Education for societal relevance, M&E for social activism

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**Introduction**

- Framing propositions, education as a loop, M&E as the corrector
- SA Constitutional democracy & emphasis on oversight, Chapter 9 & 10 institutions
- The independence and action?
- Transparency helps but is not on its own accountability
- We are all monitors and evaluators

**Applied education**

- Social science counts
- Relevant education, uplift self and society

**A part of, and not apart from society**

- M&E is the loop to hold to account, check abuse, ensure transparency and accountability
- All education curricula must include evaluative thinking, art and science
- More important than the answers are the questions asked, that is M&E
- Only relevant and action-oriented education makes this possible
**Education**
- For societal betterment?
- Outside the comfort zone, exposure to inequality and injustice, equity focused, field-based, geography and multidisciplinary approaches
- For personal mobility?

**Content**
- Ought to be progressive and emancipatory given history
- What has become of higher education?
- Commitment of all parties required

**Effect**
- If education is for societal upliftment it is towards a developmental agenda – Agenda 2030 to which most countries subscribe
- That agenda must be monitored, back to the question of who does it, social activism using M&E
• Evaluation a fast growing profession,
• Responds to demand for accountability
• Networks, universities, societies advance the profession, journals and document work
• It is applied research

• One should use privileged place in society to apply principles - hold to account both elected and appointed – address maladministration – limited impact achieved through Parliamentary oversight,
• Reports but inaction, transparency but no accountability
• Abuse of legal processes
• Public sector performance often not meet its own standards

Globally

Country level
Credible and competent state

Efficient use of resources

Good governance the 1994 dream?

Oversight that works? If not, why not?

Receive services and track improvement in services

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The language of reflection

- Review, reflect, use data, adjust, strategize, redesign
- Change as a constant
- Evaluation as an art and science, a tool and means of empowerment

Field work

- Socio-economic surveys and reviews, what did they teach
- Address inequality and social injustice – in your face research
- Connect the theory to reality

Education must connect, evaluation adds action

- Move beyond the reports, act on information
- Outside comfort zone, connect
Progressive education

- Built on particular philosophy
- Experience based and focus on readiness to help society
- Progressive networks used
- Value of graduand lasts beyond the graduation, real graduation is value additionality within society
- M&E in Africa has a redress focus, and should be central to curricula
The why and distance from the democratic dream

Inaction

Constitutional democracy impact

Impacts when macro-micro fractures

Pronouncements and promises

Service delivery disruptions, insecurity, joblessness, social problems

Holding to account? Limitations

Electoral cycle, political and/or professional appointments
COVID-19 response examines how to get back on track

Agenda 2030 remains frame for reference for addressing the crisis

Major development gains have been lost
Positioned

Proactive, and seen opportunity to generate M&E as part of curricula

Strong track record

Critical in all professions

Part of the new age with real time info

Adds credibility and legitimacy to programs

Diverse students

networks

Sought after skill

Regent Business School – M&E module

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Thank you