

Abstract:

This report reviews the current program evaluation efforts of United States nonprofits, specifically international education and other youth-serving nonprofits. Literature and qualitative data reveal a program evaluation dilemma confronting nonprofits as they evaluate their own work and try to assess the effects of their intervention. Although many policy options exist in the field of international education, due to a lack of studies, little is known about their effectiveness. Policy makers cannot make responsible policy decisions without evaluation data. Nonprofits meet the challenge of program evaluation expectations with assessments that focus on ways their program can improve. Many nonprofits evaluate their overall programmatic impact but most provide poor information about their interventions and do not publish their findings. Nonprofits cannot shoulder this responsibility alone. The government, foundation and academic sectors need to collaborate with nonprofits to evaluate their work in a meaningful way that increases the number of quality programs offered to the public.

Abstract:

The following Masters Degree Project, completed for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) at the City of Seattle, studies assessment tools that can determine whether environmental sustainability policies and programs contribute to economic justice for low-income or underemployed communities. I examined several assessment methods currently used by the City, other jurisdictions, and/or organizations, including geospatial analysis, procurement and contracting standards, job creation criteria (used in traditional policy analysis), and checklist/scorecard approaches. I also created and tested an integrated economic justice review tool of my own, drawing upon the literature and various techniques used by City departments and other model jurisdictions.

Abstract:

Based in Sana'a Yemen, the Young Women Leadership Program is one of several programs implemented by the Girls' World Communication Center (GWCC). Girls' World is a non-profit, non-government organization that is run by Yemeni women. The YWLP teaches women the job skills that they need to be competitive professionals in media and non-government organization (NGO) management. The program is in its third year of operation, and is evaluating the program's success at reaching its goals.

This evaluation measures intermediate outcomes based on YWLP's program theory. Specifically, intermediate outcomes are the development of technical skills and socio-psychological competencies that are necessary to be excellent employees and, potentially, leaders in Sana'a society. The end outcome is identified as "finding work outside of the home". Barriers to employment are also investigated in this evaluation.

The evaluation used both quantitative and qualitative methods. Focus groups were used in order to learn about the participants, their emotional and psychological changes. A questionnaire was used to investigate changes between participants and a matching comparison group of students. Case studies were used to investigate unclear aspects of the participants' experience, and to look more closely into issues facing graduates of the YWLP. Finally, elite interviews were conducted including interviews with employers of interns.