



A Report on attending the conference

6th Biennial SAMEA Conference 23-27 –October- 2017

PURPOSE-DRIVEN MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Name: Bongiwe Pasiya

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On the 23rd I attended a workshop on monitoring systems: How to use Monitoring data to improve Project Decision –Making and Learning. In this workshop I learnt that Monitoring and Evaluation produces evidence and knowledge that can be used to support learning through the project cycle. My other experiences were to learn about a theory of change that it's an ongoing process of reflection to explore change and how it happens – and what that means for the part we play in a particular context. We also did presentation on the theory of change, where we were given scenarios to do a framework.



On the 24th I attended a workshop on an introduction to monitoring and evaluation of social development and education programmes. In this work shop I learnt that **Monitoring** is a systematic and routine collection of information during programme implementation in order to gather evidence of and accountability for the resources used and results obtained, to establish whether the programme objectives and goals are being achieved, and to learn from

experiences in order to improve practices and activities in the near future, while **Evaluation** involves accessing, a systematically and objectively as possible(or phase of an organisation programme) in order to draw conclusion about the programmes relevance, effectiveness, efficiency , impact and sustainability, I learn about qualitative and quantitative indicators, data collection methods, qualitative and quantitative methods.

On the **25th** I attended a presentation done by B. Gauthier on Learning Circles for Advanced Professional Development in Evaluation. On this session I learnt about the formation of learning circles; that when you form a leaning circle it must be structured, you must have topics of mutual interest with experienced practitioners.



On the **26th** I attended a roundtable session dialogue with emerging evaluators experience on entering the field of Monitoring and Evaluation, What obstacles/ challenges have we faced and what support would we like to get . My take away from this session was on this presentation done by Z.Moussa

- Impose yourself don't wait quotas to impose
- Work on your own self development
- Break the ceiling
- Bring into the practice (and VOPE's) what you do best
- Approach the profession with humility and eagerness to learn.

We also had a dialogue session where 4 emerging evaluators shared their experiences and challenges. I also attended an AGM for the very first time in my life and an author's cocktail.

With the knowledge that I got from the conference I am planning to invite other Monitoring and evaluation officers from different NGO's around Durban and do workshop on what I have learnt from the conference and recruit them to join SAMEA. I will also use the information on a day to day basis, for example the presentation on data visualisation by Sara Vaca that was an eye opening presentation for me. This was an exceptionally timely and informative conference. The content, organisation and presentations were first rate, there was plenty of time for networking in an attractive and conducive setting, and the leaders of the field were generous in sharing their knowledge.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity given by SAMEA. It was an honour to be part of this great event; the 6th Biennial has been a step in the right direction for me to be exposed in such a great event.