

NEDA-UNDP Using Strategic Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) to Accelerate the Implementation of the
Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 (Strategic M&E Project)

Theme: New M&E: Strengthening M&E Leadership for Development in the New Normal

QUALITATIVE DIMENSIONS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION

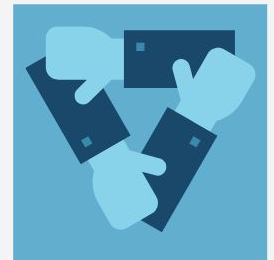
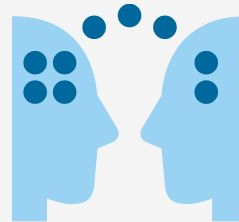
CO-KNOWLEDGE GENERATION THROUGH PARTICIPATORY PARTNERSHIPS



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Limitations of Traditional Social Research

- Externally determined by technical “experts”
- Impartial objective, value-free science focus
- Linear orientation
- Output oriented; limited attention to outcome and impact



Limitations of Traditional Social Research

- Quantitative data with peripheral qualitative data showing: Why? How?
- Generalized conclusions often ill-fitting for specific communities
- Respondents as mere information providers; ethical issues
- Results analyzed in relation to external researchers' data needs
- Applied research dismissed; limited fieldwork esp for economists



Participatory Action Research (PAR)

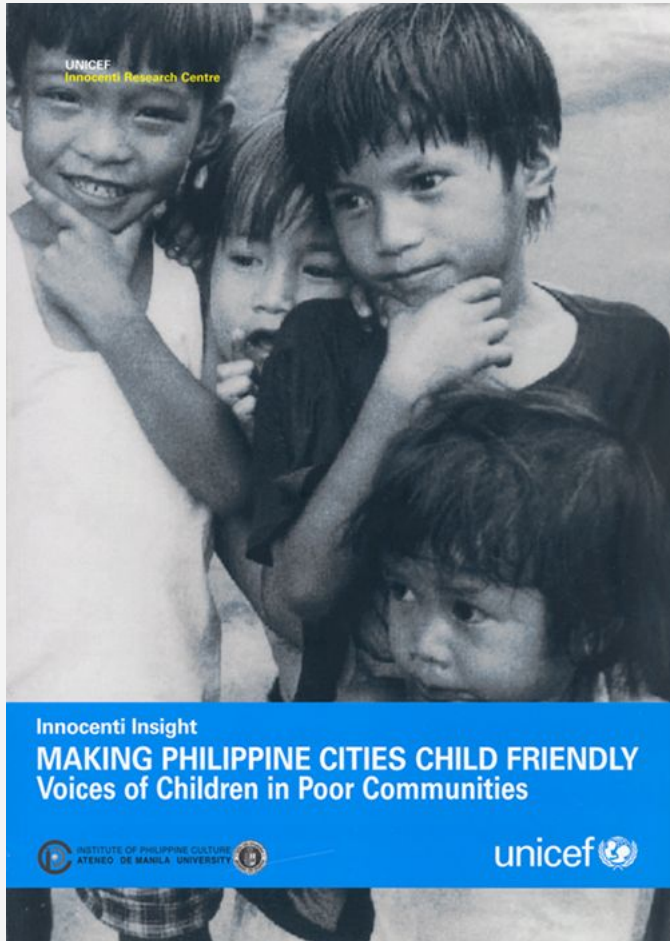
- Action purpose: research as problem solving (Kurt Lewin 1946)
- PAR enables local people to share, enhance and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions in a development project, enabling them to plan and act (Bryman 2008:57)
- Cyclical nature: multiple iterations of planning, observing, acting reflecting (Walker 2009)
- People can examine the structural reasons for their oppression (Freire 1972)



Participatory Action Research (PAR)

- People's involvement in externally promoted knowledge production for their own use
- People are empowered when drawing on their own knowledge
- Monitoring and evaluating takes place throughout the project with course corrections
- Many benefits but a major shortcoming: the problem is defined externally; people participate in an external entity's project aims





