

|
by B J

Submission date: 19-Jun-2021 08:54AM (UTC-0500)

Submission ID: 1609031195

File name: aluations_in_Criminal_Justice_Settings.edited.edited.edited.docx (14.75K)

Word count: 1058

Character count: 5943

Types of Evaluation and Their Application to Evaluations in Criminal Justice Settings

Name

Institution

Course

Instructor

Date

Types of Evaluation and Their Application to Evaluations in Criminal Justice Settings

The most critical mechanisms for understanding the extent and effectiveness of justice system policies and practices lie in program evaluations (Mertens & Wilson, 2019). In general, scholars (for instance, university lecturers or people working for private research firms) collaborate with professionals (for example, law enforcement or parole officers) to assess the efficacy of initiatives aimed at changing felons or persons who could become criminals. This paper aims to discuss the different types of evaluation in the criminal justice system, then discuss which evaluation method is better.

According to Vito and Higgins (2015), experts' actions to comprehensively identify and explain social needs are referred to as needs assessment. Needs assessments attempt to answer queries like "is this suggested (or present) initiative required?" If this is the case, what additional services would meet the demand? In the context of ongoing initiatives, inquiries may include whether the services supplied match the clients' needs. In reality, techniques are typically deployed without a thorough needs analysis since the implementers assume the initiative is required.

The second is the Program Theory Assessment. This level of assessment could entail analyzing if the initiative is well-conceived, planned out, and implemented (Mertens & Wilson, 2019). Whereas criminological or criminology ideas are occasionally incorporated in these initiatives, program theory is not similar to academic study. Instead, it is often practice-driven, with designers and administrators drawing on experience, training, or lectures they have taken, articles they have read in practice periodicals, and other individuals with whom they have discussed the difficulties they confront at work. Professionals frequently speak in easy-to-understand language when discussing their program principles and ideas, but well-versed

assessors may often spot scholarly statements in their explanations. A parole officer, for instance, would claim that children go through problems because their friends or family are also delinquents and that the emphasis should be on isolating them from toxic peers or improving parental skills. According to Mertens and Wilson (2019), evaluators try to figure out if the program theory satisfies the requirement identified in the needs analysis.

The third is the process evaluation. This assessment form aims to establish how much the program adheres to the initial implementation process and identify the services. According to Vito and Higgins (2015), this assessment form aims to establish how much the program adheres to the initial implementation process and identify the services. Process evaluation's primary purpose is to methodically capture and report the program's actions (involving what is supplied and to whom it is offered) and see if the activities fit the intended service delivery plan. The findings of a process evaluation may be beneficial in explaining program outcomes.

Fourth is impact evaluation conducted to identify if a program promotes progressive change in its participants and is the most prevalent type of evaluation in criminal justice. Even if an initiative meets the expectations of its consumers, has a sound theoretical framework, and is implemented according to plan, Mertens and Wilson (2019) suggest that it is unlikely to be continued or supported unless it can show that it achieves its strategic goals while also benefiting its clients. The visible attribute or conduct of the person that the strategy is designed to improve is the objective. Outcome or result assessments are used to see if the course successfully changed these important client attributes. Clients may change while enrolled in the program for reasons other than the initiative itself. For example, as individuals get older, they may experience differences in intrinsic motivation that the program does not target.

The fifth type of evaluation is efficiency evaluation. However, it is uncommon in criminal justice because assessors are preoccupied with gathering data for system and implications research. Mertens and Wilson (2019) argue that it could be due to the investigators' lack of competence in conducting efficient assessments. Cost-benefit analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis are the two most common types of efficiency analyses. In crime control, cost-benefit evaluations are challenging since it is hard to establish numerical figures on program outcomes, like the cost of persecution and how much can be recovered by avoiding one. In cost-effectiveness evaluation, experts scrutinize the cost of achieving a set objective but do not attach a monetary value to these objectives (Vito & Higgins, 2015; Mertens & Wilson, 2019). For instance, if the objective is to sanction criminals, the analysis might involve rethinking the annual cost of putting such a person in prison or probation.

After carefully considering the five types of program evaluations, a needs assessment is the best evaluation process for the criminal justice program because it cannot be addressed before its cause is determined. Needs assessment is essential in the criminal justice system because it methodically diagnoses the root cause of the problem by examining its degree. In this perspective, experts are concerned with how implementers of an intervention program define the issue at hand. It is also important to note that if a problem is poorly diagnosed from the onset, the program adopted to address it will not be effective. In the end, the intended goal of the intervention will not be achieved. Also, a needs assessment is the best since it determines the targeted group whom a program should serve. In essence, it is always easy to come up with a program to address specific criminal behavior in society. However, these interventions fail to take into account the age differences in society. Needs assessment helps identify the target

groups by identifying demographic and social characteristics of a particular age group, hence guiding the appropriate program to be adopted.

To sum it up, five types of evaluations are applied in the criminal justice setting. The best type of evaluation is debatable, but the most suitable in this case is the needs assessment that helps define the scope of the problem, hence guiding on the most appropriate program to adopt. However, the fundamental issue is that the efficacy of initiatives aimed at changing felons or persons who could become criminals depends on successful needs assessment.

References

Mertens, D. M., & Wilson, A. T. (2019). *Program evaluation theory and practice: A comprehensive guide*. Guilford Press.

Vito, G. F., & Higgins, G. E. (2015). *Practical program evaluation for criminal justice*. Anderson Publishing.

ORIGINALITY REPORT

0%

SIMILARITY INDEX

0%

INTERNET SOURCES

0%

PUBLICATIONS

0%

STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

Exclude quotes Off

Exclude matches Off

Exclude bibliography On