SYNTHESIZE data from one or more evaluations

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The Rainbow Framework

- Define
- Frame
- Describe
- Understand Causes
- Synthesize
- Report & Support Use

Manage
Three evaluation tasks in synthesis

1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation
2. Synthesize data from several evaluations
3. Generalize findings
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

Solar panel on used for lighting village homes. Sri Lanka. Photo: Dominic Sansoni / World Bank
Was it good?
Did it work?
Was it effective?

For whom did it work?
In what ways did it work?

Was it value for money?
Was it cost-effective?
Did it succeed in terms of the Triple Bottom Line?
### Scenario 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achieved all intended outcomes</th>
<th>✔</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No significant negative unintended outcomes</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved additional positive outcomes</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVERALL PERFORMANCE**  
**SUCCESS**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achieved all intended outcomes</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significant negative unintended outcomes</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieved additional positive outcomes</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

FAIL
### Scenario 3

| Achieved some of the intended outcomes | ✔ |
| No significant negative unintended outcomes | ✗ |
| Achieved additional positive outcomes | ✗ |

**OVERALL PERFORMANCE**  
?

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**Image Description:**
- Two individuals are shown, one of whom is pointing at a solar panel. The setting appears to be outdoors with greenery in the background.
Options for synthesis of performance data

- Multi-Criteria Analysis
- Numeric Weighting
- Qualitative Weight and Sum
- Rubrics/Global Assessment Scales
Options for synthesis with cost data

- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Cost Effectiveness Analysis
- Cost Utility analysis
- Triple Bottom Line
- Value for Money
- Approach: Social Return on Investment
Triple Bottom Line

Social

Environment

Economic

Bearable

Equitable

Sustainable

Viable

Picture: Johann Dréo
Process options for synthesis

Consensus Conference

Expert Panel
2. Synthesize data across evaluations

Mali. Photo: Curt Carnemark / World Bank
Types of systematic review

Best Evidence Synthesis

Meta-Analysis

Meta-Ethnography

Rapid Evidence Assessment

Realist Synthesis
Other options for synthesis

Vote Counting

Literature review
Aslam Mohammad cleans the solar system. Photo: Sofie Tesson / TAIMANI FILMS / World Bank
Options for generalizing findings

Population

Sample
Options for generalizing findings

- Analytical Generalization
- Statistical Generalization
  - Approach: Horizontal Evaluation
  - Approach: Positive Deviance
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation
2. Synthesize data across evaluations
3. Generalize findings
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

- Define
- Frame
- Describe
- Understand Causes
- Synthesize
- Report & Support Use
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

Includes options:

Processes:
- Consensus Conference
- Expert Panel

Techniques:
- Cost Benefit Analysis
- Cost Effectiveness Analysis
- Cost Utility Analysis
- Multi-Criteria Analysis
- Numeric Weighting
- Qualitative Weight and Sum
- Rubrics
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

Includes options:
- Rubrics
Includes options:

- Rubrics

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**Rubrics**

A rubric sets out clearly criteria and standards for assessing different levels of performance. Rubrics have often been used in education for grading student work, and in recent years have been applied in evaluation to make transparent the process of synthesising evidence into an overall evaluative judgement.

A single rubric can be developed for overall performance or a number of rubrics can be developed, each for an aspect of performance.

A rubric consists of a rating of performance, which can be generic (e.g. 'very poor' to 'Excellent') or customised (e.g. 'Detrimental' to 'Highly Effective').

Example

The Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment developed a rubric (called a Global Assessment Scale) as part of their evaluation of a project to reduce dryland salinity. They developed a rating scale for the community groups which were created through the project, to track their progress and to focus planning for the next stage of the project. The scale was initially developed by different stakeholders independently creating terms and then combining them. Plotting the scale showed considerable reliability in how different people rated groups using the scale.

Rubric for evaluating community groups

- Score Description
  - 5 Most members of the community are contributing to the group and recognising their role is an integral part in achieving holistic, long lasting change in the community. Members value and take pride in their own identity and strive for excellence. They are able to identify and implement innovative solutions to problems with little or no government support. Members are willing to accept leadership responsibilities and take on roles. All members are implementing on-ground works and attending regular meetings. The group is exceeding sustainability targets and will be able to hit sustainability within 5 years.
  - 4 Most members of the community have an interest in the group and are working towards a shared long-term strategy. Most members have a holistic and regional vision, but others are still grappling with the concept. All activities are planned carefully by the group and...
Includes options:

- Rubrics

Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence

Resources

Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence

www.betterevaluation.org

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http://betterevaluation.org/plan/synthesize_value

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