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Socially-Just, Authentic Research and Evaluation Methods

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cumbria.ac.uk
Aims

- Consider what we mean by key terms such as socially just and authentic
- Identify what you value most about your practice
- Use this knowledge to create a checklist that mirrors these values throughout your research and evaluation
- Think about how to make this a useful tool for the real world of research
Research and Evaluation Agenda in the UK

- Services with no evidence are no good
- Evidence based practice is needed for everything
- A scientific approach will objectively ‘prove’ what works
- Hierarchical levels of evidence forcing a move to Random Control Trials
- A lack of evidence leads directly to cuts
- ‘What Works’ Centres driving the EBP movement
- It is becoming a ‘tyranny of numbers’ and ‘datification’ exercise (Boyle, 2000)
Proposing an alternative:

Socially-Just & Authentic Research and Evaluation
Socially Just
Authentic
| What are your practice values? | What points of diversion present themselves to you? | Who are your key stakeholders? | What would socially just, authentic evaluation and research look like for your community of practice? | What will you do in the real world? |
Points of Diversion

• Our values pave the path we take in our practice and our research

• Despite our deeply held beliefs there are powerful forces at work that can divert us

• We may only realise we have strayed from our values when we have already strayed quite far.
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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>What will you do in the real world?</td>
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Stakeholder Analysis

One way to map these demands is to consider their source.

Who drives the demands?

What are their interests?

What power do they have over your project
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Some examples of Socially-Just & Authentic Research and Evaluation
Instructions

Below is a list of statements dealing with your general feelings about yourself. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with each statement.

1. On the whole, I am satisfied with myself.
   Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
2. At times I think I am no good at all.
   Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
3. I feel that I have a number of good qualities.
   Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
4. I am able to do things as well as most other people.
   Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
5. I feel I do not have much to be proud of.
   Strongly Agree    Agree    Disagree    Strongly Disagree
6. I certainly feel useless at times.
Line Outs - Human Likert Scales
Art Work
I remember being so cold and miserable, and yet so chuffed too, that I had got to the top of that hill.... I could do what I thought was impossible...even though it hurt!
Key Tests for S-JARE

• Will the group want to do it?
• Does it fit in with what else they have been doing?
• Will they gain something from the activity?
• Will the activity give them further understanding of themselves and their life situation?
• Will the activity enhance their sense of empowerment?
• Does the activity enable everyone to take part?
• Will the information be used purposefully, no matter what it reveals?
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Making the invisible...visible

Reveals elements at play in the research space.

Builds awareness of inherent tensions and contradictions.

Enables reflexive practice to come to life.

Enables you to generate authentic solutions to authentic problems.
References


