



Social Inclusion and Relevance for Program Evaluation

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Introduction

- **Program Evaluation Unit, York Institute for Health Research (YIHR)**
- **Social Inclusion for Health and Well-being in Program Evaluation**



Social Inclusion/Exclusion

- **What is social inclusion?**
 - **A social determinant of health**
- **Understanding social inclusion through social exclusion**



Social Exclusion: What is it?

- **Disadvantage**
- **Falling through social safety net**
- **Being on the margins of society**
- **Broken or lack of social bonds**
- **Material deprivation**



Social Exclusion (cont'd)

- **Relative deprivation**
- **“Lack of participation in mainstream social, cultural, economic and political activities” (Morgan et al, 2007, p. 479)**



Social Exclusion (cont'd)

- **Multiple dimensions and causes**
- **Social exclusion can vary over time**
- **Objective state**
- **Subjective state**



Social Inclusion

- Participation in mainstream social, cultural, economic and political activities, and in social relationships and networks**
- Everyone is enabled and encouraged to participate**



Social inclusion/exclusion: Measures and indicators

- **Existing datasets**
 - **Employment**
 - **Income**
- **How to measure participation in social and cultural life?**



Program Evaluation

- **Evaluating the effectiveness of a program**
 - **Formative: evaluation of processes or activities**
 - **Summative: evaluation of measurable outcomes/outputs**



Social Inclusion and Program Evaluation

- **Participatory Evaluation**
 - **Involvement of all stakeholders**
 - **Prioritize participants' voices and ownership of project/program**
 - **Improved accountability and programming**



Participatory Evaluation

- **Community of Practice**

- **Singh & Radner (2009)**



Participatory Evaluation: Challenges and Weaknesses

- **Tokenization**
- **Questioning validity and reliability of results**
- **Data collection methods that are not meaningful for participants**



Participatory Evaluation: Challenges and Weaknesses

- **Lack of trust**
- **Communication and language barriers between stakeholders and researchers**



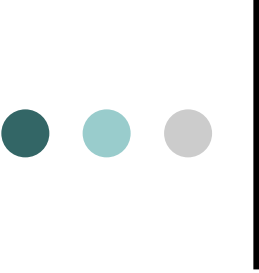
Participatory Evaluation: Challenges and Weaknesses

- **Lack of critical edge: limited consideration of differential power relations**
 - **Assumption of equality and homogeneity among stakeholders**



Social Inclusion and Program Evaluation

- **Critical Participatory Evaluation**
 - **What is the relative freedom each stakeholder has to set the boundaries of their participation?**



Critical Participatory Evaluation (cont'd)

- **What are the political relations and context of each stakeholder?**
- **What are the potential impacts of the evaluation?**
- **Importance of transparency**



Summary

- **Social inclusion: Difficult to define and put into practice**
- **Critical Program Evaluation:**
 - **Starting point: Shifting and differential power relations**



THANK YOU

Questions? Comments?

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