Diploma in Monitoring & Evaluation

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Author Note

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***Question One:***

***1. Why is choosing the right question important in Monitoring and Evaluation?***

Choosing right questions for monitoring and evaluation is important because it informs clearly if the intervention is making a progress towards achieving the intended results; has impact on the participants and the community and if the process was proper or not. In details;

Right monitoring and evaluation questions helps to inform the evaluator or the organization on likely impact of the intervention to the intended population. It will inform clearly if the designed practice really changed or led to the improvement or change of behavior in the community or systems. For example, whether the improved GBV, water quality or drop in poverty is as the result of the program or intervention.

Monitoring and evaluation need to bring out clearly if the outcome is as the result of the intervention. So right monitoring and evaluation questions will inform if the participant’s change of practices around the way they previously do things is as a result of the project. Without right monitoring and evaluation questions, one would not know the outcome of the program.

It will inform if the approach or model used for the implementation of the project or engagement is compared with best practices.

Good evaluation questions will inform the extent the partners adequately engage during the project development process.

Cost effectiveness, right monitoring and evaluation question will clearly predict based on the questions the cost benefits of project in achieving its intended results.

***2. Using Archival data has its own bottlenecks. Name five and explain how to overcome them.***

Archival data is a type of data that is kept in someone else’s files originally collected for research purpose. Archival data is always kept by institutions as requirement by law or donors for a specific period of time, so that in case of a need, it can be referred to for checking. Archival data has both advantages and disadvantages. However, in this particular question we will look into the disadvantages/bottlenecks of using archival data and its mitigation measures.

***Disadvantages***

Missing or incomplete data; archival data may be incomplete hence resulting into unsatisfactory evaluation report. Researchers may test the effect of an independent variable on a dependent variable, but ignore the antecedents of the independent variable itself. An analyst’s affiliation is one such endogenous construct, as companies may choose analysts that are naturally optimistic (Kothari, 2001).

Researchers can’t easily test casual relationships. The researcher can analyze data trends, but it is difficult to establish that a particular factor causes another. However, to mitigate this challenge, it is therefore critical that researchers clearly control for and explain other alternative explanations. All other potential causal factors are well-measured and controlled, so that the model is very well-specified (Shadish et al. 2002).

Researchers conducting archival research may encounter difficulties when the model violates assumptions of multivariate analysis, such as normality, homoscedasticity, and linearity (Hair et al. 1998).

Measurement error of the variables is abundant with the use of secondary data sources and is one of the chief difficulties in using archival research methods to test the relationship among variables in a model.

Another problem with relying on secondary datasets is that much of this research, particularly capital markets events studies, uses secondary data from a long time period in order to enhance the generalizability of the findings. However, with longer time horizons, controlling for all confounding factors is difficult.

May not match what you need in terms of geographic location, same time period, or population may be too aggregated

However archival research has its advantages when conducting monitoring and evaluation. It provides abundant or available data that the evaluators don’t have to collect data that will take much of their resources.

The archival research method has an ability to examine trends in large-scale data. Thus, external validity is particularly high in studies using archival research methods.

Archival research method is economical that the cost for obtaining the information of data is low compared to other methods that require a lot of money to carry out the research process.

Minimum staff are required to collect the data. Archival data is always available in people’s files, so no need to employ staff specifically to collect the data.

***3. Why is research important component in monitoring and evaluation? Give and explain four.***

Research helps the programs to “diagnose” the issues the intervention is trying to solve. The aim of a project, program or intervention is to solve a particular issue in the community in a particular period of time. Research helps the intervention to know if the intervention is making an impact or if it’s effective.

Research helps to prevent the development or recurrence of the problem in study and reduce the number of people who are affected by the problem. Through the research, the intervention will be able to identify early warning that will help decision makers to devise a method for resolving the issue from occurring again.

Distribution of equal resources: Through research the program will be able to distribute the resources effectively. Once the problem is identified, a decision will be taken based on the outcome of the research.

Research helps the intervention to improve the quality of life for affected with the problem. Once a problem is identified through research, an intervention will be devised through different activities.

***End***