Example of PAR

Making Philippine Cities Child-Friendly *Voices of Children in Poor Communities*

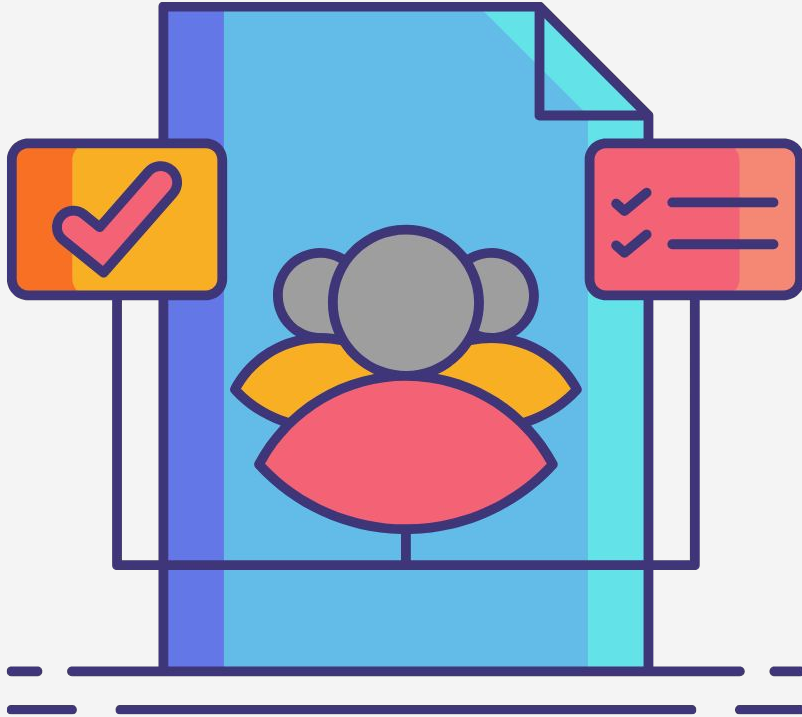
*reorienting city government priorities for children
and adolescents*

Co-Knowledge Generation

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PEOPLE-LED DEVELOPMENT

- Focus on marginalized groups and processes of exclusion
- People's perspectives prioritized in contentious situations of unequal power relations;
- Structural underpinnings of discrimination and social injustice
- Research results in advocacy to highlight people's perspectives





Co-Knowledge Generation

PARTNERSHIPS IN RESEARCH

- Formulate the problem including criteria for Success – Failure and mitigating factors
- Develop methodology
- Gather the data
- Monitor during the project
- Evaluations at key points in time
- Decisions on resulting action



POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

[FIRST PERSON] Baseco and COVID-19: 1 year later

APR 7, 2021 2:12 PM PHT

MARY RAGELIS JEORGIE TONELETE



Example Of Co-Knowledge Generation

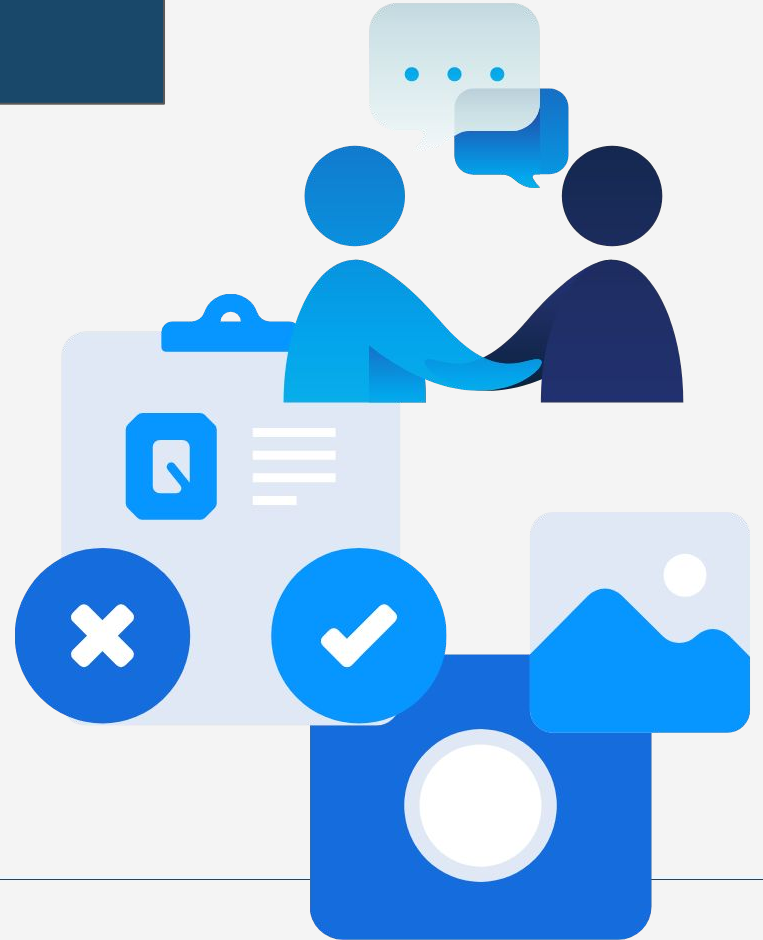
Urban informal settlement community:
Situations in the first year of COVID-19

