

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?



How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

Presentation by: Evaluation Elder John T. Njovu

24 October 2022 | 14:00 CET

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## 1. What is culturally appropriate or responsive evaluation?

It is an evaluation framework that emphasizes culture, traditions and their contexts in theories and the practice of evaluation. Evaluators are to be responsive to individuals' human rights, their historical, cultural and traditional values and beliefs, languages, communal protocols, norms and religious faiths during the evaluation or research.



In honour of Elder-Father Zabwino  
(Good Jack) Ndlovu (1924 to 2022)

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## 2. What is indigenous evaluation?

It places **indigenous**-ness in the centre of evaluation; i.e. indigenous knowledge, power-ment and disempowerment, self-identity, sovereignty, relationship to a place and sustainability for next 7 generations.

1. It is evaluation by indigenous people using their indigenous methodologies (stories) and mainly for their own benefits. Demanding social change.
2. **Culturally Responsive Indigenous Evaluations** is a call for inclusivity of indigenous methodologies of proving or knowing or finding worth and values in the research and evaluation discipline. Lets indigenous people of the Global North and South to set their own evaluation agenda and lead using an indigenous research paradigm.

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## A. The development of M&E in Africa

1) Drivers of the development of M&E in Africa



John T. Njovu

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## A. The development of M&E in Africa

- 2) 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
- 3) 2008 Accra Agenda for Action



# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## A. The development of M&E in Africa

### 4) Evaluation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## B. The wind of change (Calls for inclusivity) in evaluation

1. Accepting racism is at core of major global systems
2. UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)



# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## C. Lessons from indigenous knowledge

### 1) EvalIndigenous' Voices Project





# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## C. Lessons from indigenous knowledge

### 2) Made in Africa Evaluation



# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## D. Conclusion

1. The biggest challenges:
  - i. Evaluation community to accept has made mistakes in the past and is party of the challenges.
  - ii. To go beyond having BIPOC peacocks to add colour to the high tables.
  - iii. Getting governments and development agencies to invest in collecting and using indigenous knowledge.



# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

## D. Conclusion

### 2. What needs to be done

- i. Leveraging 2005 Paris Declaration for global cooperation to include acceptance of and learning from indigenous evaluation knowledge.
- ii. Use entry points available for collaborations with indigenous evaluators and communities; e.g., AfrEA, AEA, APEA, CES, EvalIndigenous, IDEAS, and RELAC.
- iii. Getting governments to include in national evaluation capacity building plans aspects of enhancing the collection and use of indigenous knowledge in M&E.
- iv. Getting VOPES and evaluation practitioners from theory to practice in utilising indigenous evaluation methodologies.
- v. Global evaluation community to embark on creation of M&E tools that could meet all stakeholders' demands and to expand the context evaluation system beyond cultural appropriateness.

# Culturally appropriate evaluation: How can indigenous evaluation influence western approaches?

**John T. Njovu**

**Mobile (WhatsApp)**

**+260 968407870**

About John T. Njovu

Author, Independent Consultant, Former Chairperson of the Zambia Evaluation Association, former Treasurer of the African Evaluation Association and Founder Member of the EvalIndigenous Network.

[e. njovujt@gmail.com](mailto:e.njovujt@gmail.com)