	10
Conclusion validity	10
Confidence level	10
Confirming Actions	10
Conflict of Interest	10
Conflicts of Interests	10
Context and Complexity	11
Context-Based Relationships	11
Context-Mechanism-Outcome (CMO) Configuration	11
Contextual Evaluation	11
Contextual Factors	11
Contextual Viability	12
Continuous Quality Improvement	12
Control group	12

Corrective Actions	12
Cost-benefit analysis	12
Cost-effectiveness analysis	12
Credentialed Evaluator (CE)	13
Credentialing.....	13
Critical Friend.....	13
Critical Thinking.....	13
Cross-sectional data.....	13
Cross-sectional designs.....	13
Cultural Responsiveness.....	14
Culturally Responsive Evaluation	14
Data.....	14
Data Analysis	14
Data collection method.....	14
Data Collection System.....	15
Data Sources.....	15
Data Validity	15
Deadweight	15
Decolonial Approach	15
Decreased Overdose Risks.....	16
Degree of Stakeholder Engagement	16
Depth.....	16
Descriptive statistical analysis	16
Descriptive Statistics	16
Diffusion or imitation of treatment	16
Direct analytic methods	16
Direct Giving Model.....	17
Drop-Off.....	17
Early Career Mentoring.....	17
Economic Evaluation	17
Empirical Investigation.....	17
Empowerment Approach.....	18
Empowerment Evaluation (EE)	18

Equity-Focused Evaluation	18
Ethical Compliance	18
Ethical Guidelines.....	18
Ethical Partnerships.....	19
Ethical Review	19
Ethics in Evaluation.....	19
Evaluability.....	19
Evaluability Assessment.....	19
Evaluation Accountability (E)	20
Evaluation Approach.....	20
Evaluation capacity.....	20
Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB)	20
Evaluation Competencies	20
Evaluation Context	20
Evaluation Decision-Making	21
Evaluation design	21
Evaluation Documentation	21
Evaluation Ethics	21
Evaluation Framework	21
Evaluation Impact.....	22
Evaluation Implementation	22
Evaluation Issues.....	22
Evaluation Matrix	22
Evaluation Methods	22
Evaluation plan.....	23
Evaluation Planning Committee	23
Evaluation Questions	23
Evaluation Readiness.....	23
Evaluation Reporting.....	23
Evaluation Reports.....	24
Evaluation Services.....	24
Evaluation stakeholder.....	24
Evaluation Standards	24

Evaluation strategy	24
Evaluation Transparency	24
Evaluation Use	25
Evaluative SROI	25
Evaluator Competencies	25
Evaluator Credibility.....	25
Ex ante cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis	25
Ex Ante Perspective	26
Ex post cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis	26
Ex Post Perspective.....	26
Executive summary.....	26
Experiential Learning.....	26
Experimental designs.....	26
Expert opinion	27
Explicit Evaluation Reasoning	27
Explicit Program and Context Descriptions	27
Explicit Values	27
External Factors	27
External Metaevaluation.....	27
External validity	28
Facilitators	28
Feasibility Assessment.....	28
Feasibility Standards(F).....	28
Feedback Mechanisms	28
Feminist Perspectives.....	28
File review	29
Fiscal Responsibility	29
Flexible Engagement Approach.....	29
Focus group	29
Food Rules Assessment	29
Forecast SROI	29
Formal Agreements	30
Formal Mentoring	30

Formative evaluation	30
Formative Metaevaluation	30
Framework	30
Goal Setting	31
Graduate Employability	31
Group Concept Mapping	31
Harm Reduction	31
History	31
History and program interaction	32
Human Rights and Respect	32
Human Subjects Agreements	32
Ideal evaluation design	32
Impact Assessment	32
Impact Evaluation	33
Impact Map	33
Impact Pathway	33
Implementation Evaluation	33
Implicit design	33
Indicator	34
Indigenous Evaluation	34
Indigenous Frameworks	34
Indirect Giving Model	34
Inferential statistical analysis	34
Inferential Statistics	34
Informal conversational interview	35
Information Management	35
Initial Working Theories (IWTs)	35
Inputs	35
Institutional review board (IRB)	35
Institutional Theory	35
Instrumentation	36
Integrated System for Data Collection	36
Interaction effect	36

Internal Metaevaluation	36
Internal validity	36
Interpersonal practice.....	36
Intervention Group.....	37
Interview guide	37
Interviewer bias	37
Justified Conclusions and Decisions	37
Key Outcomes	37
Knowledge Building.....	37
Life Effectiveness Questionnaire (LEQ).....	38
List sampling	38
Literature search	38
Local Artefacts	38
Logic model (or theory of change model)	38
Longitudinal data.....	39
Longitudinal designs	39
Longitudinal Evaluation.....	39
Low-Barrier Care	39
Macro-economic model	39
Main effects	39
Management practice	40
Matching.....	40
Maturation	40
Meaningful Processes and Products	40
Measurement Framework	40
Measurement validity.....	40
Measuring devices or instruments.....	41
Mentor Training.....	41
Mentoring.....	41
Metaevaluation.....	41
Micro-economic model	41
Mixed Methods	41
Mixed Methods Evaluation.....	42

Mixed Methods Outcome Evaluation	42
Monetary policy	42
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Implications	42
Mortality.....	42
Multiple lines of evidence	43
Narrative Analysis	43
Narrative Inquiry	43
Natural observation	43
Negotiated Purposes	43
Nonexperimental designs.....	43
Non-probability sampling	44
Nonprofit Organization (NPO)	44
Non-response	44
Non-response bias	44
Non-sampling error	44
Objective data	44
Objectivity.....	45
Order bias	45
Organizational Development	45
Organizational Effectiveness	45
Outcome effectiveness issues.....	45
Outcome evaluation	45
Outcome Harvesting.....	46
Outcome Measurement	46
Outcome/Impact Evaluation	46
Outcomes	46
Outputs	46
Parent-Perceived Environment	46
Participant Experience	47
Participant Observation	47
Participatory Approach	47
Participatory Evaluation	47
Participatory Research.....	47

Peer Researchers	47
Performance Monitoring System	48
Pervasive Developmental Disorder	48
Photovoice	48
Plausible hypotheses	48
Population	48
Positive Change	49
Positive Outcome Expectations	49
Postexperience Euphoria	49
Practical Procedures.....	49
Pre-Evaluation Clarification	49
Pretest-Posttest Design	49
Pretest-Posttest Survey.....	50
Primary data	50
Primary Healthcare	50
Primary Outcomes	50
Probability sampling	50
Problem Tree Analysis	51
Process evaluation	51
Professional Associations	51
Professional Autonomy	51
Professional Competence	51
Professional Development	51
Professional Networking	52
Program	52
Program Adaptation	52
Program evaluation.....	52
program evaluation standards	52
Program Feasibility	53
Program goal	53
Program Improvement	53
Program Recommendations	53
Program Statistics	53

Program Theory	53
Programme Context.....	54
Programme Mechanisms	54
Project Management.....	54
Propriety	54
Propriety Standards (P)	54
Psychosocial Mediators	55
Purpose	55
Qualitative data	55
Quality Assurance	55
Quality of Life Improvements.....	55
Quantitative data.....	55
Quasi-experimental design.....	56
Quasi-Randomized Controlled Trial	56
Random digit dialing	56
Randomization	56
Rational Choice Theory	56
Rationale Assumptions	56
Reach	57
Realist Evaluation	57
ReconciliACTION.....	57
Reflective practice	57
Reform Initiative	58
Regression artifacts	58
Relevant Information.....	58
Reliability	58
Reliable Information	58
Replicate sampling	58
Request for proposal (RFP)	59
Resource Dependence Theory	59
Resource Use	59
Resources.....	59
Responsive and Inclusive Orientation	59

Risks.....	59
Robust ToC	60
Sample	60
Sample size.....	60
Sample size formula	60
Sampling error	60
Sampling frame	60
Sampling method	60
Sampling unit	61
School Connectedness	61
School-Community Relationship	61
Secondary data	61
Secondary Outcomes	61
Selection and program interaction	61
Selection bias.....	62
Self-Assessment	62
Self-awareness.....	62
Self-Determination	62
Self-Determination Theory.....	62
Self-Efficacy	63
Self-Governance.....	63
Self-Regulation Skills	63
Service Learning	63
Setting and program interaction.....	63
Single-Arm Pretest-Posttest Design	64
Situational practice.....	64
Sliding Scale of Collaboration	64
Social Cognitive Theory	64
Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-2).....	65
Social Return on Investment (SROI).....	65
Social Value	65
Socio-Ecological Model.....	65
Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)	65

Sound Designs and Analyses	66
Stakeholder Analysis.....	66
Stakeholder Engagement	66
Stakeholder Interest	66
Stakeholder Involvement.....	66
Stakeholder-Oriented Evaluation	67
Stakeholders	67
Standard	67
Standard deviation.....	67
Standardized format interview	67
Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE).....	67
Statistical analysis.....	68
Statistical model	68
Statistically significant effects	68
Stewardship Theory	68
Stratified sampling.....	68
Strengths-Based Approach.....	68
Structural Soundness	69
Subjective data.....	69
Summative evaluation	69
Summative Metaevaluation	69
Surveys	69
Sustainability	69
Systematic Observation	70
Systems/Networking Considerations	70
Technical practice	70
Testing bias	70
The Keys to Success	71
Thematic Analysis.....	71
Theory of Change.....	71
Theory-Driven Evaluation	71
Timely and Appropriate Communicating and Reporting	71
Tokenism	71

Trade-offs	72
Transition Planning	72
Transparency	72
Transparency and Disclosure	72
Trauma-Informed Care.....	72
Treatment group	73
Triangulation	73
Trustworthiness.....	73
Two-Eyed Seeing.....	73
Under-Developed ToCs	73
Usability.....	73
Utility	74
Utility Standards (U)	74
Utilization-Focused Evaluation	74
Valid Information	74
Validity.....	74
Validity and Reliability	74
Valuation	75
Vocational Education.....	75
Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)	75
Youth Advisory Council	75
Youth At Risk Program Evaluation Tool (YARPET)	75
Youth Involvement.....	76
Youth-Friendly Program.....	76

Accountability

Definition: The responsibility of program managers and staff to provide evidence to stakeholders and funding agencies that a program is effective and in conformance with its coverage, service, legal, and fiscal requirements.

Source

Accuracy

Definition: The extent to which an evaluation is truthful or valid in what it says about a program, project, or material.

Source

Accuracy Standards (A)

Definition: The accuracy standards are intended to increase the dependability and truthfulness of evaluation representations, propositions and findings, especially those that support interpretations and judgments about quality.

Source

Action Research

Definition: A participatory research method where practitioners systematically investigate their own practice to improve it.

Interpretation: Empowers educators to apply research directly to their work, fostering continuous improvement and professional growth.

Source

Active Stakeholder Engagement

Definition: The active involvement of stakeholders in various stages of the evaluation, from planning to data collection to reporting.

Interpretation: Promotes greater buy-in, relevance, and utility of the evaluation findings.

Source

Activities

Definition: The actual events or actions that take place as a part of the program.

Source

Adolescent Empowerment

Definition: The process of enabling adolescents to take control of their lives and make informed decisions about their future.

Interpretation: Encourages independence and self-confidence, preparing youth for adult responsibilities.

