**Module 1 Questions:**

**Q1**: **Explain in about 350 words why M&E informs good programming practice. (10 marks)**

Monitoring is an ongoing long team process that gathers all the information about the progress made on the implementation of the project activities, it is done to assess if the intended project activities are being implemented as per the work plan of the project to meet the intended goal in producing the required output and outcome resulting to the required impact. Monitoring an activity is very important because it act as an indicator of whatever way the project direction is moving as a result the project will improved its performance

While an evaluation is the process of assessing the output, outcome and the results of the inputs, it is conducted in a specified period of time e.g. mid-year review or at the end of the programs. M&E processes help us to be able to look at the pass challenges and the success made and compare with the future what may happen and be able to make an inform decision.

Why M&E informs a good programming practice is in the senses that; For a proper accountability of a project to be conducted, a good M&E must be put in place to act as a mirror, it demonstrates to the donors, taxpayers, beneficiaries, project implementer’s, and the partners that expenditures, actions and results are as agreed or can reasonably be expected in the situation.

M&E is also very important in such a way that; the general overview of the project operation can be brought to light through the information provided. It guides the project operation sector by providing the project with the information needed to coordinate the human, financial and physical resources committed to the programmes and determine if the inputs are being used as planned and to improve the performances of the project.

M&E also informs the programs management group with information’s that helps them to make informed decisions and adjustments of the project goals and objectives during project planning period. The output, outcomes and impact results that are being documented as a results of M&E will build confidences and self-reliance’s by the implementing staff and the beneficiaries, this will result into effective implementation of the project.

The documentation of all the lesson learned during and after the project implementation will act as a guiding tools to the organization to be able to do its best in the future. The incorporation of M&E element into any project implementation will benefit all the stakeholders of the project e.g., At a sector level, M&E will benefit the project by improving the program design through feedback provision at the same time it informs and influences the sector through the M&E analysis of the outcomes and impact of the project interventions.

At the project level, M&E will really inform the project implementer’s about the project performances, any problems identified, project services, achievement and outcomes of the project objectives implementation; All this can be done by M&E through its regular feedback on the project performance’s.

**Q2**: **Describe the fundamental similarities and differences between Monitoring and Evaluation. (10 marks)**

Monitoring is an ongoing process that is done to monitor the ongoing progress of all the activities including the usages of all the inputs and the immediate out comes of the activities conducted. E.g. Continues Assessment Test (CAT) in any academic project is conducted as a tool to monitor the progressive understanding of the students and it informs the teachers about the methods used during teaching and all other teaching methodologist used whether the students are hoping on well with them or there is a need to change them:

while

Evaluation is an assessment done on a specific period of time to assess the output, outcome and the impact of the activities conducted. Evaluation can be conducted as a mid-year evaluation or at the end of the project. E.g. in an educational project, the end of year final examination is done to evaluate all what had been done and how much the students have gain in understanding what has been covered throughout the year of being in that particular class.

**Q3:** **Describe the difference between formative and summative evaluation process and explain the time of each process in the life of a project.10mrks)**

Formative Evaluation refers to the aspects of the tasks evaluation that promote learning or the right implementation of the project. Formative evaluation is done either before implementing the programmes (pre-requisite) or during the implementation of the programmes. In educational settings, Formative evaluation is normally conducted at the end of the unit/ subject test, normally referred to as Continues Assessment Tests (CATs) to provide the progressive judgments for each student during the learning process.

Formative evaluation is normally conducted to examine the progress of the project and it is use to determine whether the project implementation process is curried out in the way it was planned. Formative evaluation is in most cases project implementation oriented that will result in to right decision marking during planning stages of the program. It is generally looking at the operational aspect of the project implementation taking in to consideration the inputs, activities, output and the outcomes result of the project.

Formative assessment also provides a feedback to the project implementers about the areas of strengths and weaknesses of the project. It evaluates the effectiveness of the project implementation processes by obtaining the information to formulate new plans or making ongoing improvement. It is done to identify the programmes needs when monitoring the performance of the project implementation.

While

Summative evaluation is referred to as an evaluation of competences that reflect the output, outcomes and impact of the project intervention in measuring the achievement to which the project has demonstrated to the intended planned outcomes of the module / subject /programme.

Summative evaluation is a result oriented evaluation process in that it looked at the output, outcomes and the impact of the project being implemented.

