SURFACING INEQUITY & BEING THE CHANGE
GENDER & POWER IN EVALUATION PRACTICE AND IMPACT

GENSA Meeting
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Inequitable systems of development perpetuate inequity

Example: Economic Impacts of COVID-19 on Women's Work

- Pre-pandemic, women's poverty levels expected to decrease by 2.7% between 2019 and 2021. Now predicted to increase by 9.1%.

- Economic impacts of the pandemic is pushing many women out of the labor force completely.

- Women overrepresented in the lowest-paying sectors (60%)

- -88 economies have laws that restrict the jobs and hours that women can work, affecting 1.6 billion women, leading to women being overrepresented in sectors that are more affected by COVID-19 disruptions.

- Women have less access to capital and markets, making their businesses more vulnerable and poorly placed to recover.

- The demand for unpaid care work has surged. Women already did about 3/4 of that work and in most countries are spending 30 hours per week exclusively on childcare.

From Observer to Disruptor

- Detached evaluation is an illusion

- Systems shape what gets evaluated, which questions get asked, and which do not.

- Confusing rigor with detachment, provides little scope for engaging on equity.

- Davidson (2014) argues: "Evaluative reasoning is an inherently value-infused task". Getting the 'values' part right is the core of evaluation's validity".

- If the fundamental purpose of evaluation is valuing—part of the role of the evaluator is to ask questions of "whose values?" and "what is being valued?".

- The evaluator can transparently bring more inclusive values, including equity, into those discussions using whatever tools and openings are appropriate

Gender and Power in Evaluation Practice

- Recognize inequities as structural
- Recognize evaluation as value laden
- Choose to value equity

Questions

Design

Conduct

Analyze

Use

Q & A

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