Narrative Evaluation: Capturing Complexity through Storied Conversations & Chronology
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Abstract

Narrative evaluation (NE) has advantages for gaining in-depth stakeholder perspectives. It can capture complexity, context, and dynamic change through a participatory process with stakeholders. Challenges to NE qualitative data collection & analysis are offset by benefits beyond its evaluative use. These include use with vulnerable populations, therapeutic applications, inclusivity, empowerment, and furthering community social justice. Multiple uses & familiarity make NE a good fit for resource-limited settings.

Why Narratives?

Evaluation Challenges  Narrative Solutions
Participation  Individual Meaning
Data Collection  Therapeutic Uses
Data Analysis  Therapeutic Uses
Static  Dynamic Over Time
One-time  Continuous Evaluation Culture

Why Chronology?

• Captures complexity
• Relates a time component with
• Individual experience
• Captures Change
• Stories are familiar

Preliminary Pilot Results

Chronological narratives support need for:
• Appointment flexibility
• Variable treatment & supports
• Holistic patient assessment & feedback
• Family services
• Client relationships
• Strengths-based approach
• Normalizing
• Partializing

The “Hybrid” Process

CHRONOLOGY  CO-CONSTRUCTION

1. Participant narratives based on Appreciative Inquiry: “What’s working?”
2. Chronological approach to stories over time
3. Collaborative evaluation & co-construction

Key Concepts

- Context
- Continuity
- History
- History
- Tentativeness
- Temporal results
- Temporal results
- Temporal results
- Relational

- Continuity
- Wholeness
- Positionality
- Time, Space, Experience
- Past, Present, Future

Vulnerable Populations

- Individualized
- Flexible
- Meaningful
- Positive
- Captures Change
- Therapeutic
- Change
- Memory, Organization, Reflection, Identity

Empowerment & Social Justice

- Participatory
- Adaptive
- Collaborative
- Inclusive

Pilot Setting

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation Center