Source

Advocacy Strategy

Definition: Actions aimed at influencing public policy, resource allocation decisions, and social attitudes to promote a particular cause or proposal.

Interpretation: Utilizes strategic actions to bring about systemic change and support program goals.

Source

Agency Theory

Definition: A theory that examines the relationship between principals (funders) and agents (nonprofits), focusing on issues of trust and information asymmetry.

Interpretation: Highlights the need for monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure agents act in the best interest of principals.

Source

Alumni Mentoring

Definition: A formal mentoring program that connects current students with alumni to provide career guidance, life skills, and professional development.

Interpretation: Leverages the experience of alumni to support student growth and foster a strong school-community connection.

Source

Approach

Definition: The method or strategy used to address a specific task or problem.

Interpretation: Selecting the right approach ensures that the evaluation or program activities are carried out effectively and efficiently.

Source

Assumptions

Definition: Underlying beliefs or premises about how a program will work, which guide its design and implementation.

Interpretation: Making assumptions explicit helps to identify potential risks and ensure the program design is robust and realistic.

Source

At-Risk Assumptions

Definition: Assumptions that are less likely to be realized and represent potential gaps or serious threats to the intervention's success.

Interpretation: Highlighting and addressing these assumptions can strengthen the intervention design and enhance its feasibility.

Source

Attention to Stakeholders

Definition: Evaluations should devote attention to the full range of individuals and groups invested in the program and affected by its evaluation.

Source

Attribution

Definition: The estimation of the extent to which any results observed are caused by a program, meaning that the program has produced incremental effects.

Source

Audience

Definition: The intended group of people who will read, use, or benefit from the program or evaluation findings.

Interpretation: Knowing the audience helps tailor the evaluation to meet their needs and ensures the findings are relevant and useful.

Source

Audit and Accountability

Definition: An evaluation approach focused on ensuring that programs meet specified standards and comply with regulations, often through systematic and independent examinations.

Interpretation: Provides assurance that a program is being managed properly and is achieving its intended outcomes.

Autonomous Motivation

Definition: Motivation that comes from within an individual, driven by personal interest and values rather than external pressures.

Interpretation: More sustainable and effective for long-term behavior change as it aligns with personal goals and values.

Source

Awareness

Definition: The level of knowledge and understanding that participants or the general public have about a program or its components.

Interpretation: Crucial for ensuring engagement and participation, as well-informed individuals are more likely to get involved.

Barriers

Definition: Challenges or obstacles that hinder the implementation and success of a program.

Interpretation: Recognizing barriers allows for the development of strategies to overcome them and improve program effectiveness.

Source

Behavioral Engagement

Definition: The extent to which students participate in academic and extracurricular activities, often reflected in attendance, participation, and effort.

Interpretation: Indicates the level of active involvement and commitment of students, which is crucial for their overall success and development.

Source

Benchmarking

Definition: Comparing an organization's practices and performance metrics to industry bests and best practices from other organizations.

Interpretation: Helps identify areas for improvement by learning from others' successes.

Source

Benefits

Definition: The positive outcomes or advantages gained by participants as a result of their involvement in a program.

Interpretation: Highlights the value and impact of the program on its participants.

Breadth

Definition: The scope of the measurement's coverage.

Source

Case Management

Definition: A collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, and advocacy to meet an individual's comprehensive health needs.

Interpretation: Coordinates care and resources to support individuals in managing their health and social needs.

Source

Case study

Definition: A data collection method that involves in-depth studies of specific cases or projects within a program. The method itself is made up of one or more data collection methods (such as interviews and file review).

Source

Causal inference

Definition: The logical process used to draw conclusions from evidence concerning what has been produced or "caused" by a program. To say that a program produced or caused a certain result means that, if the program had not been there (or if it had been there in a different form or degree), then the observed result (or level of result) would not have occurred.

Source

Causal Link Assumptions

Definition: Salient events or conditions necessary for a particular causal link in a ToC to be realized, often representing potential risks if not met.

Interpretation: Identifying these assumptions helps in understanding and mitigating risks, ensuring the causal pathway is robust.

Source

Causal Pathways

Definition: The sequence of events or mechanisms through which an intervention is expected to produce its outcomes.

Interpretation: Helps to map out the logical steps and intermediary outcomes that lead to the desired change, clarifying how and why the intervention works.

Source

Census

Definition: The complete population of intervention recipients.

Source

CES (Canadian Evaluation Society)

Definition: A professional association that promotes the theory, practice, and use of evaluation in Canada.

Interpretation: Provides resources, standards, and certification for evaluators to enhance their professional skills and credibility.

Source

Civic Engagement

Definition: Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern.

Interpretation: Promotes active participation in the community and encourages individuals to contribute to the public good.

Source

Clarity and Fairness

Definition: Evaluations should be understandable and fair in addressing stakeholder needs and purposes.

Source

Client Demographics

Definition: Statistical data relating to the characteristics of the program's clients, such as age, gender, and ethnicity.

Interpretation: Provides insight into the population served by the program, informing targeted interventions and services.

Source

Client-Evaluator Relationship

Definition: The dynamic between the evaluator and the commissioning party, which can influence the evaluation process and outcomes.

Interpretation: A balanced relationship can enhance cooperation and ensure that evaluations meet the needs of all stakeholders.

Source

Client-Identified Needs

Definition: Specific needs and preferences expressed by clients regarding the services and supports they receive.

Interpretation: Ensures that programs are responsive and tailored to the actual needs of those they serve.

Source

Cohort Model

Definition: An educational approach where a group of students progresses through a program together, fostering a sense of community and support.

Interpretation: Encourages peer support and collaboration, enhancing the overall learning experience and retention rates.

Source

Collaboration

Definition: The process of working together with various stakeholders to achieve common goals.

Interpretation: Fosters shared understanding, resource pooling, and collective problem-solving, enhancing program effectiveness and sustainability.

Source

Collaborative Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that systematically invites and engages stakeholders in program evaluation planning and implementation.

Interpretation: Promotes stronger evaluation designs, enhanced data collection, and results that stakeholders understand and use.

Source

Collaborative Framework

Definition: A structured approach to evaluation that involves multiple stakeholders working together to design, implement, and interpret the evaluation.

Interpretation: Enhances the relevance and utility of the evaluation by incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise.

Source

Communication and Reporting

Definition: Evaluation communications should have adequate scope and guard against misconceptions, biases, distortions and errors.

Source

Community Conversations

Definition: Dialogues held within communities to discuss issues, share experiences, and generate collective solutions.

Interpretation: Facilitates open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving, fostering community ownership and engagement.

Source

Community Engagement

Definition: The process of involving community members in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs that affect them.

Interpretation: Enhances program relevance, acceptance, and sustainability by incorporating local knowledge and preferences.

Source

Community Service

Definition: Volunteer work intended to help people in a particular area.

Interpretation: Fosters a sense of responsibility and connection to the community, promoting personal and social development.

Source

Community-Driven Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that actively involves community members in all stages of the evaluation process, from planning to implementation to dissemination.

Interpretation: Empowers the community and ensures that the evaluation addresses their specific needs and priorities.

Source

Comparison group

Definition: A group not exposed to a program or treatment. Also referred to as a control group.

Source

Comprehensive Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation that incorporates elements of process, outcome, formative, and summative evaluations to provide a holistic assessment of a program.

Interpretation: Offers a complete picture of a program's design, implementation, and outcomes, ensuring thorough evaluation.

Comprehensive Healthcare

Definition: Integrated health services that address multiple aspects of health, including physical, mental, and social well-being.

Interpretation: Provides holistic support to individuals, addressing a wide range of health needs.

Source

Comprehensiveness

Definition: Full breadth and depth of coverage on the evaluation issues of interest.

Source

Conceptual Vagueness

Definition: A concern where the lack of clear definitions and boundaries within a theory of change can lead to misunderstandings and implementation issues.

Interpretation: Highlights the need for clear and precise articulation of concepts to ensure effective communication and application of the theory.

Source

Concern for Consequences and Influence

Definition: Evaluations should promote responsible and adaptive use while guarding against unintended negative consequences and misuse.

Source

Conclusion validity

Definition: The ability to generalize the conclusions about an existing program to other places, times, or situations. Both internal and external validity issues must be addressed if such conclusions are to be reached.

Source

Confidence level

Definition: A statement that the true value of a parameter for a population lays within a specified range of values with a certain level of probability.

Source

Confirming Actions

Definition: Actions taken early on to give assurances that at-risk assumptions are likely to be realized, strengthening the intervention design.

Interpretation: Proactively addressing potential risks to enhance the feasibility and success of the intervention.

Source

Conflict of Interest

Definition: Situations where personal or financial interests may compromise an evaluator's objectivity.

Interpretation: Identifying and managing conflicts is crucial to maintaining trust and credibility in evaluation results.

Source

Conflicts of Interests

Definition: Evaluations should openly and honestly identify and address real or perceived conflicts of interests that may compromise the evaluation.

Source

Context and Complexity

Definition: The need to consider the specific contexts and the complex, dynamic nature of the systems in which programs operate.

Interpretation: Incorporating these factors helps in creating more realistic and adaptable theories of change.

Source

Context-Based Relationships

Definition: Interactions and relationships that are influenced by the specific context in which they occur, including cultural, social, and institutional factors.

Interpretation: Understanding these relationships helps evaluators interpret findings within the appropriate context and enhances the relevance of the evaluation.

Source

Context-Mechanism-Outcome (CMO) Configuration

Definition: A framework used in realist evaluation to understand the relationships between the context in which a program is implemented, the mechanisms through which it operates, and the outcomes it generates.

Interpretation: Helps in identifying how different contexts influence program mechanisms and outcomes, providing a nuanced understanding of program effectiveness.

Source

Contextual Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that takes into account the specific cultural, social, and economic context in which the program operates.

Interpretation: Provides a more accurate and relevant assessment of program effectiveness by considering the unique characteristics of the community.

Source

Contextual Factors

Definition: External elements that can influence the implementation and outcomes of a program, such as political, economic, and social conditions.

Interpretation: Recognizing and addressing these factors helps to adapt the program to its environment and enhance its effectiveness.

Source

Contextual Viability

Definition: Evaluations should recognize, monitor and balance the cultural and political interests and needs of individuals and groups.

Source

Continuous Quality Improvement

Definition: The systematic process of improving programs and services through an ongoing cycle of planning for an intervention, implementing the intervention, evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the intervention, and acting to make improvements based on the evaluation findings.

Source

Control group

Definition: In quasi-experimental designs, a group of subjects who receive all influences except the program in exactly the same fashion as the treatment group (the latter called, in some circumstances, the experimental or program group). Also referred to as a non-program group.

Source

Corrective Actions

Definition: Actions taken to mitigate at-risk assumptions that may threaten the success of the intervention.

Interpretation: Ensures that potential threats are managed and the intervention remains on track to achieve its goals.

Source

Cost-benefit analysis

Definition: An analysis that combines the benefits of a program with the costs of the program. The benefits and costs are transformed into monetary terms.

Source

Cost-effectiveness analysis

Definition: An analysis that combines program costs and effects (impacts). However, the impacts do not have to be transformed into monetary benefits or costs.

Source

Credentialed Evaluator (CE)

Definition: A professional classification issued by the Canadian Evaluation Society to applicants who demonstrate specified competencies.

