

MODULE 5 ASSIGNMENT

Assignment 5



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**Mwaka Joseph Module 5 assignment M & E**

1 .Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring raw information (data) on variables of interest in an established systematic fashion that enables determination of stated project performance or research, test hypothesis and or evaluated outcomes. While data capture is the process of keying in information into an M&E system, designed specifically for the purpose of data collection and eventual analysis. It’s also a process of transforming, converting data from the forms into a format that can be interpreted and analyzed.

2. Data interpretation is the process of making sense of the information. It allow us to ask; what does this information tell me about the program. Interpreting data well allows us to use the information to facilitate a decision making process in an organization. Poorly interpreted information will have a negative effect on the decision making process in the organization.

3.The main concern for data analyst while undertaking the task of data analysis are as follows; effective data analysis should precisely enables a data analyst to make comparison between , actual results verse program targets. The process of transforming data into information is data analysis or turning raw data into useful information. The purpose is to provide answers to questions being asked by program implementers. Which means taking the data ones collect and looking at them in the context of the questions that one needs to answer. For example, if you need to know whether your program is meeting its objectives, or if it’s on track that is to say looking at program targets and comparing them with actual program performance.

Another concern is about the actual progress to projected time. It’s key that tasks for intervention implementation must be within a given time frame; that the program made a difference and how big is the change, must be defined in a given specific time frame. The analyst also concentrate on creating methods to capture, process and organize data to un cover actionable insights for current problems and establishing the best way to present the data.

4. Key measures that are mandatory for data quality assurance at program level are as follows; the capacity of the human resource must be strengthened both at field level and coordination level. Which means qualified staff must be brought on

board, with clear job description. Recruited staff must allocate time for M &E exercises.

Periodic reviews and revision of data collection and reporting tools at the program level. Description of processes for routine cross-checking and verification. In some organization offices, this may require supervisors, M&E officers to visit small sample of households, farmers and may be lead mothers if they have been part of the exercise. The reviews of the collected data may also involve comparing values of collected data across time and location.

Proper training and mentorship in monitoring and evaluation including regular updates focusing on data collection, will give assurance on data quality. This will also involve provision or recruitment of technical staff to assist especially field staff develop good data storage systems at their level and at all service delivery points.

The data collected, its use must be clearly stated to ensure the security of the data. Any data whose use is not known to the organization may not be safe guarded well and its quality may also be compromised. For example in the health sector, it is important to protect and limit access to HTC patient registers due to the confidentiality of the information provided. Registers in the health facility normally protect patient information. This involves secure storage of registers when not in use, covers to protect registers from scrutiny by unauthorized persons, and staff training on protecting the confidentiality of patient/client information.

Adequate financial and logistical resources to ensure timely performance, must be taken into consideration to maintain the data quality. The presence of the resources especially the finance will help the organization to set up systems that are easy to follow by the staff. For example a system that encourages involvement of field enumerators, supervisors, field officers, coordinators, project managers and regional managers in review and checking of the data.

5. Correlation mistaken for causation

Correlation is a statistical measure (expressed as a number) that describes the size and direction of a relationship between two or more variables. A correlation between variables, however, does not automatically mean that the change in one variable is the cause of the change in the values of the other variable, while Causation indicates that one event is the result of the occurrence of the other event; i.e. there is a causal relationship between the two events. This is also referred to as cause and effect (ABS, 2018).

There is a tendency of data analyst to mix the cause of a phenomenon with correlation. It’s the assumption that because two action occurred together, one caused the other. Which is not accurate as action can occur together absent a cause and effect relationship. Therefore analyst should always try to eliminate the variable they would believe to be causing the phenomenon.

Irrelevant data, is one area where misinterpretation may occur. Large data is no longer centrally stored, and as it continues to be analyzed at the speed of thought, its inevitable that analyst will focus on data that is irrelevant to the problem they are trying to correct.

**References**

* Austrialian Bureau of statistics (ABS), 2018 , correlation and causation, available at [www.abs.gov.au/](http://www.abs.gov.au/) accessed on the 28th December 2018