

DATA ANALYSIS: A MUST FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

by:

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Truly, the days when “feeling good” about your hard work is sufficient enough to justify your continuing expensive and intensive activities (education world, 2022).

Nowadays, Educational Leaders use assessment to determine whether or not the goals of education are being met. (USM, 2019). Fredonia (2022) mentions that one can considerably find different definitions of assessment, however, he defined assessment as the systematic collection, review, and use of information for the purpose of quality improvement, planning, and decision-making.

The issuance of DepEd Order (DO) No. 029 series of 2022, Adoption of the Basic Education Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (BEMEF) last June 22, 2022 by the Department of Education (DepEd) is a clear example of an assessment undertaking that aims to track and measure the achievement of Basic Education Development Plan 2030 (BEDP 2030) (deped.gov.ph, 2022).

This would heavily rely on the collection of data and data analysis. The goal of data analysis is to assist in the transformation of raw data - facts and opinions derived from formal or informal planning, monitoring, evaluation, or research processes - into knowledge. That knowledge can then be used to make decisions or to ensure accountability to various stakeholders (Intrac.Org, 2017).

Let us again take a look at the specific aims of BEMEF, as stated in the said DO No. 029 s. 2022. Specifically, the framework aims to:

- a. ensure that the agency's plans, policies, systems, and processes are aimed at achieving organizational and learner outcomes;
- b. establish the agency's performance measures, to which all operating units are expected to contribute;
- c. direct the development of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plans for DepEd bureaus, services, regional and school division offices, schools, and learning centers; and
- d. Define DepEd operating units' roles and responsibilities in the M&E system and processes. BEMEF also supports the institutionalization of a results-based M&E system in the basic education sector, which will provide DepEd with informed and evidence-based decision-making and policy development processes, as well as improved allocation and management of government resources for improved transparency and accountability.

To achieve these aims, School head's data analysis skill and competency in the field of M & E would dictate the success or failure of the implementation of school's program, project, and activity. It is through data analysis of M & E data that a school head, who spearheads the PPAs could have a barometer by mapping the evidence of the progress he/she is making towards the expected results of the PPAs thus, would also contribute to evidence-based decision making.

Through the regular collection and analysis of the data or important information on how the PPAs are doing, the school head has the avenue to recalibrate, revise, or improve the strategies used in the implementation of the PPAs if necessary, thus, ensuring that the projected goals or objective will be attained at the end of the implementation.

It is with the same principle that a quarterly implementation of the School Monitoring and Evaluation Adjustment (SMEA) is necessary to enable the school head to

immediately respond to the needs, issues, and concerns affecting the delivery of each PPAs in the school level.

More so, data analysis of M & E plays a vital part in the role of the school head as fiscal manager since M & E provides immediate feedback on the proper utilization of fund. In the same way, since members of the SMEA includes the key stakeholders, financial transparency is assured, and financial status of the school is immediately reported to the stakeholders, opening an avenue for the school to seek support from the stakeholders at the same time.

Data analysis is considered one of the hardest components of M&E and some people are naturally better than others at data analysis. (Intrac.Org, 2017) May this make educational leaders realize how important tool it is for a school head like me to equip oneself the data analysis skills and competency needed in the art of M and E. As once mentioned by Winston Churchill, the true genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information. #

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