

- Distance learning / Education

Issues and Challenges in Monitoring and Evaluating the Quality of Learning Modalities

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A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan is a document that helps to track and assess the results of the interventions throughout the life of a program. It is a living document that should be referred to and updated on a regular basis.

Monitoring is seeing if you are doing what you said you would do and done in a systematic approach to overseeing the planning, learning, and teaching. This is part of the evaluation that ensures that information is gathered so that judgments can be made and questions answered accordingly.

Evaluating, on the other hand, is the measurements of success. This is done after there is a comparison between outcomes, aims, and objectives. This eventually leads to a summative assessment of current practices within the school, then informs on the future planning for both learning and teaching. School-monitoring and evaluation help in providing a consolidated source of information showing the progress of the school (Miller, 2020).

According to Relief Web (2020), the new protocols for distance learning, online or otherwise, require teachers to rapidly change their practices, including daily tasks, responsibilities, and accountabilities. Teachers may be asked to develop new alternative and varied approaches to monitor children's learning (from assessing to remediating learning losses) during the COVID crisis, including both formative and summative methods. Different methods may be required per grade and subject area for both individual and collective feedback and support. Teachers may lack relevant resources at home, training, and experience, particularly on digital learning platforms. Some programs may largely reduce the amount of time allocated to teacher-directed learning processes by focusing on children's self-learning. Upon return to school, teachers may also struggle to assess students' learning levels to identify whether students are on track, and any learning gaps or losses resulting from the school closure and for remedial actions. Such assessments may be critical in informing the learning process and/or students' promotion, certification, and access to higher levels of education (Relief Web, 2020).