Interpretation: A certification that signifies expertise and professionalism in evaluation.

Source

Credentialing

Definition: The process of certifying evaluators based on established competencies and standards.

Interpretation: Recognizes and validates the expertise and qualifications of professional evaluators.

Source

Critical Friend

Definition: An evaluator role in EE where the evaluator supports and challenges stakeholders, providing guidance and facilitating self-assessment.

Interpretation: Balances support with constructive feedback, promoting learning and improvement among stakeholders.

Source

Critical Thinking

Definition: The objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment.

Interpretation: Enhances problem-solving skills and the ability to make informed decisions based on evidence and reasoning.

Source

Cross-sectional data

Definition: Data collected at one point in time from various entities.

Source

Cross-sectional designs

Definition: A type of evaluation design that involves the collection and analysis of data at only one specific point in time.

Source

Cultural Responsiveness

Definition: The practice of being aware of and addressing cultural differences and contexts in the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Ensures that evaluations are respectful of and relevant to the cultural contexts of the stakeholders involved.

Source

Culturally Responsive Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that is respectful of and relevant to the cultural context and values of the community being evaluated.

Interpretation: Ensures that the evaluation process and findings are meaningful and acceptable to the community, enhancing the utility and impact of the evaluation.

Source

Data

Definition: Information collected for analysis to help make decisions or understand a situation better.

Interpretation: Accurate and relevant data are crucial for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of a program.

Source

Data Analysis

Definition: Process of systematically applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and evaluate data.

Interpretation: Interpreting data accurately to draw meaningful conclusions.

Source

Data collection method

Definition: The way facts about a program and its outcomes are amassed. Data collection methods often used in program evaluations include literature search, file review, natural observations, surveys, expert opinion, and case studies.

Source

Data Collection System

Definition: An integrated framework for gathering both quantitative and qualitative data to assess a program's impact and effectiveness.

Interpretation: Ensures comprehensive data gathering to inform evaluation findings and recommendations.

Source

Data Sources

Definition: The origins from which data are obtained for an evaluation, such as surveys, administrative records, or observation.

Interpretation: Identifying appropriate data sources ensures the collection of relevant and accurate information for the evaluation.

Data Validity

Definition: The degree to which data accurately represents the phenomenon being studied.

Interpretation: Critical for ensuring that evaluation findings are sound and can be relied upon for decision-making.

Source

Deadweight

Definition: The portion of outcomes that would have occurred even without the program's intervention.

Interpretation: Helps in accurately attributing the social value created specifically by the program.

Source

Decolonial Approach

Definition: A methodology that seeks to deconstruct colonial ideologies in research and practice, emphasizing indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Interpretation: Prioritizes local knowledge and practices, challenging dominant Western frameworks and promoting equity in research.

Source

Decreased Overdose Risks

Definition: A reduction in the likelihood of experiencing an overdose, achieved through safer drug supply and supportive services.

Interpretation: Indicates the program's success in improving safety and reducing harm for clients.

Source

Degree of Stakeholder Engagement

Definition: The level to which stakeholders are involved in the evaluation process, ranging from no involvement to complete collaboration.

Interpretation: Determining the appropriate level of engagement helps tailor the evaluation process to meet the needs and expectations of stakeholders.

Depth

Definition: A measurement's degree of accuracy and detail.

Source

Descriptive statistical analysis

Definition: Numbers and tabulations used to summarize and present quantitative information concisely.

Source

Descriptive Statistics

Definition: Statistical methods used to describe and summarize data, such as mean, median, and mode.

Interpretation: Helps in understanding the basic features of the data and provides simple summaries about the sample.

Diffusion or imitation of treatment

Definition: Respondents in one group get the effect intended for the treatment (program) group. This is a threat to internal validity.

Source

Direct analytic methods

Definition: Methods used to process data to provide evidence on the direct impacts or outcomes of a program.

Source

Direct Giving Model

Definition: A model of student philanthropy where funds are provided directly to a set number of classes each term, and students in the class decide which nonprofit organization to invest the funds in.

Interpretation: Provides students with hands-on experience in philanthropy and decision-making, fostering practical skills and community impact.

Source

Drop-Off

Definition: The decline in outcomes over time after the program ends.

Interpretation: Assesses the sustainability of the program's impact and informs long-term planning.

Source

Early Career Mentoring

Definition: Mentoring programs aimed at supporting individuals who are in the early stages of their professional careers.

Interpretation: Helps new professionals navigate their career paths, offering guidance and support during a critical transition period.

Source

Economic Evaluation

Definition: Evaluation that focuses on the financial aspects of a program, including cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis.

Interpretation: Assesses the economic efficiency of a program, ensuring that resources are used effectively.

Empirical Investigation

Definition: The process of systematically collecting and analyzing data to test hypotheses and validate theories.

Interpretation: Ensures that program theories are grounded in observable evidence and can be refined based on empirical findings.

Source

Empowerment Approach

Definition: An approach that aims to increase the capacity of program stakeholders to plan, implement, and evaluate their own programs.

Interpretation: Builds skills and confidence within the community, fostering long-term sustainability and self-reliance.

Empowerment Evaluation (EE)

Definition: A collaborative evaluation approach involving program stakeholders in evaluation activities to enhance their ability to conduct evaluations and improve their programs.

Interpretation: Empowers stakeholders, including youth, by building their evaluation capacity and promoting continuous self-assessment and improvement.

Source

Equity-Focused Evaluation

Definition: An approach that prioritizes fairness and justice, ensuring that the evaluation process and outcomes promote equity and address disparities.

Interpretation: Helps to identify and mitigate systemic inequalities, ensuring that all groups benefit from the program or intervention.

Source

Ethical Compliance

Definition: Adherence to ethical guidelines and principles throughout the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Ensures that the evaluation respects the rights and dignity of all participants and stakeholders.

Source

Ethical Guidelines

Definition: Principles that govern the conduct of evaluators to ensure integrity, accountability, and respect for all participants.

Interpretation: Provides a moral framework to guide evaluators in maintaining professional standards.

Source

Ethical Partnerships

Definition: Collaborations between evaluators and communities that are based on mutual respect, trust, and shared values.

Interpretation: Ensures that the evaluation process is conducted in a way that respects the rights and dignity of all participants.

Source

Ethical Review

Definition: The process of evaluating the ethical implications of a research or evaluation activity to ensure it is conducted in accordance with ethical standards.

Interpretation: Protects the rights and well-being of participants, ensuring that evaluations are conducted responsibly and ethically.

Source

Ethics in Evaluation

Definition: Adhering to ethical principles and standards throughout the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Ensuring evaluations are conducted with integrity and respect for all participants.

Source

Evaluability

Definition: The extent to which a ToC can be evaluated, considering if the results and assumptions are measurable and if the intervention design is plausible.

Interpretation: A critical aspect for ensuring the ToC can be effectively used to guide evaluation efforts and inform decision-making.

Source

Evaluability Assessment

Definition: A process to determine whether a program is ready for evaluation, ensuring that the program is clearly defined and feasible for systematic assessment.

Interpretation: Ensures that the program is sufficiently developed and articulated to allow for meaningful evaluation.

Source

Evaluation Accountability (E)

Definition: The evaluation accountability standards encourage adequate documentation of evaluations and a metaevaluative perspective focused on improvement and accountability for evaluation processes and products.

Source

Evaluation Approach

Definition: The overall strategy and methodology used to conduct an evaluation, including the selection of evaluation types, designs, and data collection methods.

Interpretation: Choosing the right approach ensures that the evaluation is conducted systematically and produces credible, useful results.

Evaluation capacity

Definition: An individual's or organization's ability to understand evaluation concepts, meaningfully engage in evaluation, and use the evaluation findings to improve services provided.

Source

Evaluation Capacity Building (ECB)

Definition: A process by which strategies are designed and implemented to assist individuals, groups, and organizations in conducting effective, useful, and professional evaluation practices.

Interpretation: Enhancing the ability of stakeholders to perform and utilize evaluations effectively, ensuring continuous improvement and sustainability.

Source

Evaluation Competencies

Definition: Specific knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes needed to succeed in the evaluation profession.

Interpretation: Essential skills and knowledge required for effective evaluation practice, ensuring evaluations are credible and useful.

Source

Evaluation Context

Definition: The specific conditions under which an evaluation is conducted, including program size and type, evaluation purpose, budget and timeframes, and stakeholder involvement.

Interpretation: Influences the objectives and methods of the evaluation, ensuring it is tailored to the specific needs and constraints of the program.

Source

Evaluation Decision-Making

Definition: The process by which decisions are made about the focus, design, and implementation of an evaluation.

Interpretation: In collaborative and participatory evaluations, decision-making is often shared or negotiated with stakeholders.

Source

Evaluation design

Definition: The logical model or conceptual framework used to arrive at conclusions about outcomes.

Source

Evaluation Documentation

Definition: Evaluations should fully document their negotiated purposes and implemented designs, procedures, data and outcomes.

Source

Evaluation Ethics

Definition: Principles and standards that guide the conduct of evaluations to ensure they are conducted fairly, respectfully, and with integrity.

Interpretation: Ethical evaluations respect participants' rights and aim to do no harm while providing valuable insights.

Source

Evaluation Framework

Definition: A structured approach to evaluation that includes the purpose, key questions, and methods.

Interpretation: Provides a clear and organized plan for conducting an effective evaluation.

Source

Evaluation Impact

Definition: The effect that evaluation activities have on a program, including changes in practice, policy, or understanding as a result of evaluation findings.

Interpretation: Demonstrates the value and influence of evaluation on program outcomes and stakeholder decisions.

Source

Evaluation Implementation

Definition: The process of carrying out the evaluation plan, including data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Interpretation: Involves systematically executing the evaluation plan to gather and analyze data, leading to actionable insights.

Source

Evaluation Issues

Definition: Challenges and problems that arise during the evaluation process, potentially affecting the validity, reliability, and usefulness of the evaluation findings.

Interpretation: Identifying and addressing these issues is crucial to ensure credible and impactful evaluations.

Source

Evaluation Matrix

Definition: A tool used in evaluation to organize and define the evaluation questions, indicators, data sources, and data collection methods.

Interpretation: Provides a clear structure for planning and conducting evaluations systematically.

Source

Evaluation Methods

Definition: Techniques and approaches used to collect and analyze data for evaluating the program, such as surveys and interviews.

Interpretation: Ensures that the evaluation is systematic and produces reliable and valid findings.

Source

Evaluation plan

Definition: A written document describing the overall approach or design that will be used to guide an evaluation. It includes what will be done, how it will be done, who will do it, when it will be done, why the evaluation is being conducted, and how the findings will likely be used.

Source

Evaluation Planning Committee

Definition: A group of stakeholders who are involved in planning the evaluation, including setting objectives, selecting methods, and determining how findings will be used.

Interpretation: Engages diverse stakeholders in the planning phase to ensure the evaluation addresses relevant questions and uses appropriate methods.

Evaluation Questions

Definition: Specific questions that guide the focus and scope of an evaluation, aiming to uncover information about the program's processes, outcomes, or impacts.

Interpretation: Well-crafted evaluation questions help in gathering relevant data and drawing meaningful conclusions.

Source

Evaluation Readiness

Definition: The preparedness of stakeholders to engage in evaluation activities, encompassing both willingness and capacity.

