What is Program Evaluation?

Systematic collection of data about the activities, characteristics, and results of programs to (1) make judgments about the program, (2) improve or further develop program effectiveness, (3) inform decisions, and/or (4) increase understanding of how your program works.

How Evaluation can Help You

- Find out what is and is not working in your program.
- Show your funders and the community what your program does and how it benefits participants.
- Find new support for your program by providing evidence of its effectiveness.
- Improve your staff’s work with participants by identifying weaknesses and strengths.
- Add to the existing knowledge in the STEM fields about what does and does not work in your type of program with your kinds of participants.

The Evaluation Process

Map your project ➔ Determine key stakeholders ➔ Develop evaluation questions ➔ Collect data ➔ Analyze data ➔ Report Data

Map Your Project

Inputs ➔ Outputs ➔ Outcomes ➔ Goals

Situation: Problem you are solving

Inputs What you invest
Activities What you do
Participants Who you involve
Intermediate Learning: knowledge, skills, behaviors
Intermediate Conditions for long-term goals
Long-term Big picture of what project intends to accomplish

Determine Key Stakeholders and Questions

- Are project staff getting the training and support they need?
- What is working/not working to help participants achieve intended outcomes?
- What parts of this program can be translated to other contexts?
- Is the project a worthwhile investment?
- Are project leadership use lessons learned to improve implementation?
- How are participants being affected by changes to the project?
- Are the translatable parts of the project being disseminated properly?
- What parts of the project should be sustained and at what level?

Develop a Plan and Collect Data

- Focus groups
- Interviews
- Document Analysis
- Surveys
- Observations

Analyze, Report, and Use Data

Who will you involve?
When and how will you contact stakeholders?
How often will you contact stakeholders?
How will data be managed?

About NISER

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