

IMPACT EVALUATION

Use in evaluating large-scale international programs

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Presentation



- Context
- Definition
- Methods
- Benefits
 - ▣ Case Study: Progresa in Mexico
- Obstacles
 - ▣ Example: kaGogo
- Future viability

Basic Evaluation Question:

Is the program **effective**?

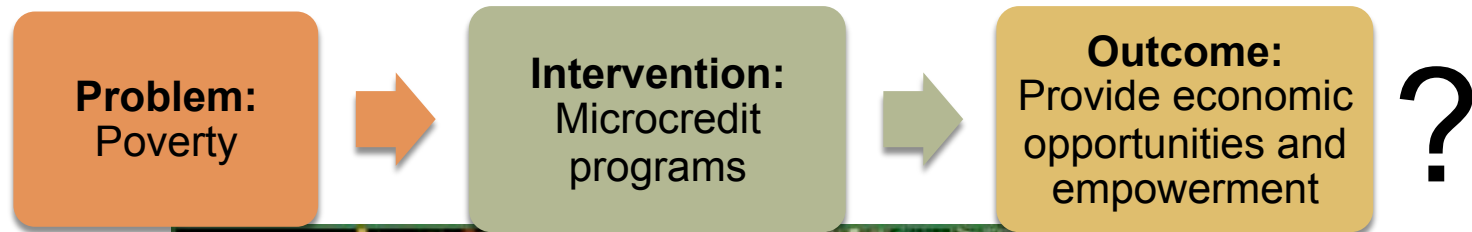


Context

- Developed out of desire for transparency 1970s
- “The more the administrative state intervenes in our lives, the more we want it to adopt successful strategies and to know about the effects it is having.” (Rosenbloom & Kravchuk, 2005, 352).
- “Test effective methods and publicize the results” (Rivlin, 1971)
- International Development Organizations (Big \$\$\$)

Impact Evaluation

- “Assessment of impact of an intervention on final welfare outcomes” (World Bank, 2008)
 - ▣ Intervention- program, project, or policy



Grameen Bank

(<http://www.sustainabletimes.ca/articles/microcredit.htm>)

Impact evaluations are different

- Key Question:
 - ▣ What would have happened to those individuals receiving the intervention if they had not received the program?
- Evaluation Method:
 - ▣ Counterfactual analysis- establishing a control group for comparison

Pre-test—Post-test Control Group Design			
Time	T1 Start of Project (baseline)	T2 Project Intervention	T3 End of project
Project group	P1	X	P2
Randomized or non-randomized control group	C1		C2 (IEG 2006, 3)

Benefits



- Establish a causal relationship between the intervention and outcome of a project or policy
- Creates a knowledge base and evidence of what works and why for development projects (Best practices)
- Highly focused on cost-benefit analysis
- Accountability

Case example:

Mexico's Progresa conditional cash transfer program



- Problem: poverty and child labor
- Intervention
 - ▣ Paying parents to keep children in-school and improve health outcomes
- Implementation
 - ▣ Gradual government role-out
- Research findings for health (17 impact evals done)
 - ▣ Increased use of public health clinics for preventative care
 - ▣ Lower use of inpatient hospitalization
 - ▣ Lower incidence of illness

Obstacles



- Resources
 - Time
 - Money
 - Skill
- Research design and implementation
 - Multiple variables can make establishing causality difficult
 - Selection bias
 - Imperfect data
- Ethical issues
 - People as guinea pig

How do you evaluate this?

Swaziland kaGogo orphan food and education program



Future viability



- Huge wealth disparities
- Huge global obstacles
- Millennium Development Goals
- World Bank projects require impact evaluations
- Need for evidence and accountability
(Big \$\$\$ being spent)

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Questions?