Interpretation: Readiness ensures that stakeholders are equipped and motivated to participate in evaluations, enhancing the quality and utility of the findings.

Source

Evaluation Reporting

Definition: The process of compiling and presenting evaluation findings to stakeholders.

Interpretation: Communicating results clearly and effectively to inform decision-making.

Source

Evaluation Reports

Definition: Documents that present the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of an evaluation study.

Interpretation: Effective reporting communicates evaluation results clearly and supports informed decision-making.

Source

Evaluation Services

Definition: Professional services provided to support the design, implementation, and analysis of evaluations.

Interpretation: Ensures that evaluations are conducted systematically and produce credible and useful findings.

Evaluation stakeholder

Definition: Individuals or organizations that are interested or invested in the program and the findings from the evaluation. Stakeholders typically include those involved in implementing the program, those served by the program, and intended users of the evaluation findings.

Source

Evaluation Standards

Definition: Criteria such as utility, feasibility, propriety, and accuracy used to guide the evaluation process and ensure high-quality evaluations.

Interpretation: Provides a framework to ensure evaluations are useful, ethical, practical, and produce reliable results.

Source

Evaluation strategy

Definition: The method used to gather evidence about one or more outcomes of a program. An evaluation strategy is made up of an evaluation design, a data collection method, and an analysis technique.

Source

Evaluation Transparency

Definition: The openness and clarity with which evaluation processes, methods, and findings are communicated to stakeholders.

Interpretation: Promotes accountability and trust by ensuring stakeholders are fully informed about the evaluation.

Source

Evaluation Use

Definition: The ways in which evaluation findings are applied to make decisions, improve programs, and demonstrate accountability.

Interpretation: Effective use of evaluation results can enhance program effectiveness, inform strategic planning, and strengthen stakeholder relationships.

Source

Evaluative SROI

Definition: An approach to SROI that assesses program outcomes retrospectively, using collected data to evaluate the social value created.

Interpretation: Provides insights into the actual impact of a program after its implementation, helping to validate and improve future programs.

Source

Evaluator Competencies

Definition: Specific knowledge, skills, abilities, and attributes needed to succeed in the evaluation profession.

Interpretation: Core skills and knowledge required for effective evaluation practice.

Source

Evaluator Credibility

Definition: Evaluations should be conducted by qualified people who establish and maintain credibility in the evaluation context.

Source

Ex ante cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis

Definition: A cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis that does not estimate the actual benefits and costs of a program but that uses hypothesized before-the-fact costs and benefits. This type of analysis is used for planning purposes rather than for evaluation.

Source

Ex Ante Perspective

Definition: Analyzing a ToC before the intervention is implemented to ensure it is robust and the design is plausible.

Interpretation: Proactive analysis to identify and address potential issues early, improving the likelihood of success.

Source

Ex post cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis

Definition: A cost-benefit or cost-effectiveness analysis that takes place after a program has been in operation for some time and that is used to assess actual costs and actual benefits.

Source

Ex Post Perspective

Definition: Analyzing a ToC after the intervention has been implemented to understand its effectiveness and learn from its implementation.

Interpretation: Provides insights into what worked, what didn't, and why, informing future interventions and evaluations.

Source

Executive summary

Definition: A nontechnical summary statement designed to provide a quick overview of the full-length report on which it is based.

Source

Experiential Learning

Definition: A learning process through which students develop knowledge, skills, and values from direct experiences outside a traditional academic setting.

Interpretation: Facilitates deep learning by engaging students in real-world activities and reflective practice.

Source

Experimental designs

Definition: A type of evaluation design used to ensure equivalence of treatment and control groups to allow the evaluator to assess impact or effect. Potential participants are randomly assigned to either the treatment (group receiving services) or the control group

(group not exposed to the program or treatment) to enhance the likelihood that groups are equivalent at baseline and comparisons can be made post-intervention, attributing differences between treatment and control groups to the intervention itself.

Source

Expert opinion

Definition: A data collection method that involves using the perceptions and knowledge of experts in functional areas as indicators of program outcome.

Source

Explicit Evaluation Reasoning

Definition: Evaluation reasoning leading from information and analyses to findings, interpretations, conclusions and judgments should be clearly and completely documented.

Source

Explicit Program and Context Descriptions

Definition: Evaluations should document programs and their contexts with appropriate detail and scope for the evaluation purposes.

Source

Explicit Values

Definition: Evaluations should clarify and specify the individual and cultural values underpinning purposes, processes and judgments.

Source

External Factors

Definition: Elements outside the control of the program that can influence its implementation and outcomes, such as economic conditions, political climate, and social trends.

Interpretation: Considering these factors is essential for a realistic and comprehensive evaluation.

External Metaevaluation

Definition: Program evaluation sponsors, clients, evaluators and other stakeholders should encourage the conduct of external metaevaluations using these and other applicable standards.

Source

External validity

Definition: The ability to generalize conclusions about a program to future or different conditions. Threats to external validity include selection and program interaction, setting and program interaction, and history and program interaction.

Source

Facilitators

Definition: Factors that support or enable the successful implementation and outcomes of a program.

Interpretation: Identifying facilitators helps to replicate and scale successful elements of a program.

Source

Feasibility Assessment

Definition: An evaluation conducted to determine whether a program can be implemented successfully with the available resources.

Interpretation: Helps prevent the investment of resources in impractical or ineffective programs.

Source

Feasibility Standards(F)

Definition: The feasibility standards are intended to increase evaluation effectiveness and efficiency.

Source

Feedback Mechanisms

Definition: Processes for providing stakeholders with information about the evaluation findings and soliciting their input.

Interpretation: Ensures that stakeholders are kept informed and can provide feedback, enhancing the relevance and utilization of the evaluation.

Source

Feminist Perspectives

Definition: Approaches that seek to understand and address the ways in which gender inequalities and power imbalances affect individuals and societies.

Interpretation: Provides critical insights into the structural and societal factors that perpetuate gender-based violence and discrimination.

Source

File review

Definition: A data collection method involving a review of program files. There are usually two types of program files: general program files and files on individual projects, clients, or participants.

Source

Fiscal Responsibility

Definition: Evaluations should account for all expended resources and comply with sound fiscal procedures and processes.

Source

Flexible Engagement Approach

Definition: An adaptable strategy for involving stakeholders that can change based on their needs, interests, and the evolving context of the evaluation.

Interpretation: Ensures that stakeholder involvement remains relevant and responsive throughout the evaluation process.

Focus group

Definition: A group of people selected for their relevance to an evaluation that is engaged by a trained facilitator in a series of discussions designed for sharing insights, ideas, and observations on a topic of concern.

Source

Food Rules Assessment

Definition: An evaluative measure used to assess participants' understanding and application of specific dietary guidelines or rules.

Interpretation: Helps in determining how well participants comprehend and are able to implement key dietary principles taught in the program.

Source

Forecast SROI

Definition: An approach to SROI that predicts the potential social value that could be created if a program achieves its intended outcomes.

Interpretation: Useful for planning and designing programs, allowing stakeholders to anticipate and optimize social value creation.

Source

Formal Agreements

Definition: Evaluation agreements should be negotiated to make obligations explicit and take into account the needs, expectations and cultural contexts of clients and other stakeholders.

Source

Formal Mentoring

Definition: Structured mentoring programs organized by institutions to systematically match mentors and mentees based on specific criteria.

Interpretation: Provides an organized approach to mentoring, ensuring all participants have access to mentoring relationships.

Source

Formative evaluation

Definition: A type of evaluation in which the educator explores the operations or process of a financial education intervention implementation, also referred to as process evaluation. As opposed to exploring outcomes in a summative evaluation, formative evaluation is conducted to help educators decide whether the program is meeting needs of program recipients, whether the activities implemented are of high quality, and whether any improvements are required.

Source

Formative Metaevaluation

Definition: A metaevaluation conducted during the evaluation process to provide ongoing feedback and improve the evaluation as it progresses.

Interpretation: Supports continuous improvement and real-time adjustments to enhance the quality of the evaluation.

Source

Framework

Definition: A structured plan or set of guidelines that outlines the processes and methods used in a program or evaluation.

Interpretation: Provides a systematic approach to organizing and conducting evaluations or program activities.

Source

Goal Setting

Definition: The process of defining specific, measurable, and time-bound objectives that guide individuals' actions and efforts.

Interpretation: Encourages motivation and provides direction, helping individuals to achieve desired outcomes through structured planning.

Source

Graduate Employability

Definition: The set of skills, knowledge, and attributes that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations.

Interpretation: Focuses on preparing students for the workforce, ensuring they have the competencies required by employers.

Source

Group Concept Mapping

Definition: A participatory method where participants collaboratively brainstorm, sort, and rate ideas to identify key themes and priorities.

Interpretation: Facilitates collective understanding and prioritization, ensuring diverse perspectives are integrated into the evaluation.

Source

Harm Reduction

Definition: Strategies and interventions aimed at reducing the negative consequences of drug use, without necessarily requiring cessation.

Interpretation: Focuses on minimizing harm and promoting health and safety among people who use drugs.

Source

History

Definition: Events outside the program that affect the responses of those involved in the program.

Source

History and program interaction

Definition: The conditions under which the program took place are not representative of future conditions. This is a threat to external validity.

Source

Human Rights and Respect

Definition: Evaluations should be designed and conducted to protect human and legal rights and maintain the dignity of participants and other stakeholders.

Source

Human Subjects Agreements

Definition: Formal agreements that outline the ethical considerations and protections for participants in a research or evaluation study.

Interpretation: Ensures that participants' rights and confidentiality are respected and maintained throughout the evaluation process.

Source

Ideal evaluation design

Definition: The conceptual comparison of two or more situations that are identical except that in one case the program is operational. Only one group (the treatment group) receives the program; the other groups (the control groups) are subject to all pertinent influences except for the operation of the program, in exactly the same fashion as the treatment group. Outcomes are measured in exactly the same way for both groups and any differences can be attributed to the program.

Source

Impact Assessment

Definition: Evaluation that measures the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention, such as a project, program, or policy.

Interpretation: Focuses on understanding the broader, long-term effects of a program.

Source

Impact Evaluation

Definition: Assessment of the changes that can be attributed to a particular intervention, such as a project, program, or policy.

Interpretation: Focuses on the long-term effects and overall changes brought about by a program.

Source

Impact Map

Definition: A tool used in SROI to visualize the causal pathways from inputs and activities to outputs, outcomes, and impacts.

Interpretation: Helps stakeholders understand the logical flow of how program activities lead to desired social outcomes.

Source

Impact Pathway

Definition: The sequence of processes and events that lead to the intended outcomes of a program, showing the causal linkages from activities to impacts.

Interpretation: Clarifies the logical flow from program activities to long-term goals, aiding in the identification of key points for intervention and measurement.

Source

Implementation Evaluation

Definition: An assessment of how well a program is being carried out, focusing on the fidelity of implementation to the original design.

Interpretation: Ensures that the program is being delivered as intended, identifying any deviations or issues in execution.

Source

Implicit design

Definition: A design with no formal control group and where measurement is made after exposure to the program.

Source

Indicator

Definition: A specific, observable, and measurable characteristic or change that shows the progress a program is making toward achieving a specified outcome.

Source

Indigenous Evaluation

Definition: An approach to evaluation that is grounded in the cultural context, values, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples.

