Certificate in Monitoring and Evaluation

Assignment 2

1. Qns. What are the qualities of a good indicator? Give an example

An indicator is a variable whose value changes from time of baseline level to new value after the commencement of the project and its activities thus the outcome and impact can be felt at this point.

An indicator is a measurement that measure performance of the project and can make comparison. In other words, indicator is like compass showing direction where the project is heading to.

The following are qualities of good indicator.

Relevant good indicator should be relevant to the actual output of the project and should measure very important part of the project. Example can be if the project is to provide clean and safe water to certain population then the indictor can be reduction in number of related water borne diseases like typhoid, cholera, diarrhoea.

Objective; good indicator should focus on very important part of the project that is its main objective and this indicator should be scientifically correct that any other person can measure and get same result. For instance, number of enrolments to school after the campaign of ‘Go Back to learning’

Availability; Indicator should be based on ready data that anyone can access to prove the number of girl’s enrolment and in which schools.

Realistic it should not be very difficult or too expensive to collect information. It should be relevant to the one checklist, example can be if the project is for distribution of clean water, so the volume of water produced and consumed should be accurate and realistic.

Specific the measured changes should be attributed to the project and they should be expressed in precise terms.

Measurable, indicator should be related to things that can be measured and expressed in figures and numbers (Quantitative)

Achievable indicator should be reasonable and possible to reach and subjected to changes that the project might make.

2. As part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Universal education is a

right for all children. Different governments have implemented free primary

education in order to achieve this goal. With example from your country please

explain the following:

a) Critically evaluate the implementation programme of free primary

education for the first 2 years

Primary Education is the basic fundament learning from Form 1 to Form 8 or Form 7 depending on the policy of that particular or syllabus.

Free Primary Education is where government decides to subsidies education cost so that many pupils or children who are less privileged or who cannot afford school fees can have access to basic education.

The general aim or objective of Universal Primary Education is benefit or educate of citizen who can positively contribute to national building.

In recent century most of African Countries have adopted this policy of Free Primary Education notably countries like Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Lesotho and South Sudan.

The implementation of this policy of universal primary school is always very vigorous in the first and second years whereby by the enrolment of children to school exceeds the projection that also prompt to numerous challenges which lead to unintended outcome of this policy.

In South Sudan which is my country, Free Primary Education was declare in Education Article of 2012 that States that Primary school should be free, however the implementation of this policy has been much affected by the continuous conflicts in the country.

Some of these challenges include displacement of the people from school areas, hunger, forced recruitment by armed group, raping of girls and schools been destroyed or occupied by armed groups.

In order to help South Sudanese children to have access to basic Education, USAID supports temporary learning space and psychosocial counselling. It also promotes peace building and tolerance in protection of civilian’s sites.

UNICEF and USAID have been working together to support over 400,000 children and Youth across the country and in civilian protection sites. Together they provide access to schooling, life skills and psychosocial support to students, they also build teachers capacity to manage crowded classroom, train social workers on child protection and Gender Based violent prevention. They also organize peace clubs for Youth in child friendly spaces thus through this project, children have opportunity to acquire basic literacy and numeracy Education.

The new flagship project of USAID which is being implemented by UNICEF, takes holistic approach to what children and youth need to safely learn in South Sudan’s challenging setting. The project incorporates education with protection, prevents gender based violent and gives water, hygiene and Sanitation services.

It also creates “Peace Zones “where children are quietly and peacefully able to gain life skills and protect themselves from violence or injury. Without peace, the education of South Sudan ‘s children will continue to be a casualty of war, without education, the future leadership of this country is in jeopardy, making peace and stability harder to achieve.

In conclusion, the millennium Development Goal(MDG) pillar 5 was to achieve universal primary education by 2015.This was to ensure that by 2015 all boys and girls should be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

The indicator for this was measured in “Net Enrolment Rate” (NER)in primary education.

Net enrolment Rate in primary Education is defined the extent to which children of official school gong age are enrolled in schools. This is a percentage calculated

b**) Analyse the unintended outcomes of free primary education on job**

**creation within the same period**

Free Primary Education have been adopted by number of African countries like Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Lesotho.

