

BetterEvaluation

Sharing Information to Improve Evaluation

SYNTHESIZE data from one or more evaluations

*Patricia Rogers, RMIT University,
Melbourne*



Synthesize

The Rainbow Framework

 Manage



 Define

 Frame

 Describe

 Understand Causes

 Synthesize

 Report & Support Use

Three evaluation tasks in synthesis

1 Synthesize data from a single evaluation

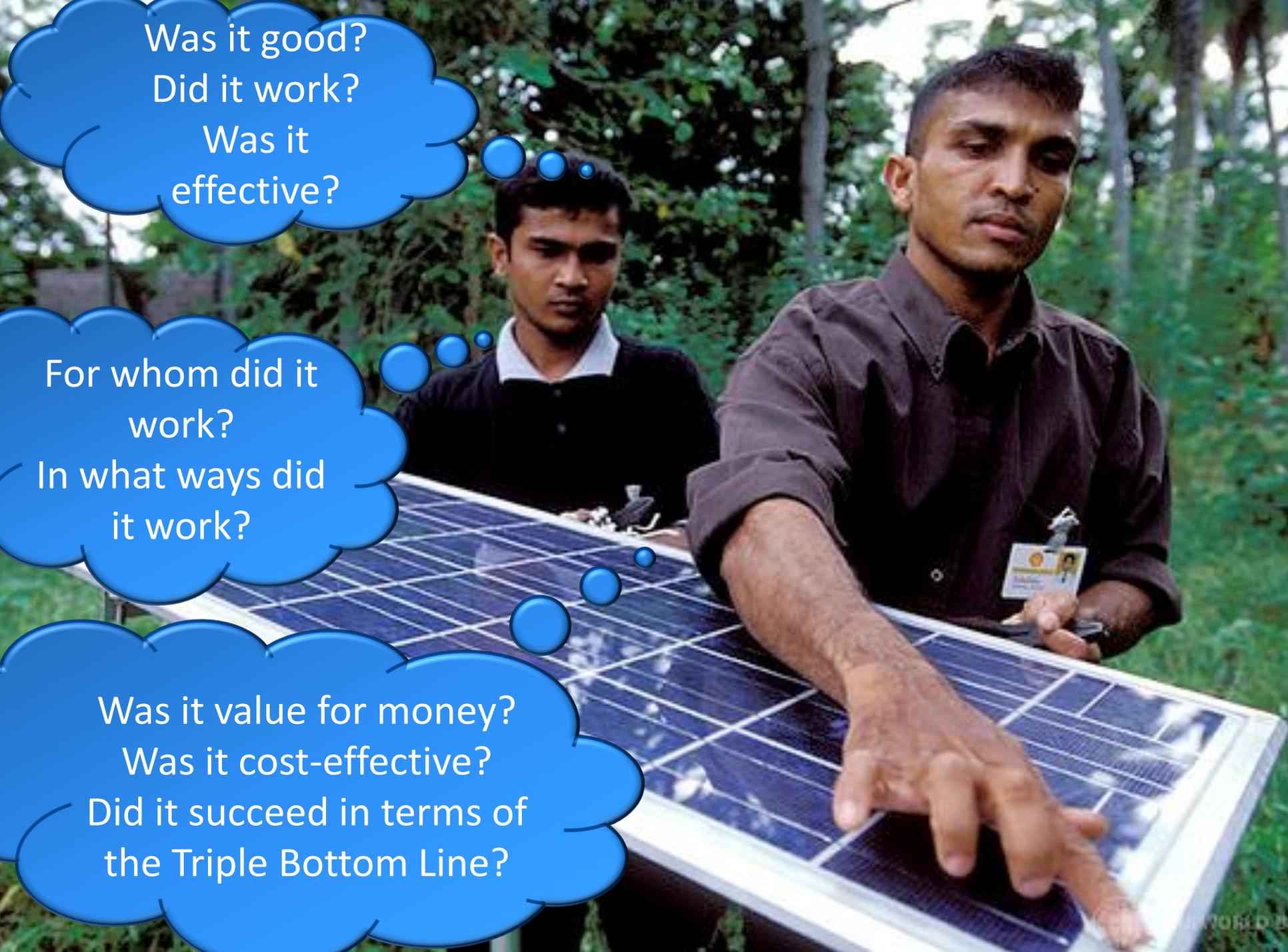
2 Synthesize data from several evaluations

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

A photograph of two men in a field examining a solar panel. The man in the foreground is pointing at the panel, while the man in the background looks on. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background. Three blue thought bubbles are overlaid on the left side of the image, containing evaluation questions.