Interpretation: Ensures that evaluations are culturally appropriate and respectful, providing relevant and meaningful insights for Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Frameworks

Definition: Conceptual models and methodologies that originate from and are grounded in indigenous knowledge systems and worldviews.

Interpretation: Ensures that research and interventions are culturally appropriate and resonate with the values and practices of the community.

Source

Indirect Giving Model

Definition: A model of student philanthropy where students evaluate grant proposals submitted by nonprofits and make recommendations to an outside funding organization, which makes the final funding decisions.

Interpretation: Engages students in the grant evaluation process, enhancing their understanding of nonprofit operations and funding mechanisms.

Source

Inferential statistical analysis

Definition: Statistical analysis using models to confirm relationships among variables of interest or to generalize findings to an overall population.

Source

Inferential Statistics

Definition: A type of statistics that are used to make statements about a population based on a sample of participants and/or to make judgments about whether statistical findings are due to chance or actual differences between groups.

Source

Informal conversational interview

Definition: An interviewing technique that relies on the natural flow of a conversation to generate spontaneous questions, often as part of an ongoing observation of the activities of a program.

Source

Information Management

Definition: Evaluations should employ systematic information collection, review, verification and storage methods.

Source

Initial Working Theories (IWTs)

Definition: Preliminary hypotheses about how, why, and in what circumstances a program will produce its intended outcomes.

Interpretation: Guides the initial stages of evaluation, providing a basis for data collection and analysis to refine and validate program theories.

Source

Inputs

Definition: Resources that go into a program in order to mount the activities successfully.

Source

Institutional review board (IRB)

Definition: A committee appointed by the university administration composed of community and legal experts as well as scientists across departments that evaluates, approves, and monitors all research projects in that institution with respect to ethical requirements and practices (less formally known as the “human participants committee”). No research involving human participation can be performed prior to IRB approval.

Source

Institutional Theory

Definition: A theory that explains how organizations conform to external pressures and norms to gain legitimacy and support.

Interpretation: Nonprofits conduct evaluations to align with industry standards and meet funder requirements, often adopting practices for symbolic reasons.

Source

Instrumentation

Definition: The effect of changing measuring instruments from one measurement to another, as when different interviewers are used. This is a threat to internal validity.

Source

Integrated System for Data Collection

Definition: A coordinated approach to collecting both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive understanding of program impacts.

Interpretation: Facilitates the continuous monitoring and evaluation of a program's performance and outcomes.

Interaction effect

Definition: The joint net effect of two (or more) variables affecting the outcome of a quasi-experiment.

Source

Internal Metaevaluation

Definition: Evaluators should use these and other applicable standards to examine the accountability of the evaluation design, procedures employed, information collected and outcomes.

Source

Internal validity

Definition: The ability to assert that a program has caused measured results (to a certain degree), in the face of plausible potential alternative explanations. The most common threats to internal validity are history, maturation, mortality, selection bias, regression artifacts, diffusion, and imitation of treatment and testing.

Source

Interpersonal practice

Definition: Interpersonal practice competencies focus on the social and personal skills required to communicate and interact effectively with all stakeholders. Uses communication strategies appropriate to the cultural, linguistic, social and political context. Demonstrates effective and appropriate written and visual communication skills. Demonstrates effective, appropriate and respectful verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Uses a variety of processes that result in mutually negotiated agreements, shared understandings and consensus building. Builds partnerships within the evaluation context.

Source

Intervention Group

Definition: The group of participants that receives the intervention being studied.

Interpretation: Provides data on the effectiveness of the intervention compared to the control group.

Source

Interview guide

Definition: A list of issues or questions to be raised in the course of an interview.

Source

Interviewer bias

Definition: The influence of the interviewer on the interviewee. This may result from several factors, including the physical and psychological characteristics of the interviewer, which may affect the interviewees and cause differential responses among them.

Source

Justified Conclusions and Decisions

Definition: Evaluation conclusions and decisions should be explicitly justified in the cultures and contexts where they have consequences.

Source

Key Outcomes

Definition: The main results or impacts achieved by the program, such as increased access to healthcare or decreased involvement in criminalized activities.

Interpretation: Indicates the program's effectiveness in achieving its goals and delivering benefits to clients.

Source

Knowledge Building

Definition: The process of generating insights and understanding from evaluation findings that can be shared and applied to other programs or settings.

Interpretation: Enhances the overall field of practice by disseminating lessons learned and best practices.

Source

Life Effectiveness Questionnaire (LEQ)

Definition: A self-assessment tool used to measure various aspects of personal effectiveness, including goal setting and problem-solving skills.

Interpretation: Provides a standardized way to assess changes in individuals' capabilities and development as a result of the program.

Source

List sampling

Definition: Usually in reference to telephone interviewing, a technique used to select a sample. The interviewer starts with a sampling frame containing telephone numbers, selects a unit from the frame, and conducts an interview over the telephone either with a specific person at the number or with anyone at the number.

Source

Literature search

Definition: A data collection method that involves an identification and examination of research reports, published papers, and books.

Source

Local Artefacts

Definition: Cultural items such as songs, oral histories, proverbs, games, and traditional practices that hold significance within the community.

Interpretation: Using local artefacts in research honors cultural heritage and provides a deeper understanding of community values and experiences.

Source

Logic model (or theory of change model)

Definition: A visual representation of the logical relationships between the resources invested, the activities that take place and the benefits or changes that result. The logic model depicts the programming process in graphical form to help clarify what should be implemented to create the changes in financial education outcomes for participants as intended.

Source

Longitudinal data

Definition: Data collected over a period of time, sometimes involving a stream of data for particular persons or entities over time.

Source

Longitudinal designs

Definition: A type of evaluation design that involves the collection and analysis of data at multiple points in time (repeated observations).

Source

Longitudinal Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation that collects data from the same subjects at multiple points in time to assess changes and long-term outcomes.

Interpretation: Provides insights into the sustained impacts of a program, identifying trends and long-term effects.

Source

Low-Barrier Care

Definition: Healthcare that is easily accessible, without significant obstacles such as cost, stigma, or complex requirements.

Interpretation: Ensures that vulnerable populations can receive the care they need without unnecessary hurdles.

Source

Macro-economic model

Definition: A model of the interactions between the goods, labor, and assets markets of an economy. The model is concerned with the level of outputs and prices based on the interactions between aggregate demand and supply.

Source

Main effects

Definition: The separate independent effects of each experimental variable.

Source

Management practice

Definition: Management practice competencies focus on applying sound project management skills throughout the evaluation project. Provides leadership to the evaluation project. Defines work parameters, plans and agreements for the evaluation. Identifies and effectively uses required human, financial and technical resources. Coordinates the work of other team members. Uses group management and facilitation skills. Communicates project progress to all concerned.

Source

Matching

Definition: Dividing the population into “blocks” in terms of one or more variables (other than the program) that are expected to have an influence on the impact of the program.

Source

Maturation

Definition: Changes in the outcomes that are a consequence of time rather than of the program, such as participant aging. This is a threat to internal validity.

Source

Meaningful Processes and Products

Definition: Evaluations should construct activities, descriptions and judgments in ways that encourage participants to rediscover, reinterpret, or revise their understandings and behaviors.

Source

Measurement Framework

Definition: A structured plan that outlines the indicators and data collection methods used to assess the performance and impact of a program.

Interpretation: Ensures that evaluations are systematic, consistent, and aligned with program goals.

Measurement validity

Definition: A measurement is valid to the extent that it represents what it is intended and presumed to represent. Valid measures have no systematic bias.

Source

Measuring devices or instruments

Definition: Devices that are used to collect data (such as questionnaires, interview guidelines, and observation record forms).

Source

Mentor Training

Definition: Programs and resources provided to mentors to prepare them for their role and enhance their mentoring skills.

Interpretation: Ensures mentors are well-equipped to provide effective guidance and support to their mentees.

Source

Mentoring

Definition: Guidance and support provided by experienced individuals to less experienced ones, often involving regular meetings and feedback.

Interpretation: Enhances the learning experience by providing personalized support, helping students navigate challenges and achieve their goals.

Source

Metaevaluation

Definition: A systematic review process that assesses the quality and effectiveness of an evaluation, ensuring that it meets established standards.

Interpretation: Acts as a quality control mechanism, providing an additional layer of scrutiny to improve the reliability and credibility of evaluation findings.

Source

Micro-economic model

Definition: A model of the economic behavior of individual buyers and sellers, in a specific market and set of circumstances.

Source

Mixed Methods

Definition: An evaluation approach that combines both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods.

Interpretation: Offers a comprehensive understanding of program impacts by leveraging the strengths of both data types.

Source

Mixed Methods Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that combines both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to provide a comprehensive assessment.

Interpretation: Leverages the strengths of both data types, offering a more holistic understanding of program impacts.

Source

Mixed Methods Outcome Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that combines both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to assess program outcomes.

Interpretation: Provides a comprehensive understanding of program impacts by leveraging the strengths of both data types.

Source

Monetary policy

Definition: Government action that influences the money supply and interest rates. May also take the form of a program.

Source

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Implications

Definition: Considerations for what needs to be monitored and evaluated based on the ToC, including data needs and potential evaluation questions.

Interpretation: Provides a roadmap for ongoing assessment and learning, ensuring the intervention remains effective and adaptive.

Source

Mortality

Definition: Treatment (or control) group participants dropping out of the program. It can undermine the comparability of the treatment and control groups and is a threat to internal validity.

Source

Multiple lines of evidence

Definition: The use of several independent evaluation strategies to address the same evaluation issue, relying on different data sources, on different analytical methods, or on both.

Source

Narrative Analysis

Definition: A method of analyzing qualitative data by examining the stories and personal accounts of participants.

Interpretation: Helps in understanding how individuals make sense of their experiences and construct their identities.

Narrative Inquiry

Definition: A research method that captures and analyzes the stories of individuals to understand their experiences and the meanings they attach to them.

Interpretation: Uses storytelling as both a method of data collection and a means of interpretation to provide deep insights into participants' perspectives.

Source

Natural observation

Definition: A data collection method that involves on-site visits to locations where a program is operating. It directly assesses the setting of a program, its activities, and individuals who participate in the activities.

Source

Negotiated Purposes

Definition: Evaluation purposes should be identified and continually negotiated based on the needs of stakeholders.

Source

Nonexperimental designs

Definition: An evaluation design focusing on describing the program or intervention and the associated outcomes, and exploring the correlational relationships between variables of interest. These designs are most appropriate when experimental designs are not appropriate or possible.

Source

Non-probability sampling

Definition: When the units of a sample are chosen so that each unit in the population does not have a calculable non-zero probability of being selected in the sample.

Source

Nonprofit Organization (NPO)

Definition: An organization that operates for purposes other than generating profit, often focusing on social, educational, or charitable activities.

Interpretation: Provides essential services and advocacy to address community needs and improve quality of life.

Source

Non-response

Definition: A situation in which information from sampling units is unavailable.

Source

Non-response bias

Definition: Potential skewing because of non-response. The answers from sampling units that do produce information may differ on items of interest from the answers from the sampling units that do not reply.

Source

Non-sampling error

Definition: The errors, other than those attributable to sampling, that arise during the course of almost all survey activities (even a complete census), such as respondents' different interpretation of questions, mistakes in processing results, or errors in the sampling frame.