This evaluation is normally conducted at the end of each quarter of the project, Mid-year review of the project, End of project and can also be done in two to five years after the termination of the project implementation to evaluate the impact of the project being implemented. In educational settings, Summative evaluation is normally conducted at the end of the semester/ block / course programme to provide the final judgments of its effectiveness as per the student’s performances.

**Q4: With brief explanations, outline the key questions both formative and summative evaluations seek to answer. (10mrks)**

* **Question that can be ask or seek to answer during Formative Evaluation includes the following;**
* The interlinks connections of the activities performed during the project implementation period and its relationship to the intended output and outcome of the project as planned can be one of the question that need to be answered during formative evaluation.
* The project starting and ending period if it has been followed as planned, Formative evaluation would seek to know how the project was started, what inputs were put in place and how was the end results of the project intervention.
* The skills of the peoples involved in the implementation of the project whether they are the right people who implemented the project activities during the project implementation period. This is done to ensure that the right skills have been employed during the implementation of the project.
* The total expenditures of the project implementation in relation to the initial budget of the project. This is more of a budgetary check and input evaluation for all the resources put in place for the project to implemented.
* The indirect and direct indicators of the project progress performances towards achieving its intended goals and objectives. The formative evaluation will also look at the indirect and direct indicators for the project objectives if they have been achieved as planned.
* Conducting a *SWOT* analysis to determine the Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats of the project implementation. This analysis is very important in the senses that it informs the project holders about the Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats of the project.
* The contribution of person of concern towards active participations in decision marking during the project implementation. For any project to be implemented in any locality, the people of concern contribution towards the implementation of the project is very vital. In that it makes the people of concern to own the project leading to active willingness and active participation by the group hence it promotes continuity of the project even if some of the people who are working in the project but does not belong to that area left.
* Seeking opinion of the beneficiary’s satisfaction as a result of the project implementation. There must be a feedback mechanism to access the outcomes and the output of the project intervention through the project beneficiary’s satisfaction feedback report. It gives room for the project to improve on it weakness.
* **Question that can be ask during Summative Evaluation includes the following;**
* The overall performance’s outcomes and the impact of the project being implemented. How has been the overall performances of the project, what were the results of the project intervention.
* The equality and fairness to all persons of concerns who are the beneficiaries of the project, Was the project fair to all the beneficiaries? Are all the inputs for the project used as planned for the implementation of the project?
* Basing on the indicators, the summative evaluation will be asking about the most achieved objective and the weak achieved objective for the project. It will seek to know what are contributing factors that lead to an objective being well achieved and what factor contribute for the others not to be well achieved.
* The overall interest of the beneficiaries in terms of the continuity of the project implementation. At the end of the project, it is good to find out the general comment of the beneficiaries as a way of need assessment as per the project intervention. Should the project continue or its intended objectives has been achieved so it can come to an end.
* In case of donors Aids project and the donor funds ended that year. What is the status of the project sustainability without the donor’s funding’s? this is done to evaluated the exit strategy machoism during the donors funded project implementation period, Are the local people well prepared to continue running the project without the donor’s funding’s?

**Q5: Explain the main limitations of the pretest-post-test model of evaluation**

**(10mrks)**

* The major limitations of these model is that; it lucks a scientific proved for it as per now. In that it is more of hypothesis though it is very true.
* There is no confirmed formula that can control biasness not to take place between the pre and posttest. these gap can affect the results as per the projects intervention and the project outcomes or impact.
* Poorly prepared list of indicators that would test the project outcomes, indicators are very important for any outcome of a project innervation in that they show if the intended objectives has been attained as per the plan.
* Poorly designed evaluation tools and instrument for the data collection. For any M&E results to meet the standard, the evaluation tool used in conducting the process must be well designed so that, the right information can be collected for the right outcome of the evaluation
* Wrong implementation of the designed tools. For any pre and posttest model to be conducted and result in to wrong attainment of the intended target or objective as before and after the project implementation, the tool must be properly implemented during the evaluation period.
* Not repeating the same pretest for the posttest assessment, for any pre and posttest model to hold water, the same questioner must be used for both the pretest and posttest process however in a situation where different questioners are being use, the result of the investigation con not be compared as such.
* Wrong method uses during the data analysis of the pre and post test results.
* Missing data in between the pre and posttest and not being used or captured during the data analysis of pre and posttest results will result in to biasness of the result finding

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