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

Achieved all intended outcomes	✓
No significant negative unintended outcomes	✓
Achieved additional positive outcomes	✓
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	SUCCESS



Scenario 2

Achieved all intended outcomes	x
No significant negative unintended outcomes	x
Achieved additional positive outcomes	x
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	FAIL



Scenario 3

Achieved some of the intended outcomes	✓
No significant negative unintended outcomes	✗
Achieved additional positive outcomes	✗
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	?



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

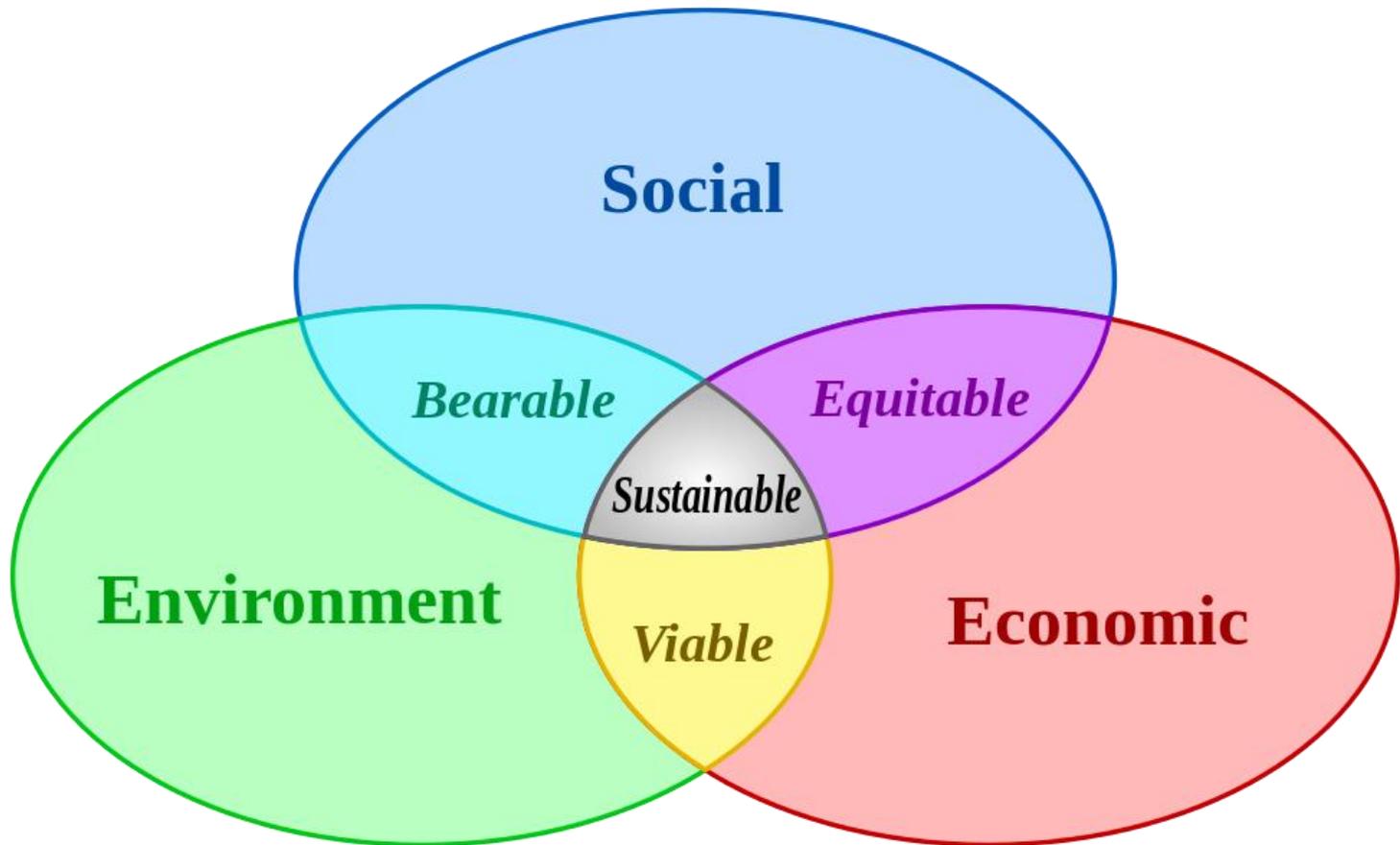
Cost Utility analysis

Triple Bottom Line

Value for Money

Approach: Social Return on Investment

Triple Bottom Line



Process options for synthesis

Consensus Conference

Expert Panel

2.