Source

Objective data

Definition: Observations that do not involve personal feelings and are based on observable facts. Objective data can be measured quantitatively or qualitatively.

Source

Objectivity

Definition: Evidence and conclusions that can be verified by someone other than the original authors.

Source

Order bias

Definition: A skewing of results caused by the order in which questions are placed in a survey.

Source

Organizational Development

Definition: The process of improving an organization's effectiveness and capacity to achieve its goals.

Interpretation: Involves enhancing structures, processes, and cultures within an organization to support sustainable growth and success.

Source

Organizational Effectiveness

Definition: The extent to which an organization achieves its mission and goals.

Interpretation: Measures how well an organization fulfills its purpose and objectives.

Source

Outcome effectiveness issues

Definition: A class of evaluation issues concerned with the achievement of a program's objectives and the other impacts and effects of the program, intended or unintended.

Source

Outcome evaluation

Definition: The systematic collection of information to assess the impact of a program, present conclusions about the merit or worth of a program, and make recommendations about future program direction or improvement.

Source

Outcome Harvesting

Definition: A participatory evaluation approach that identifies, verifies, and makes sense of outcomes and their contributions to program objectives.

Interpretation: Allows for capturing unexpected and emerging outcomes, providing a comprehensive picture of program impact.

Source

Outcome Measurement

Definition: The process of assessing the results of a program to determine the extent to which it has achieved its intended outcomes.

Interpretation: Provides evidence of a program's effectiveness and helps identify areas for improvement.

Source

Outcome/Impact Evaluation

Definition: Evaluation that assesses the results or outcomes of a program to determine its effectiveness in achieving its goals.

Interpretation: Measures the impact of a program, providing evidence of its success or areas needing improvement.

Outcomes

Definition: The results of program operations or activities; the effects triggered by the program. (For example, increased knowledge, changed attitudes or beliefs, reduced tobacco use, reduced TB morbidity and mortality.)

Source

Outputs

Definition: The direct products of program activities; immediate measures of what the program did.

Source

Parent-Perceived Environment

Definition: Parents' perceptions of the safety, accessibility, and supportiveness of their local environment for their children's activities.

Interpretation: Influences children's opportunities and freedom to engage in outdoor play and physical activity.

Source

Participant Experience

Definition: The perceptions and feedback from individuals who take part in a program, covering aspects such as satisfaction and perceived value.

Interpretation: Provides insights into the quality and effectiveness of the program from the participant's perspective.

Participant Observation

Definition: A qualitative data collection method where the evaluator immerses themselves in the program setting to observe and record behaviors and interactions.

Interpretation: Provides rich, contextual data on the natural behaviors and interactions of participants within the program.

Participatory Approach

Definition: An evaluation approach that involves stakeholders actively in the evaluation process, ensuring their perspectives and contributions are integral to the evaluation.

Interpretation: Enhances the relevance and acceptance of evaluation findings by engaging those most affected by the program.

Participatory Evaluation

Definition: Evaluation that actively involves stakeholders in the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Engages stakeholders in the evaluation to ensure it meets their needs and perspectives.

Source

Participatory Research

Definition: An approach to research that actively involves participants in the research process, from defining the research question to collecting and analyzing data.

Interpretation: Engages the community in the research process, ensuring that the research is relevant and beneficial to those it aims to help.

Source

Peer Researchers

Definition: Community members who are trained to conduct research within their own communities, leveraging their local knowledge and relationships.

Interpretation: Bridges the gap between researchers and the community, ensuring that research is culturally sensitive and contextually relevant.

Source

Performance Monitoring System

Definition: A system for ongoing periodic measurement of key indicators to keep track of program implementation and outcomes.

Interpretation: Helps ensure accountability and continuous improvement by providing regular feedback on program performance.

Source

Pervasive Developmental Disorder

Definition: A group of disorders characterized by delays in the development of socialization and communication skills, including autism.

Interpretation: Highlights the diverse challenges faced by individuals with these disorders, necessitating tailored interventions.

Source

Photovoice

Definition: A participatory evaluation method where participants use photography to capture and discuss their experiences and perspectives.

Interpretation: Empowers participants to visually communicate their stories, providing rich qualitative data for evaluation.

Source

Plausible hypotheses

Definition: Likely alternative explanations or ways of accounting for program results, meaning those involving influences other than the program.

Source

Population

Definition: The set of units to which the results of a survey apply.

Source

Positive Change

Definition: Improvements or beneficial transformations that occur as a result of a program or intervention.

Interpretation: The ultimate goal of many programs and evaluations, aiming to create significant and lasting benefits for individuals or communities.

Source

Positive Outcome Expectations

Definition: Beliefs that engaging in a certain behavior will lead to positive outcomes.

Interpretation: Encourages individuals to adopt and stick with healthy behaviors by reinforcing the benefits.

Source

Postexperience Euphoria

Definition: A short-term feeling of excitement and positive affect following an intensive experiential program, which may temporarily obscure true feelings about the experience.

Interpretation: Highlights the need for evaluating long-term outcomes rather than relying solely on immediate post-program feedback.

Source

Practical Procedures

Definition: Evaluation procedures should be practical and responsive to the way the program operates.

Source

Pre-Evaluation Clarification

Definition: Activities conducted before the formal evaluation begins to clarify the program's dynamics, evaluation purposes, and available resources.

Interpretation: Ensures a clear understanding of the program context and evaluation goals, setting the stage for a focused and relevant evaluation.

Source

Pretest-Posttest Design

Definition: A research design that measures participants before and after an intervention to assess changes resulting from the intervention.

Interpretation: Helps in determining the effectiveness of a program by comparing baseline and post-intervention data.

Source

Pretest-Posttest Survey

Definition: A survey method that measures participants' knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors before and after an intervention to assess changes resulting from the intervention.

Interpretation: Helps in evaluating the effectiveness of programs by comparing baseline and post-intervention data.

Source

Primary data

Definition: Data collected by an evaluation team specifically for the evaluation study.

Source

Primary Healthcare

Definition: Healthcare services that address the majority of an individual's health needs throughout their life, including physical, mental, and social health.

Interpretation: Provides comprehensive and continuous care to improve overall health and well-being.

Source

Primary Outcomes

Definition: The main results or impacts that a program aims to achieve, such as reducing overdose risks and improving health access.

Interpretation: Indicators of the program's success in achieving its core objectives.

Source

Probability sampling

Definition: The selection of units from a population based on the principle of randomization. Every unit of the population has a calculable (non-zero) probability of being selected.

Source

Problem Tree Analysis

Definition: A visual tool used to identify and analyze the root causes, effects, and solutions to a specific problem, often represented as a tree.

Interpretation: Helps communities visually map out the complexities of an issue, facilitating a deeper understanding and identification of actionable solutions.

Source

Process evaluation

Definition: The systematic collection of information to document and assess how a program was implemented and operates.

Source

Professional Associations

Definition: Organizations that support the professional development of evaluators through standards, certifications, and networking.

Interpretation: Foster a community of practice and uphold the quality and integrity of the evaluation profession.

Source

Professional Autonomy

Definition: The extent to which evaluators have the freedom to make independent decisions regarding their evaluation practice.

Interpretation: Allows evaluators to maintain integrity and objectivity in their work, free from undue influence or pressure.

Source

Professional Competence

Definition: The skills, knowledge, and abilities required to conduct effective evaluations.

Interpretation: Ensures evaluators can perform high-quality evaluations that meet professional standards.

Source

Professional Development

Definition: Ongoing learning and development activities to enhance one's skills and knowledge in evaluation.

Interpretation: Continually improving through education and professional activities.

Source

Professional Networking

Definition: The process of establishing and maintaining professional relationships that can provide opportunities and support throughout one's career.

Interpretation: Expands mentees' professional connections, opening doors to career opportunities and resources.

Source

Program

Definition: A set of related activities designed and managed to achieve specific objectives and outcomes.

Interpretation: A structured series of actions aimed at addressing a particular issue or need within a community or organization.

Source

Program Adaptation

Definition: The changes made to a program based on evaluation findings and contextual factors to improve its relevance and effectiveness.

Interpretation: Ensures that programs remain responsive to stakeholder needs and environmental changes, enhancing their impact.

Source

Program evaluation

Definition: The systematic collection of information about the activities, characteristics, and outcomes of programs to make judgments about the program, improve program effectiveness, and/or inform decisions about future program development.

Source

program evaluation standards

Definition: Support the core attributes of evaluation quality: utility, feasibility, propriety, accuracy and accountability. They address the possible dimensions of quality in program evaluations, and provide guidance to evaluators and evaluation users.

Source

Program Feasibility

Definition: The likelihood that a program can be successfully implemented with the given resources and within the existing constraints.

Interpretation: Assesses whether the planned activities and expected outcomes are realistic and achievable.

Source

Program goal

Definition: A statement of the overall mission or purpose(s) of the program.

Source

Program Improvement

Definition: The process of using evaluation findings to make informed changes to a program to enhance its effectiveness and efficiency.

Interpretation: Involves continuous refinement and adaptation based on evidence to better meet the needs of participants.

Source

Program Recommendations

Definition: Suggestions for improving the program, based on evaluation findings and client feedback.

Interpretation: Guides future program development and enhancement to better meet client needs and achieve desired outcomes.

Source

Program Statistics

Definition: Data that provides quantitative information about the program, such as the number of active clients.

Interpretation: Helps in understanding the scope and scale of the program's reach and activities.

Source

Program Theory

Definition: A conceptual framework that explains how and why a program is expected to work.

Interpretation: Understanding the underlying logic of a program to evaluate its effectiveness.

Source

Programme Context

Definition: The specific set of conditions, including policies, institutional factors, cultural, and socio-economic factors, that affect the implementation and outcomes of a program.

Interpretation: Understanding the program context is crucial for identifying challenges and opportunities that influence program success.

Source

Programme Mechanisms

Definition: The processes or elements within a program that drive the outcomes it produces.

Interpretation: Understanding these mechanisms is key to explaining how and why a program works and identifying points for improvement.

Source

Project Management

Definition: Evaluations should use effective project management strategies.

Source

Propriety

Definition: The extent to which the evaluation has been conducted in a manner that evidences uncompromising adherence to the highest principles and ideals (including professional ethics, civil law, moral code, and contractual agreements).

Source

Propriety Standards (P)

Definition: The propriety standards support what is proper, fair, legal, right and just in evaluations.

Source

Psychosocial Mediators

Definition: Factors that influence the relationship between an intervention and its outcomes, such as self-efficacy, attitudes, and outcome expectations.

Interpretation: Understanding these mediators helps to identify the mechanisms through which the intervention achieves its effects.

Source

Purpose

Definition: The reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists.

Interpretation: Defines the main objectives and goals that drive the actions and strategies of a program or evaluation.

Source

Qualitative data

Definition: Verbal information or descriptions that are categorical rather than numerical, and often include attitudes and perceptions.

Source

Quality Assurance

Definition: Processes and procedures that ensure a program meets specified standards and delivers value to its stakeholders.

Interpretation: Ensures that programs are implemented effectively and deliver the expected benefits, maintaining high standards of quality.

Source

Quality of Life Improvements

Definition: Enhancements in clients' overall well-being and life satisfaction, resulting from program participation.

Interpretation: Reflects the positive impact of the program on clients' daily lives and overall happiness.

Source

Quantitative data

Definition: Countable, numerical data.

