QUANTITATIVE, QUALITATIVE & MIXED-METHODS RESEARCH FOR M&E COURSE

Introduction

This comprehensive programme equips monitoring, evaluation, research and development professionals with the methodological knowledge and practical skills required to design and conduct credible research and generate high-quality quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods evidence. It provides a strong foundation for professionals who are involved in programme evaluation, development research, policy analysis, impact assessment and evidence-based decision-making. The programme examines the complete research process, from identifying research problems and developing research questions through research design, sampling, data collection, analysis, interpretation and reporting. A major focus is placed on quantitative research methods, including survey design, questionnaire development, variables and measurement, sampling, data preparation, descriptive analysis and interpretation. Participants also explore qualitative research approaches, including interviews, focus group discussions, observation, case studies, document analysis and thematic analysis. The programme further examines mixed-methods research, enabling participants to understand how quantitative and qualitative approaches can be combined to provide a more comprehensive understanding of complex programme and development questions. Participants learn about different mixed-methods designs, data integration, triangulation and the interpretation of findings from multiple sources. Particular attention is given to the development and quality of research instruments, including questionnaires, interview guides, observation tools and data-collection protocols. Participants examine pilot testing, instrument refinement and approaches for improving the reliability, validity, credibility and consistency of research data. The course also addresses sampling strategies, research ethics, data quality, research bias, confidentiality, informed participation and responsible handling of research information. Participants learn how methodological choices can influence the credibility of

findings and how to identify and address common weaknesses in research design and implementation.

Course Objectives

- Understand research methodologies.
- Develop research questions.
- Design research studies.
- Select appropriate sampling approaches.
- Develop research instruments.
- Conduct quantitative research.
- Conduct qualitative research.
- Apply mixed methods.
- Analyse and interpret evidence.
- Produce credible research findings.

Course Modules

> Module 1: Research Foundations

- Research concepts
- Research purposes
- Research questions
- Research ethics

> Module 2: Research Design

- Descriptive research
- Experimental research
- Quasi-experimental research
- Mixed-methods design

> Module 3: Sampling

- Sampling principles
- Probability sampling
- Non-probability sampling
- Sample considerations

> Module 4: Quantitative Research

- Surveys
- Structured questionnaires
- Variables
- Measurement

> Module 5: Qualitative Research
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observation
- Case studies

> Module 6: Research Instruments
- Questionnaire design
- Interview guides
- Observation tools
- Pilot testing

> Module 7: Quantitative Data Analysis
- Data preparation
- Descriptive analysis
- Relationships
- Interpretation

> Module 8: Qualitative Data Analysis
- Coding
- Themes
- Content analysis
- Interpretation

> Module 9: Mixed-Methods Research
- Integrating methods
- Data triangulation
- Convergent designs
- Sequential designs

> Module 10: Research Quality and Reporting
- Validity
- Reliability

- Credibility
- Research reporting