**Synthesize data across
evaluations**

Types of systematic review

Best Evidence Synthesis

Meta-Analysis

Meta-Ethnography

Rapid Evidence Assessment

Realist Synthesis

Other options for synthesis

Vote Counting

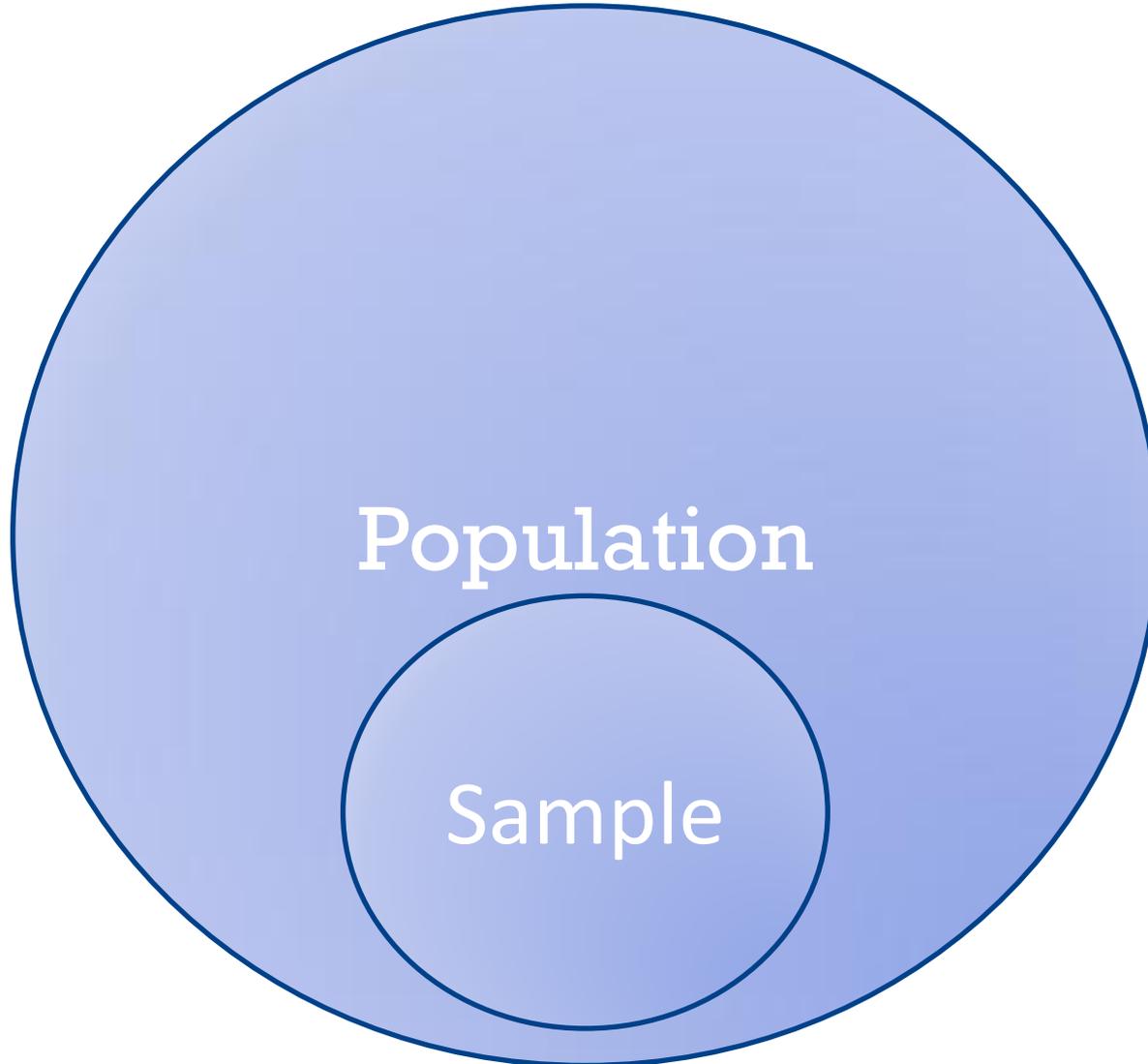
Literature review

3.

