

INTRODUCTION TO PARTICIPATORY EVALUATION

As Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), it is of great relevance to know which are the methods that can be part of the interventions to the different groups with which they work. A brief introduction to one of them is provided below, this being Participatory Evaluation.

¿WHAT IS IT?

It is a research process through which both the organization and its operation are analyzed, always keeping in mind, and as a main element, the analysis of the fulfillment of objectives and the results obtained, this through an interaction, either direct or indirect relationship between the beneficiaries and the stakeholders of the program in question.



¿WHAT IS IT FOR?

It strengthens assertive communication between communities that have commonly been undervalued and the organizations, called external personnel, in charge of carrying out the projects. It allows the communities involved in the object of study to express their interests in a precise way.



¿IT IS NECESSARY?

Currently, it has become an important factor for organizations to provide support to the community regarding the effective development of the evaluation. With the results obtained in said socialization, it allows the same communities to decide the continuity of their projects, change strategies, modify relevant aspects or terminate activities that do not fulfill their purpose.



¿WHO EXECUTES IT?

The participatory evaluation is applied mainly by the technicians, leaders, specialists and managers associated with the project. These people are those who are part of the organizations that carry out research projects, among which may be NGOs and CSOs.



¿TO WHOM DOES IT APPLY?

This evaluation is applied to the population chosen as a sample of the research project that is being carried out, or also, understood as beneficiary users.



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¿WHAT IS EVALUATED?

There are two levels of what is intended to be evaluated: The first, refers to the objects of evaluation, and the second, to the states, properties or characteristics that occur in these.

The processes that lead to the achievement of the objective sought.

The results obtained. That is, the knowledge, practices, techniques, etc., that are expected to be produced in the beneficiary users.

The objectives and goals of the project: its need, coherence, acceptance.

Social, economic, environmental factors that facilitate or hinder the implementation of the project.

Organization and operation of the project, structure, participation, interpersonal relationships.

The human, material and financial resources used in the project.

The methodology, strategies or technologies used to achieve the objectives of the project.



CHALLENGES

The main challenges that usually arise when implementing the Participatory Evaluation can be: time, resources, the need for trained people.

¿HOW IS IT EVALUATED?

In the first place, an evaluation requires starting from a plan, or strategy that indicates in general lines how to proceed, this must indicate what objectives are pursued, sources of information, how to collect, order and analyze data and how to achieve credibility. In the participatory evaluation an emergent design is used, that is, it is possible that as the strategic plan is applied, problems or new needs arise, so it is necessary that the plan can be modified and specified as it is carried out.

SOME OF ITS APPLICATION METHODS

Although the methods of application of the Participatory Evaluation can be diverse and abundant, some of them will be exposed to have a more effective approach.



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1 SELF - EVALUATION.

A process by which a person or an organization evaluates its performance, process, and results, to adjust the project to achieve those objectives pursued.



2 STAKEHOLDERS EVALUATION.

It is to analyze, identify and describe all stakeholders, assessing their respective interests in particular issues.

3 INTERNAL EVALUATION.

It is a process made up of verifiable and rational activities through which mutual information is acquired about the development of the specific project, both by the sample and by the evaluators.



4 JOINT EVALUATION.

It is an evaluative effort carried out by more than one entity on a topic of mutual interest, a program, or a set of activities that are co-financed and implemented with a partnership level in which there is cooperation in the evaluation process, until the pooling of resources.



5 STORYTELLING.

It is a method that focuses attention on the interpretation and deep understanding of experiences and meanings that are presented in the stories that the population shows.



6 PARTICIPATORY SOCIAL MAPPING.

It works to determine a relative ranking of household socioeconomic status rather than an absolute ranking. It can help determine which households benefit from an assessment and whether or not they belong to the target group. (betterevaluation.org)





7

BENEFITS.

The different methods of application allow the local population to achieve the most relevant issues, identifying the specific points that make the program better direct social learning.

8

TRACKING.

It is about the evaluating population being able to evaluate the sample population and identify if what was done achieved a change in it or if the main fulfillment of the objectives set was achieved.



9

CHALLENGES.

It is the analysis of those problems that can hinder the development of participatory evaluation and how to overcome them.

10

QUESTIONS.

The questions are essential for the realization of an investigation or an evaluation, it is the questioning both internally and towards the population that is being investigated and that serves to identify multiple aspects, both to reach the fulfillment of the objectives, as well as to verify the operation of the development or evaluation plan, also for self-evaluation and others.