Source

Quasi-experimental design

Definition: Study structures that use comparison groups to draw causal inferences but do not use randomization to create the treatment and control groups. The treatment group is usually given. The control group is selected to match the treatment group as closely as possible so that inferences on the incremental impacts of the program can be made.

Source

Quasi-Randomized Controlled Trial

Definition: A study design that assigns participants to different groups using a method that is not fully random, often to evaluate the effectiveness of an intervention.

Interpretation: Provides a practical way to assess intervention impacts when true randomization is not feasible.

Source

Random digit dialing

Definition: In telephone interviewing, a technique used to select a sample. A computer, using a probability-based dialing system, selects and dials a number for the interviewer.

Source

Randomization

Definition: Use of a probability scheme for choosing a sample. This can be done using random number tables, computers, dice, cards, and so forth.

Source

Rational Choice Theory

Definition: A theory that assumes individuals and organizations will make decisions that maximize their benefits and minimize their costs.

Interpretation: Assumes that evaluation is conducted to make informed decisions that help achieve organizational goals.

Source

Rationale Assumptions

Definition: Underlying hypotheses or premises on which the intervention is founded, explaining why the intervention is expected to work.

Interpretation: Ensures the foundational logic of the intervention is clear and defensible, providing a basis for its expected success.

Source

Reach

Definition: The extent to which a program engages its intended audience, often measured by the number of participants or beneficiaries.

Interpretation: Indicates the program's coverage and ability to attract its target population.

Realist Evaluation

Definition: An approach that seeks to understand how and why programs work (or do not work), for whom they work, to what extent, in which settings, and for how long.

Interpretation: Focuses on identifying the mechanisms that generate outcomes and the contextual conditions that enable these mechanisms to operate.

Source

ReconciliACTION

Definition: A community-based event or action that aims to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together in the spirit of reconciliation through education, awareness, and connection.

Interpretation: Promotes unity and understanding between different cultural groups through shared activities.

Source

Reflective practice

Definition: Reflective practice competencies focus on the evaluator's knowledge of evaluation theory and practice; application of evaluation standards, guidelines and ethics; and awareness of self, including reflection on one's practice and the need for continuous learning and professional growth. Knows evaluation theories, models, methods and tools and stays informed about new thinking and best practices. Integrates the Canadian/US Joint Committee Program Evaluation Standards in professional practice. Integrates the Canadian Evaluation Society's stated ethics in professional practice and ensures that ethical oversight is maintained throughout the evaluation. Considers the well-being of human and natural systems in evaluation practice. Provides an independent and balanced perspective in all aspects of the evaluation. Is committed to transparency in all aspects of the evaluation. Uses self-awareness and reflective thinking to continually improve practice. Engages in professional networks and activities and contributes to the evaluation profession and its community of practice.

Source

Reform Initiative

Definition: A structured effort aimed at making significant changes in educational practices, policies, or structures to improve outcomes.

Interpretation: Evaluating the impact of such initiatives helps determine their effectiveness and inform future reforms.

Source

Regression artifacts

Definition: Pseudo-changes in program results occurring when persons or treatment units have been selected for the program on the basis of their extreme scores. Regression artifacts are a threat to internal validity.

Source

Relevant Information

Definition: Evaluation information should serve the identified and emergent needs of stakeholders.

Source

Reliability

Definition: The extent to which a measurement, when repeatedly applied to a given situation consistently produces the same results if the situation does not change between the applications. Reliability can refer to the stability of the measurement over time or to the consistency of the measurement from place to place.

Source

Reliable Information

Definition: Evaluation procedures should yield sufficiently dependable and consistent information for the intended uses.

Source

Replicate sampling

Definition: A probability sampling technique that involves the selection of a number of independent samples from a population rather than one single sample. Each of the smaller samples is termed a replicate and is independently selected on the basis of the same sample design.

Source

Request for proposal (RFP)

Definition: A document outlining the pertinent information about a desired future evaluation to request proposals from evaluators interested in conducting the evaluation.

Source

Resource Dependence Theory

Definition: A theory that suggests organizations must obtain resources from external sources to survive and that their actions are influenced by these dependencies.

Interpretation: Nonprofits engage in evaluation to secure resources, reduce uncertainty, and demonstrate their value to funders and stakeholders.

Source

Resource Use

Definition: Evaluations should use resources effectively and efficiently.

Source

Resources

Definition: Assets available and anticipated for operations. They include people, equipment, facilities, and other things used to plan, implement, and evaluate programs.

Source

Responsive and Inclusive Orientation

Definition: Evaluations should be responsive to stakeholders and their communities.

Source

Risks

Definition: Potential challenges or barriers that could impede the achievement of program outcomes.

Interpretation: Assessing and planning for these risks helps in developing robust evaluation designs and mitigation strategies.

Robust ToC

Definition: A ToC that is well-articulated, credible, plausible, and logically coherent, supporting a solid intervention design and providing a basis for monitoring and evaluation.

Interpretation: A strong ToC enhances the likelihood of achieving desired outcomes and provides a reliable framework for evaluation.

Source

Sample

Definition: A part of a larger population of intervention recipients.

Source

Sample size

Definition: The number of units to be sampled.

Source

Sample size formula

Definition: An equation that varies with the type of estimate to be made, the desired precision of the sample and the sampling method, and which is used to determine the required minimum sample size.

Source

Sampling error

Definition: The error attributed to sampling and measuring a portion of the population rather than carrying out a census under the same general conditions.

Source

Sampling frame

Definition: Complete list of all people or households in the target population.

Source

Sampling method

Definition: The method by which the sampling units are selected (such as systematic or stratified sampling).

Source

Sampling unit

Definition: The unit used for sampling. The population should be divisible into a finite number of distinct, non-overlapping units, so that each member of the population belongs to only one sampling unit.

Source

School Connectedness

Definition: The sense of belonging and involvement that students and alumni feel towards their educational institution.

Interpretation: Enhances engagement and loyalty, fostering a supportive and cohesive educational environment.

Source

School-Community Relationship

Definition: The connection and interaction between an educational institution and the surrounding community, including alumni.

Interpretation: Strengthens mutual support and engagement, benefiting both the school and the community.

Source

Secondary data

Definition: Data collected and recorded by another (usually earlier) person or organization, usually for different purposes than the current evaluation.

Source

Secondary Outcomes

Definition: Additional benefits or impacts of a program, such as improved quality of life or access to social supports.

Interpretation: Broader impacts that enhance the overall effectiveness and value of the program.

Source

Selection and program interaction

Definition: The uncharacteristic responsiveness of program participants because they are aware of being in the program or being part of a survey. This interaction is a threat to internal and external validity.

Source

Selection bias

Definition: When the treatment and control groups involved in the program are initially statistically unequal in terms of one or more of the factors of interest. This is a threat to internal validity.

Source

Self-Assessment

Definition: A process where stakeholders evaluate their own performance and progress, often facilitated by EE.

Interpretation: Promotes reflection and continuous improvement, empowering stakeholders to take ownership of their development.

Source

Self-awareness

Definition: Being acutely aware of personal evaluation preferences, strengths, and limitations.

Interpretation: Helps evaluators understand their biases and how these may impact the evaluation process, promoting objectivity and fairness.

Source

Self-Determination

Definition: The process by which a community or group exerts control over their own affairs, including the design and implementation of programs and evaluations.

Interpretation: Empowers communities to take ownership of the evaluation process, ensuring it aligns with their values and priorities.

Source

Self-Determination Theory

Definition: A theory of motivation that emphasizes the role of autonomy, competence, and relatedness in fostering motivation and psychological growth.

Interpretation: Highlights the importance of supporting individuals' sense of control and competence to enhance their motivation and well-being.

Source

Self-Efficacy

Definition: The belief in one's ability to succeed in specific situations or accomplish a task.

Interpretation: Critical for motivating individuals to engage in and maintain healthy behaviors.

Source

Self-Governance

Definition: The ability of a profession to regulate itself through the establishment and enforcement of standards and ethics.

Interpretation: Enhances the profession's accountability and protects it from external pressures.

Source

Self-Regulation Skills

Definition: The ability to manage and control one's behavior, emotions, and thoughts towards achieving long-term goals.

Interpretation: Essential for maintaining healthy behaviors and making consistent progress towards personal objectives.

Source

Service Learning

Definition: A form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development.

Interpretation: Integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Source

Setting and program interaction

Definition: When the setting of the experimental or pilot project is not typical of the setting envisioned for the full-scale program. This interaction is a threat to external validity.

Source

Single-Arm Pretest-Posttest Design

Definition: A study design that measures outcomes before and after an intervention in a single group without a control group.

Interpretation: Allows for the assessment of changes over time within the same group, though it lacks a comparison group for stronger causal inference.

Source

Situational practice

Definition: Situational practice competencies focus on understanding, analyzing and attending to the many circumstances that make every evaluation unique, including culture, stakeholders and context. Examines and responds to the multiple human and natural contexts within which the program is embedded. Identifies stakeholders' needs and their capacity to participate, while recognizing, respecting and responding to aspects of diversity. Respects all stakeholders and strives to build and maintain trusting relationships. Promotes and facilitates usefulness of the evaluation process and results. Identifies and responds to changes in the context of the program and considers potential positive and negative impacts of the evaluation. Engages in reciprocal processes in which evaluation knowledge and expertise are shared between the evaluator and stakeholders to enhance evaluation capacity for all. Uses evaluation processes and practices that support reconciliation and build stronger relationships among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Source

Sliding Scale of Collaboration

Definition: A concept within collaborative evaluation that allows for varying levels of stakeholder involvement based on the program's evaluation needs, readiness, and resources.

Interpretation: Tailors the degree of stakeholder engagement to fit the specific context and requirements of each evaluation.

Source

Social Cognitive Theory

Definition: A theory of behavior change that emphasizes the role of observational learning, social experiences, and reciprocal determinism in developing and maintaining behaviors.

Interpretation: Provides a framework for understanding how individuals acquire and maintain behaviors through interactions with their environment.

Source

Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS-2)

Definition: A tool used to measure the severity of social impairment associated with autism spectrum disorders.

Interpretation: Provides a standardized way to assess social skills and challenges, guiding interventions and support.

Source

Social Return on Investment (SROI)

Definition: A method that measures and accounts for the social value of an investment, often expressed as a ratio of social value generated to the investment made.

Interpretation: Helps stakeholders understand the broader impact of a program beyond financial metrics, emphasizing the social benefits generated.

Source

Social Value

Definition: The broader non-financial impacts of programs, including benefits to participants, communities, and society at large.

Interpretation: Highlights the importance of considering social outcomes in program evaluations, not just financial returns.

Source

Socio-Ecological Model

Definition: A framework that considers the interplay between individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors in influencing behavior.

Interpretation: Promotes a comprehensive understanding of the factors affecting health and behavior, guiding multi-level interventions.

Source

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

Definition: A set of indexes developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to rank areas in terms of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage.

Interpretation: Helps to understand the socio-economic context of participants, informing the tailoring of interventions.

Source

Sound Designs and Analyses

Definition: Evaluations should employ technically adequate designs and analyses that are appropriate for the evaluation purposes.

Source

Stakeholder Analysis

Definition: The process of identifying and assessing the influence and importance of key people, groups, or organizations that may significantly impact the success of an evaluation.