Generalize findings

Aslam Mohammad cleans the solar system. Photo: Sofie Tesson / TAIMANI FILMS / World Bank

Options for generalizing findings



Options for generalizing findings

Analytical Generalization

Statistical Generalization

Approach: Horizontal Evaluation

Approach: Positive Deviance



Manage



Define



Frame



Describe



Understand Causes



Synthesize



Report & Support Use

 Define

 Frame

 Describe

 Understand Causes

 **Synthesize**

 Report & Support Use

1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

2. Synthesize data across evaluations

3. Generalize findings



Define



Frame



Describe



Understand Causes



Synthesize



Report & Support Use

1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

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Synthesize

Synthesize data from a single evaluation View Edit Revisions

To deriving evaluative judgments, the evaluator draws data from the evaluation and systematically synthesizes and values the data. There are a range of options that can be used for synthesis and valuing.

Options

Processes

- Consensus Conference:** giving the general public the opportunity to contribute and be involved in the assessment of an issue or proposal during a formal public meeting.
- Expert Panel:** using specialized input and opinion for an evaluation.

Techniques

- Cost Benefit Analysis:** comparing costs to benefits.
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis:** comparing the relative costs to the outcomes (effects) of two or more courses of action.
- Cost Utility Analysis:** comparing costs to the value of the outcomes.
- Multi-Criteria Analysis:** evaluating a project using more than just monetary terms.
- Numeric Weighting:** developing numeric scales to measure each evaluation criteria.
- Qualitative Weight and Sum:** using qualitative criteria, in combination with numeric scales, to measure each evaluation criteria.
- Rubrics:** creating a set of criteria in order to communicate a shared understanding of quality.
- Value for Money:** a term used in different ways, including as a synonym for cost-effectiveness, and as systematic approach to considering these issues throughout planning and implementation, not only in evaluation.

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Management Evaluation (81)

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Resources

Evaluation, valuation, negotiation: some reflections towards a culture of evaluation

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

Developing a Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool: Experiences and Lessons from Malawi and Mozambique

1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation

The screenshot shows the BetterEvaluation website interface. At the top, there is a logo for 'BetterEvaluation Beta' and a navigation menu with options like 'HOME', 'START HERE', 'FIND OPTIONS', 'APPROACHES', 'THEMES', 'FAQS', 'ABOUT US', and 'CONTACT US'. The main content area is titled 'Synthesize' and features a sub-header 'Synthesize data from a single evaluation'. Below this, there is a description: 'To develop evaluative judgments, the evaluator draws data from the evaluation and systematically synthesizes and values the data. There are a range of options that can be used for synthesis and valuing.' The page is organized into sections: 'Options', 'Processes', 'Techniques', and 'Resources'. The 'Processes' section lists 'Consensus Conference' and 'Expert Panel'. The 'Techniques' section lists 'Cost Benefit Analysis', 'Cost Effectiveness Analysis', 'Cost Utility Analysis', 'Multi-Criteria Analysis', 'Numeric Weighting', 'Qualitative Weight and Sum', 'Rubrics', and 'Value for Money'. The 'Resources' section includes links to 'Evaluation, valuation, regulation: some reflections towards a culture of evaluation', 'Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence', and 'Developing a Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool: Experiences and Lessons from Malawi and Mozambique'. A 'Comments' section at the bottom states 'There are currently no comments. Be the first to comment on this page!' and includes a link to 'Add new comment'.