What is the problem to be studied?

Co-Knowledge Generation

METHODOLOGIES FOR MUTUAL LEARNING

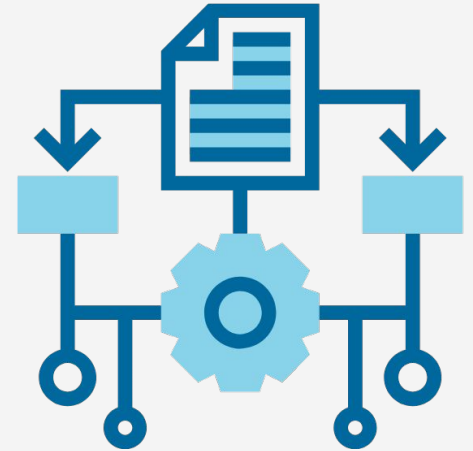
- Kuwentos/story-telling, life histories
- Focus group discussion, surveys, key informant interviews
- Diaries, photography/video, games
- Social media searches, secondary data



Co-Knowledge Generation

PROCESSES

- Baseline information for monitoring and evaluation
- Community criteria for assessing achievements or deficiencies
- Periodic review of project according to aims and M&E criteria
- Output, outcome and impact
- Feedback of research results to community; comments and revisions
- Community-friendly report in local language, pictorial, video form
- Reflections on knowledge gained and action planned



Example Of Co-Knowledge Generation

UPWARD-UP – Community M&E on selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Co-Knowledge Generation

ADVANTAGES

- Sustainable outcomes/impact even after external partners leave
- Successes through community awareness and ownership of results
- Collaborative, interactive processes builds mutual trust



Co-Knowledge Generation

ADVANTAGES

- Enhanced community understandings, knowledge and collective memory add self-confidence about community efforts
- Partnerships encourage mutual learning.
- Dignity and rights of community residents are affirmed.



Co-Knowledge Generation

DISADVANTAGES

- Participatory processes take time.
- Tensions may arise within communities and between partners.
- Learning processes are needed by community and the external researchers to carry out the information gathering.
- Interest may wane and complacency set in if the process takes too long, if results are not useful or if the main objective has been achieved.



Implications for government agencies

- Not all research can adopt these co-generated modes; most effective in community settings: urban, rural, indigenous people.
- Commitment to *participatory development* essential in support of Co-Knowledge Generation research;
- Community facilitators in government Example: bottom up budgeting program, 4 Ps/CCT program



Implications for government agencies

- Encourage feedback to government as part of M&E; officials visit to community for direct discussions people
- Train research teams
- Draw on community based NGO strengths
- “Social preparation” is not enough
- Build community trust through effective interaction





Basic Principles

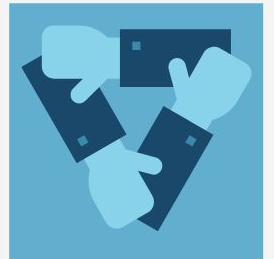
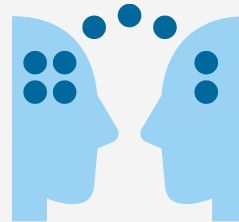
- Involve the people who face the problem as partners in the research/M&E.
- People are empowered by taking initiatives and succeeding through organization.
- Citizens have a right to make their voices heard and hold government accountable.
- People will collaborate effectively based on trust in government when its officials recognize their capacities, respect their rights and uphold their dignity.

Thank you! Enjoy Co-M&E

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