Interpretation: Ensures that all relevant parties' interests and influences are considered in the evaluation.

Source

Stakeholder Engagement

Definition: The process of involving individuals, groups, or organizations that may affect or be affected by the evaluation in the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Promotes the inclusion of diverse perspectives and enhances the relevance and utility of the evaluation.

Source

Stakeholder Interest

Definition: The degree of engagement and investment that stakeholders have in the evaluation process and its outcomes.

Interpretation: High stakeholder interest enhances the relevance and utilization of evaluation findings, while low interest can hinder participation.

Source

Stakeholder Involvement

Definition: The active participation of individuals or groups who have an interest in the program being evaluated, including program staff and participants.

Interpretation: Engages stakeholders to ensure their perspectives are included, which enhances the relevance and utilization of the evaluation findings.

Source

Stakeholder-Oriented Evaluation

Definition: Evaluation approaches that prioritize the involvement and perspectives of stakeholders throughout the evaluation process.

Interpretation: Ensures evaluations are relevant, useful, and reflective of the needs and views of those impacted by the program.

Source

Stakeholders

Definition: People or organizations that are invested in the program or that are interested in the results of the evaluation or what will be done with results of the evaluation.

Source

Standard

Definition: A principle commonly agreed to by experts in the conduct and use of an evaluation for the measure of the value or quality of an evaluation (e.g., accuracy, feasibility, propriety, utility).

Source

Standard deviation

Definition: The standard deviation of a set of numerical measurements (on an “interval scale”). It indicates how closely individual measurements cluster around the mean.

Source

Standardized format interview

Definition: An interviewing technique that uses open-ended and closed-ended interview questions written out before the interview in exactly the way they are asked later.

Source

Standards for Educational Evaluation (JCSEE)

Definition: A set of standards developed by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation to guide the evaluation process and ensure quality.

Interpretation: Provides a comprehensive framework for conducting evaluations that are ethical, useful, feasible, and accurate.

Source

Statistical analysis

Definition: The manipulation of numerical or categorical data to predict phenomena, to draw conclusions about relationships among variables or to generalize results.

Source

Statistical model

Definition: A model that is normally based on previous research and permits transformation of a specific impact measure into another specific impact measure, one specific impact measure into a range of other impact measures, or a range of impact measures into a range of other impact measures.

Source

Statistically significant effects

Definition: Effects that are observed and are unlikely to result solely from chance variation. These can be assessed through the use of statistical tests.

Source

Stewardship Theory

Definition: A theory that posits that agents (nonprofits) are motivated to act in the best interest of principals (funders) due to intrinsic motivations and shared goals.

Interpretation: Suggests that trust and collaboration between nonprofits and funders can lead to better outcomes and higher quality services.

Source

Stratified sampling

Definition: A probability sampling technique that divides a population into relatively homogeneous layers called strata, and selects appropriate samples independently in each of those layers.

Source

Strengths-Based Approach

Definition: An approach that focuses on identifying and leveraging the strengths and assets of individuals and communities rather than their deficits.

Interpretation: Promotes positive outcomes by building on existing capabilities and resources, fostering resilience and empowerment.

Source

Structural Soundness

Definition: The extent to which a ToC is logically coherent, with clearly defined results and assumptions that follow a plausible sequence.

Interpretation: Ensures the ToC is well-organized and credible, supporting a solid intervention design.

Source

Subjective data

Definition: Observations that involve personal feelings, attitudes, and perceptions. Subjective data can be measured quantitatively or qualitatively.

Source

Summative evaluation

Definition: A type of evaluation exploring the learner outcomes or achievements as a result of participation in the intervention. Summative evaluation is conducted to help the educator document the participant outcomes associated with or attributed to financial education programs. Summative evaluation provides data to understand whether or not a program is effective in promoting learning about financial education concepts, including the actual and perceived benefits associated with services.

Source

Summative Metaevaluation

Definition: A metaevaluation conducted after the completion of the evaluation to assess its overall quality and effectiveness.

Interpretation: Provides a final assessment that can inform future evaluations and enhance accountability.

Source

Surveys

Definition: A data collection method that involves a planned effort to collect needed data from a sample (or a complete census) of the relevant population. The relevant population consists of people or entities affected by the program (or of similar people or entities).

Source

Sustainability

Definition: The ability of a program to maintain its operations and outcomes over the long term.

Interpretation: Indicates the long-term viability and impact of a program beyond initial funding or support.

Source

Systematic Observation

Definition: A method of data collection that involves observing and recording behavior in a structured and consistent manner.

Interpretation: Ensures reliable and valid data on participants' behavior and interactions during the program.

Source

Systems/Networking Considerations

Definition: Evaluating a program's impact on broader social systems and networks, including collaborations and policy implications.

Interpretation: Recognizes the interconnectedness of programs within larger systems and aims to understand and enhance these relationships.

Source

Technical practice

Definition: Technical practice competencies focus on the strategic, methodological and interpretive decisions required to conduct an evaluation. Clarifies the purpose and scope of the evaluation. Assesses program evaluability. Clarifies the program theory. Frames evaluation topics and questions. Develops evaluation designs. Uses appropriate evaluation methods. Identifies data requirements, sources, sampling and data collection tools. Collects, analyzes and interprets data using appropriate methods. Uses findings to answer evaluation questions and, where appropriate, to develop recommendations. Produces complete and balanced evaluation reporting to support decision-making and learning.

Source

Testing bias

Definition: Changes observed in a quasi-experiment that may be the result of excessive familiarity with the measuring instrument. This is a potential threat to internal validity.

Source

The Keys to Success

Definition: To excel as an evaluator, you need to demonstrate you have the background, knowledge, skills and dispositions you need to achieve the standards that constitute sound evaluations. In other words, you need to have the right competencies.

Source

Thematic Analysis

Definition: A method of analyzing qualitative data by identifying and interpreting patterns or themes within the data.

Interpretation: Provides a detailed understanding of the underlying themes and patterns in qualitative data.

Theory of Change

Definition: A conceptual framework that outlines how and why a program is expected to achieve its goals.

Interpretation: Clarifies the logical sequence of activities and outcomes needed to achieve desired changes.

Source

Theory-Driven Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that uses theoretical frameworks to understand and assess how and why a program works.

Interpretation: Combines theoretical insights with empirical data to provide a deeper understanding of program mechanisms and effectiveness.

Source

Timely and Appropriate Communicating and Reporting

Definition: Evaluations should attend to the continuing information needs of their multiple audiences.

Source

Tokenism

Definition: Superficial or symbolic involvement of stakeholders, where their input has little real influence on the evaluation process or outcomes.

Interpretation: Undermines the goals of participatory and collaborative approaches, highlighting the need for genuine engagement.

Source

Trade-offs

Definition: Compromises made during the evaluation process when all desired elements cannot be achieved due to constraints such as time, resources, or feasibility.

Interpretation: Understanding trade-offs helps evaluators make conscious decisions about priorities and manage stakeholder expectations.

Transition Planning

Definition: A set of coordinated activities designed to prepare adolescents for the transition from secondary school to post-secondary education or employment.

Interpretation: Helps to ensure that students are ready for life after school, addressing their unique needs and goals.

Source

Transparency

Definition: The openness and clarity with which evaluation processes, methods, and findings are communicated to stakeholders.

Interpretation: Promotes accountability and trust by ensuring stakeholders are fully informed about the evaluation.

Source

Transparency and Disclosure

Definition: Evaluations should provide complete descriptions of findings, limitations and conclusions to all stakeholders, unless doing so would violate legal and propriety obligations.

Source

Trauma-Informed Care

Definition: An approach that acknowledges and responds to the impact of trauma on individuals and communities, ensuring that services and evaluations do not re-traumatize participants.

Interpretation: Creates a safe and supportive environment for participants, enhancing their engagement and the quality of the evaluation findings.

Source

Treatment group

Definition: In research design, the group of subjects that receives the program. Also referred to as the experimental or program group.

Source

Triangulation

Definition: Using multiple data sources or sources of information to corroborate or complement each other to confirm the evaluation findings.

Source

Trustworthiness

Definition: The degree to which stakeholders perceive the evaluation process and findings as credible, reliable, and ethical.

Interpretation: Building and maintaining trust is essential for the acceptance and use of evaluation results.

Source

Two-Eyed Seeing

Definition: An approach that integrates both Indigenous and Western ways of knowing, recognizing the strengths of each to provide a more comprehensive understanding.

Interpretation: Promotes a balanced perspective that honors and leverages the unique contributions of different knowledge systems.

Source

Under-Developed ToCs

Definition: The issue of theories of change being initially vague, generic, or simplistic, which can limit their utility and effectiveness.

Interpretation: Emphasizes the importance of continuously refining and elaborating ToCs to enhance their relevance and accuracy.

Source

Usability

Definition: The ease with which people can use a particular tool or program to achieve their goals effectively and efficiently.

Interpretation: Ensures that programs are user-friendly and accessible, enhancing engagement and outcomes.

Source

Utility

Definition: The extent to which an evaluation produces and disseminates reports that inform relevant audiences and have beneficial impact on their work.

Source

Utility Standards (U)

Definition: The utility standards are intended to increase the extent to which program stakeholders find evaluation processes and products valuable in meeting their needs.

Source

Utilization-Focused Evaluation

Definition: An evaluation approach that emphasizes the utility of the evaluation for its intended users.

Interpretation: Ensures that evaluations are designed and conducted to be useful to stakeholders.

Source

Valid Information

Definition: Evaluation information should serve the intended purposes and support valid interpretations.

Source

Validity

Definition: The degree of relationship between the instrument and the construct it is trying to measure.

Source

Validity and Reliability

Definition: Measures of how well an evaluation accurately reflects the program's performance and produces consistent results.

Interpretation: Critical for ensuring that the evaluation findings are trustworthy and can be confidently used for decision-making.

Source

Valuation

Definition: The process of assigning monetary values to social outcomes to quantify the social value created.

Interpretation: Allows for comparison of social benefits with financial investments, facilitating better decision-making.

Source

Vocational Education

Definition: Educational programs focused on the skills and knowledge required for specific trades or occupations.

Interpretation: Provides practical training that can lead directly to employment, particularly important for adolescents on the autism spectrum.

Source

Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)

Definition: A deliberate and systematic approach that integrates classroom learning with experiences and practices in the workplace.

Interpretation: Bridges the gap between academic knowledge and practical application, enhancing employability and real-world skills.

Source

Youth Advisory Council

Definition: A group of youth who provide input and guidance on program evaluation and development, ensuring youth perspectives are represented.

Interpretation: Engages youth in meaningful decision-making roles, enhancing the relevance and impact of programs.

Source

Youth At Risk Program Evaluation Tool (YARPET)

Definition: A specific evaluation tool designed to assess key developmental domains in at-risk youth, including goal setting and problem-solving.

Interpretation: Helps in identifying the effectiveness of programs targeted at improving the outcomes for vulnerable youth populations.

Source

Youth Involvement

Definition: The active participation of youth in the evaluation process, from planning to data collection to decision-making.

Interpretation: Provides unique insights and ensures that youth perspectives are integral to the evaluation.

Source

Youth-Friendly Program

Definition: A program designed to be engaging and accessible to youth, often involving youth participation in its design and implementation.

Interpretation: Focuses on creating an environment where young people feel comfortable and valued, enhancing their engagement and the program's effectiveness.

Source