EVALUATION IN A CHANGING WORLD: SHARING EXPERIENCE FROM THE EVALINDIGENOUS AFRICAN VOICES WITH THE INDIGENOUS MIJIKENDA OF KWALE COUNTY IN KENYA

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Presentation Outline

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Talking to the Ancestors to welcome Visitors to the Holy Shrine
Visit to Indigenous Kaya KINONDO

Visit:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnJ0Yv4Mqcl
Evaluation in a Changing World

What are the Key Components or Tenets of Evaluation in a Changing World?

**CONTEXT SPECIFICITY**
Evaluation must be conducted within the context of the social, economic, and environmental changes that are occurring in the world.

**SUSTAINABILITY**
Evaluation must ensure that programs and policies are environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and economically viable in the long term.

**INNOVATION**
Evaluation must be innovative and utilize new technologies, methods, and approaches to address emerging challenges and opportunities.

**LEARNING**
Evaluation must be focused on learning and continuous improvement.
VOICES OF THE MIJIKENDA
How do the Voices of the Indigenous Mijikenda of Kwale County in Kenya manifest Evaluation in a Changing World?

1. CONTEXT SPECIFICITY
   - DISCUSSION OF PERTINENT ISSUES: Voices have been increasingly heard in discussions about social, economic, and political issues affecting their communities, including environmental conservation, land rights, and cultural preservation.

2. INNOVATION
   - DOCUMENTING CULTURAL HERITAGE: Document their cultural practices and languages, which are at risk of being lost as their communities become more modernised.
   - ADVOCATING FOR RIGHTS: Advocating for their land rights, as their traditional lands are being threatened by large-scale development projects such as mining and logging.

3. LEARNING
   - EVALUATING PROJECT IMPACTS: The Mijikenda have been actively involved in evaluating the impact of development projects on their community and advocating for their traditional knowledge to be incorporated into these projects.
   - ENGAGEMENT IN POLITICS AND ADVOCACY: The Mijikenda have been active in advocating for their rights. The Mijikenda have historically been marginalised and neglected by the government, leading to a sense of alienation and exclusion.
Voices of the Indigenous Mijikenda - 2

How do the Voices of the Indigenous Mijikenda of Kwale County in Kenya manifest evaluation in a changing World?

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- **PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL TRADITIONS:** Efforts to preserve their cultural traditions and practices – The Mijikenda have a strong sense of community and place a high value on their cultural heritage

- **RITUALS AND CEREMONIES:** Have a rich cultural heritage that includes traditions, ceremonies, and rituals that have been passed down from one generation to another

- **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:** Actively involved in environmental conservation efforts in their region, as they recognise the importance of preserving their natural resources for future generations

- **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS:** The Mijikenda have a wealth of knowledge about the environment, natural resources, and traditional medicine that has been passed down through generations
LEARNING POINTS
What we learn from Mijikenda Voices – 1

INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES
Recognition of the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into decision-making processes that affect communities.

POWERFUL TOOL OF ACCOUNTABILITY
Evaluation is a powerful tool for promoting accountability, learning, and continuous improvement.

EVALUATION RESPONSIVE TO VOICES AND NEEDS
To ensure that evaluations are responsive to the voices and needs of Indigenous communities, it is important to involve them in all stages of the evaluation process, from planning to dissemination.
What we learn from Mijikenda Voices – 2

CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE METHODS
Use of culturally appropriate methods for data collection and analysis and involving community members in interpreting and using the findings

RECOGNISE AND VALUE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
Need to recognise and value Indigenous knowledge and perspectives as legitimate sources of evidence and insights that can contribute to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of complex social issues

COMMITMENT TO BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
There should be a willingness to listen to and learn from Indigenous voices, as well as a commitment to building partnerships and relationships based on mutual respect and trust

MIJIKENDA CONCEPT OF TIME AND EVALUATION
Time is tied to events that have been experienced either by the individual or community. Time moves backwards, from the present, and not forwards
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