

Training Manual: Integrating Empowerment Evaluation (EE) and the Community Accountability Framework (CAF)

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1. Introduction

This manual serves as a practical guide for trainers and facilitators looking to implement an integrated approach using Empowerment Evaluation (EE) and the Community Accountability Framework (CAF). The integration aims to empower communities, foster accountability, and address health and social challenges effectively.

2. Overview of Empowerment Evaluation

- **Definition:** Empowerment Evaluation uses evaluation tools to help communities assess and improve their own programs. It emphasizes democratic participation, self-determination, and sustainability.
- **Three-Step Process:**
 1. **Mission:** Define shared values and objectives.
 2. **Taking Stock:** Evaluate current efforts and identify priorities.
 3. **Planning for the Future:** Develop actionable strategies with measurable outcomes.

3. Overview of the Community Accountability Framework

- **Definition:** CAF is a structured approach to community-led monitoring, focusing on identifying and addressing gaps in service delivery.
- **Key Components:**
 - **Identify-Ideate-Implement:** A cyclical process of identifying gaps, ideating solutions, and implementing corrective actions.

- **Block Action Plans:** Collaborative plans addressing gaps in care and services.
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4. Integrating EE and CAF

- **Macro-to-Micro Approach:**
 - Use EE to understand broad social determinants, then apply CAF for specific issues.
 - **Micro-to-Macro Approach:**
 - Begin with CAF for immediate needs, expand with EE for systemic changes.
 - **Meta Approach:**
 - Use EE to evaluate and refine CAF itself.
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5. Step-by-Step Implementation

Step 1: Establishing Mission

- Facilitate group discussions to define shared goals and values.
- Tools: Brainstorming, consensus-building exercises.

Step 2: Taking Stock

- **Prioritization:** Use dot voting to identify critical activities.
- **Rating and Dialogue:** Rate activities (1-10 scale) and discuss ratings to surface evidence and issues.
- Tools: Rating scales, group discussions.

Step 3: Planning for the Future

- Use "Taking Stock" findings to create goals, strategies, and evidence-based action plans.
- Tools: Evaluation dashboards, project planning templates.

Step 4: Applying CAF

- **Identify:** Use structured surveys to find service gaps.
 - **Ideate:** Engage stakeholders in solution design.
 - **Implement:** Execute action plans collaboratively.
 - Tools: CAF questionnaires, Block Action Plan templates.
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6. Tools and Techniques

Data Collection

- Google Forms for surveys.
- CAF tools for quality assessments.

Evaluation Dashboards

- Use dashboards to monitor baseline metrics, milestones, and actual performance.

CAF Surveys and Block Action Plans

- Sample CAF survey questions:
 - "How many days after testing were you given your diagnosis?"
 - "Were you counseled on cough hygiene?"
 - Block Action Plans:
 - Actionable items based on identified gaps.
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7. Capacity Building for Sustainability

- **Training:** Conduct workshops for TB Champions, community leaders, and health staff.

- **Empowerment:** Equip stakeholders with the skills to use tools and data effectively.
 - **Collaboration:** Build trust between communities and health systems.
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8. Monitoring and Feedback Mechanisms

- Establish regular review meetings to track progress.
 - Use consultative feedback loops to refine strategies.
 - Tools: Evaluation dashboards, quarterly CAF reviews.
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9. Case Study: TB Elimination in India

Empowerment Evaluation in Action

- Mission: Reduce TB stigma, improve access to care.
- Taking Stock: Identify delays in diagnosis, lack of transport.
- Planning: Create community-driven transport solutions.

CAF Application

- Identify gaps using structured tools.
- Develop Block Action Plans to address gaps.
- Implement solutions with TB Champions and health workers.

Integrated Approach

- Use EE to evaluate CAF's effectiveness and improve strategies iteratively.
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10. Resources and References

- Empowerment Evaluation: Linking Theories, Principles, and Concepts to Practical Steps (Fetterman, 2018).
 - CAF in Action: Operationalizing Accountability Frameworks in India.
 - Tools: Google Sheets, Canva, CAF templates, evaluation dashboards.
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Annexes

1. Sample CAF Questionnaire
2. Evaluation Dashboard Template
3. Workshop Agenda Template

This training manual equips facilitators with the knowledge and tools to implement and integrate EE and CAF effectively, ensuring a participatory and sustainable approach to community empowerment and health improvement. For additional guidance, facilitators are encouraged to adapt this manual to their specific contexts, incorporating local needs, customs, and challenges.