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

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Presentation by: Evaluation Elder John T. Njovu

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

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

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A. The development of M&E in Africa

2) 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness
3) 2008 Accra Agenda for Action
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A. The development of M&E in Africa

4) Evaluation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
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)
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C. Lessons from indigenous knowledge

1) EvalIndigenous’ Voices Project
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C. Lessons from indigenous knowledge

2) Made in Africa Evaluation
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.
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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.
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