However, the problem with most African countries have been that they do not carry out enough Research on effect of this policy on the country and how it will be implemented. Even the teachers who are the direct implementers of this policy are not consulted for their inputs nor prepare them on how to handle implementation of this policy when enrolment increases.

No suitable jobs

Some of the young people can manage to finish only universal primary education and others can go as far as college is concern yet the qualification for getting better job these days are Degrees and masters hence there are only few low paid job for them.

**High Tax** in some countries, government increases tax on employees and civil servants so that government covers the gap of paying teachers and providing scholastic materials for universal primary education.

**Job creation** many teachers will be employed in this period in order to effect teaching but with low payment since their number will be so high compare to the resources

a) what would the monitoring exercise in free primary education wish to

achieve for the following stakeholders?

• Donors

The donors will monitor the impact of free primary education on the community in the country, thus is the project reducing the rate of illiteracy or not.

Donors will also monitor the number of enrolments in schools and quality of teaching.

The donors are interested in lesson learnt during the implementation of Free Primary Education; thus, they will be able to design another similar project and use their previous experience to achieve their objectives.

Donors also want see that the allocated resources for Free Primary Education are properly utilized and accounted for.

• Primary School managers

Primary school managers will aim at achieving the following;

* Performance of pupils in their schools, this can be done though tests and examinations both internal and external.
* Performance of teachers and their lesson attendance and management of classrooms, that is effectiveness of teachers
* Hygiene and welfare of the schools, safe and clean school environment may be the major concern. These include good latrine facility, clean water and tidy compound.

• Government

Government will wish to achieve implementation of the policy of Free Primary school, thus they will look at enrolment of pupils to school.

Government also need to see full implementation of their syllabus of primary education in the country.

They want every one to be literate by acquiring basic education and build the nation.

3. You have been contracted by UNICEF to undertake the role of a consultant in a

project (joint partnership between them and the Ministry of Gender and Children)

a program that gives direct funds to families staying with orphaned children, to

plan a monitoring system for the same.

a) What are the advantages of participatory evaluation methods?

b) Formulate the steps in planning a monitoring system

ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION.

Participatory Evaluation is where the stakeholders are directly involved in project evaluation process, it has the following merits.

It gives better understanding on both the initial needs of the project beneficiaries and its ultimate effects; the stakeholders will have the opportunity to express their interest and expectation of the project.

You can get information and useful data that you would not get if you had not involved the stakeholders, this information can be very vital for implementation of the project and its success.

You will know what worked well and what did not work well from the perspective of those who were directly involve in project implementation.

It empowers stakeholders, participatory evaluation gives those who are often not consulted such as line staff and beneficiaries a chance to fully partners in determining the direction and effectiveness of a project,

It can provide a voice for those are not often heard. The beneficiaries are often low-income people with low Education and may not strong voice in decision making hence participatory evaluation gives them a chance to voice out and be part of the project.

It creates self-esteem to those who are trained to carry out participatory evaluation.

It demonstrates to people the way they can take care more control of their lives through working with professionals and others to complete a complex task with real world consequences. It shows people how they take action to influence people and events.

It encourages the stakeholders to own the project, those who are directly involved feel that the project is theirs, rather than something imposed on them by others, they will work hard both in implementing it and in conducting a thorough and informative evaluation in order to improve it.

It can spark creativity in every one for those who have never been involved in anything similar. Participatory evaluation can be revelation, opening doors to a whole new way of thinking and looking at the world.

It encourages working collaboratively, for participatory evaluation to work well it has to be viewed by every one involved as a collaboration where each participant brings specific tools and skills to the effort, and everyone is valued for what she can contribute.

It fits into larger participation effort. When community assessment and the planning of a project have been a collaboration among project beneficiaries, staff and community members it only makes sense to include evaluation in the overall plan.

b) Formulate the steps in planning a monitoring system

The following the steps in planning monitoring system

* Name and framing the problem or the goal to be achieved, here indicators are identified and named so that it guides the evaluators.
* Developing a logic model for achieving the success.
* Documentation of intervention and its effects.
* Making use of the collected data
* Using information to celebrate and make adjustment for the new project.

References

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2. Bergen &While, 2005.
3. UNESCO 2005, effects of UPE ON JOB
4. United Nations Industrial Development Organization,(1972) Guidelines for Project Evaluation.