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

The screenshot shows the 'Synthesize' page on the BetterEvaluation website. The page title is 'Synthesize' and the main heading is 'Synthesize data from a single evaluation'. The page content includes a description of synthesis, a list of options (Consensus Conference, Expert Panel), a list of techniques (Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, Cost-Utility Analysis, Multi-Criteria Analysis, Alumeric Weighting, Qualitative Weight and Sum, Rubrics, Value for Money), and a 'Resources' section with links to 'Evaluation, valuation, regulation: some reflections towards a culture of evaluation', 'Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence', and 'Developing a Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool: Experiences and Lessons from Malawi and Mozambique'. There is also a 'Comments' section at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'Rubrics' page on the BetterEvaluation website. The page title is 'Rubrics' and the main heading is 'Evaluation Option'. The page content includes a description of rubrics, a list of options (Consensus Conference, Expert Panel), a list of techniques (Cost-Benefit Analysis, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis, Cost-Utility Analysis, Multi-Criteria Analysis, Alumeric Weighting, Qualitative Weight and Sum, Rubrics, Value for Money), and a 'Resources' section with links to 'Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence', 'Tools for Knowledge and Learning: A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations', and 'Measurable Gains Framework in the Maori Education Strategy'. There is also a 'Comments' section at the bottom.

Includes options:

- Rubrics

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Evaluation Option

Rubrics

Synonyms: Global Assessment Scale, competency framework [View](#) [Edit](#) [Revisions](#)

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 (eg from 'Very poor' to 'Excellent') or customised (eg '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 five different staff independently creating items and then combining them. Piloting of 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 recognise they play an integral part in achieving holistic, long term and agreed community objectives. The group has its own identity and strives 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 different roles. All members are implementing on-ground works and attending regular meetings. The group is exceeding salinity tree and pasture establishment targets and will be able to halt salinity within 30 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

Resources

- Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence
- Tools for Knowledge and Learning: A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations
- Measurable Gains Framework in the Maori Education Strategy

Resources



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



Tools for Knowledge and Learning: A Guide for Development and Humanitarian Organisations



Measurable Gains Framework in the Maori Education Strategy



The River Chart



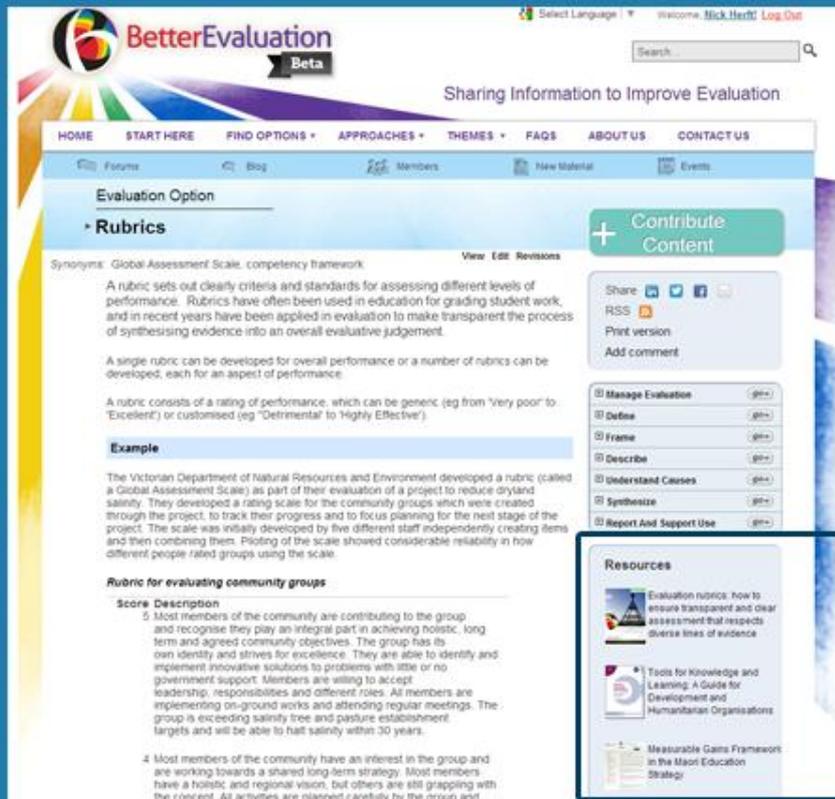
An example of the use of Rubrics in Humanitarian Evaluation

1 2 NEXT >

Suggest a Resource

Includes options:

- Rubrics



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• Rubrics

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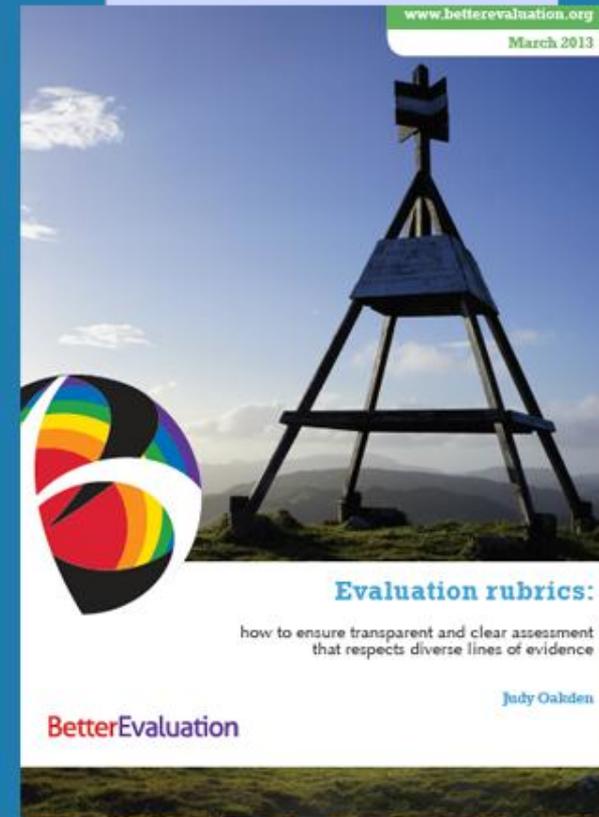
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- Evaluation rubrics: how to ensure transparent and clear assessment that respects diverse lines of evidence
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- Measurable Goals Framework in the Maori Education Strategy

Resources



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



www.betterevaluation.org

March 2013

Evaluation rubrics:

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

Judy Oakden

BetterEvaluation



http://betterevaluation.org/plan/synthesize_value

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The screenshot shows a webpage with a blue header and white content area. The main heading is 'Synthesize data from one or more evaluations'. Below this, there are three main sections: '1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation', '2. Synthesize data across evaluations', and '3. Generalise findings'. Each section contains a brief description and a list of 'Approaches'.

1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation
How will you synthesize data from a single evaluation?

Process

- Convene a Conference giving the general public the opportunity to contribute and be involved in the assessment of an issue or proposed strategy through public meeting.
- Support Panels using specialised topics and options for an evaluation.
- Deliberative Conferences comparing pros and benefits.
- Use Deliberative Conferences comparing the relative merits of the outcomes (offering of two or more courses of action).
- Conduct a Deliberative Conferences comparing pros and cons of the outcomes.

Methods/strategies

- Deliberative Conferences evaluating a project using more than just monetary terms.
- Use Deliberative Conferences comparing pros and cons to assess both an outcome criteria.
- Deliberative Conferences using value judgements to evaluate an outcome criteria.
- Deliberative Conferences using a set of criteria to rate a course of action to assess understanding of quality.
- Value for Money or Cost-benefit analysis, including an approach to considering these issues through planning and implementation, not only in evaluation.

2. Synthesize data across evaluations
Do you need to synthesize data across evaluations? If so, how should this be done?

Process

- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining research evidence from experimental (and sometimes quasi-experimental) studies to produce a weighted average effect size.
- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining data from qualitative evidence and research, especially ethnographic data by synthesizing messages and messages across studies.
- Apply evidence synthesis or meta-analysis to filter and use evidence from a full systematic review but not ignore any of the existing evidence in combination of key influential members and suggest alternative methods to produce a report in a clear and concise way.

Methods/strategies

- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining research in order to make evidence-based policy recommendations.
- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining evidence from multiple studies. This includes meta-analysis and meta-synthesis an alternative type of synthesis method.
- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining evidence from multiple studies (including meta-analysis) and the number of eligible studies (including meta-analysis).

3. Generalise findings
How can the findings from this evaluation be generalised to other sites and to other programs?

Methods/strategies

- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining research in order to make evidence-based policy recommendations.
- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining evidence from multiple studies. This includes meta-analysis and meta-synthesis an alternative type of synthesis method.
- Use a synthesis or statistical method for combining evidence from multiple studies (including meta-analysis) and the number of eligible studies (including meta-analysis).



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