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FRAMEWORK REPORT

Six Transformative African Rooted Evaluation Frameworks and Tools

By

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2. Cultural Empowerment Framework (Ngwanake)

Introduction

The philosophy of Ngwanake emanates from the systematic review findings that Stated that youths were not active on utilizing cultural evaluations approaches during their design thinking and implementation of projects, where we noted lack of cultural integration. The tool endeavours to encourage the youth to participate in evaluations with its uniqueness grounded on empowerment emphases, inculcating African culture in the context of interconnectedness; intracultural relationships; thus, fostering overall cultural empowerment on Evaluation practices. The original *Ngwanake*[i] empowerment framework developed during the co-creation workshops was suggested as a framework suitable for empowering youth to actively participate in the evaluation practice. The initial constructs of the framework were Sensitisation, Scaffolding, and Execution. After the pilot exercise, the framework constructs were modified to Cultural Integration, Cultural Innovation and Autonomy **(Figure 1)**.

Figure 1: Ngwanake Framework Constructs

Rationale

The rationale of the Ngwanake Cultural Empowerment Framework is to ensure that there is youth/community capacitation in combining the use of technology and cultural knowledge and skills in the evaluation of interventions.

Contribution to the Field

1. Emphasize the inclusion of cultural practise and the use of available technology to engage and encourage the youth and the community in evaluation.
2. Promotes long-term impact by integrating cultural practices and technology in evaluation.
3. Strengthens youth and community resilience and self-reliance through empowerment.

Application of the Ngwanake empowerment framework

Cultural Integration

This construct acknowledges that communities are aware of their culture, however, it empowers and sensitizes them to bring in their cultural knowledge, values and practices in the evaluation initiation and planning domain. In the Ngwanake empowerment framework, young people are empowered to integrate their cultural practices, knowledge and values with technology in the evaluation process.

Example, empowering the youth to think of an intervention that integrates their culture with the assistance of commonly available technology, like via a social media discussion forum (WhatsApp, Facebook and TikTok).

Cultural innovation

This construct empowers the youth to bring in their cultural practices in the co-designing, co-implementing and co-monitoring and evaluation of the intervention. The construct involves adaptation of culturally relevant interventions and the evaluation of those interventions by leveraging on technology that is commonly used in the community.

Example, the empowerment of the youth to apply cultural methods and tools with the assistance of commonly used available technology to co-implement and co-monitor the intervention.

Autonomy-Jitegemee

The youth is empowered to value their cultural practices and apply them in the maintenance and improvement of their intervention's desired outcomes and value addition. This is to foster the spirit of resourcefulness, autonomy and self-reliance in the youth that they and their communities will ultimately own and take pride in projects. The youth use technology in sustaining the interventions

Example, dissemination of the intervention successes using cultural proverbs or songs via social media to foster community ownership.

Assessment guidelines – How to use the tool

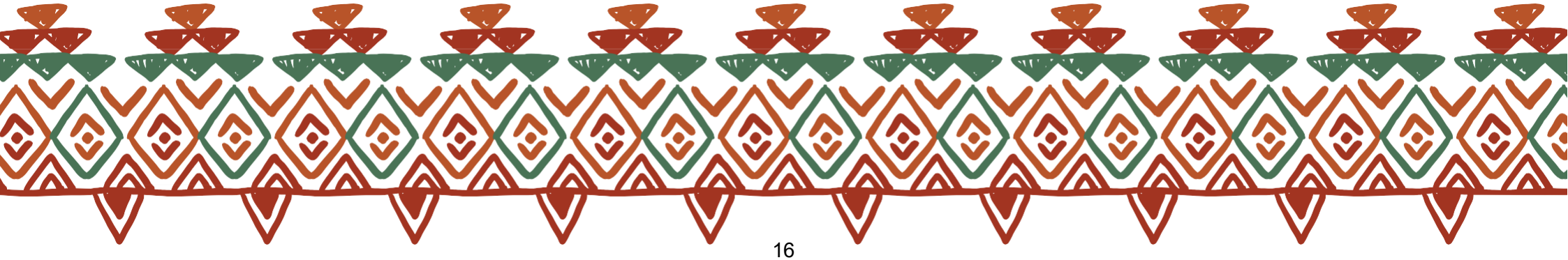
This tool can be used to guide a project from the design phase to evaluation phase along value chains for diverse interventions. It incorporates Afro-centric Intergeneration knowledge dynamics in the word of work.

Table 1: Operationalizing Ngwanake Cultural empowerment evaluation tool

Construct	Project/Evaluation Phase	Indicators	Example Questions
Cultural Integration	Inception, and Planning	Knowledge Attitude change Practice Behaviour	Who initiated the project? At what phases of the project was the Youth/ community involved on the problem targeted for intervention and What were the roles of the community members? How much of local knowledge inform the ways the interventions are conceptualised (you want to capture how voice asymmetries and power dynamics was addressed through cultural-values consideration and practice) Did the community help identify the resources needed for the project and were the resources chosen based on the community's input? Were there strategies to facilitate communication, engagement, and relationship building among stakeholders? Were there strategies to address the change of mindsets where stakeholders have different perspectives?
Cultural innovation	Design, Implementation, and Monitoring	Inputs, Local creativity on Features, features, novel initiatives and processes generated, during design strategies, utilization of locally available materials	Were the solutions created based on the community's cultural values or practices? How was cultural knowledge demonstrated in co creativity and value addition along value and supply chains? How did they gain the novel cultural knowledge and how is it documented? Did the team work well to match community needs and cultural practices with the project goals? Were the community's long-term goals and traditions included in the project?

Construct	Project/Evaluation Phase	Indicators	Example Questions
			How was the community's voice considered in the process? Did the project use Indigenous knowledge and skills effectively? Were local knowledge and assets valued and included in the project? Did the team create monitoring tools based on African traditions or community practices? How was cultural knowledge explored from the knowledge holders? Do the tools capture the community's holistic understanding of success, such as spiritual, social, and relational well-being, beyond just material outcomes? Were community members actively involved in the co-creation or adaptation of the Products innovated culturally? How were the perspectives of different groups (elders, youth, women, marginalized individuals) incorporated into innovation?
Jitegemee - Autonomy	Output and Outcomes, Value-add, Impact, and Sustainability	Products By-products, Tech application, targeted financial initiatives, Branding logos, Documented collaboration agreements	Is there demonstrable or visible evidence of the integration of local culture [values; language; traditions; material; etc] in the data collection and data analysis of the project? How has the project ensured the continuity of benefits after its completion? What strategies have been implemented to transfer ownership and responsibility to the community? How is the rich indigenous knowledge to inter- generations (; you will be testing Technology- social media, radio, etc)? What aspects of the outcome of the project demonstrates community ownership? What cultural aspects are incorporated in the marketing and branding of the project outcomes?

Construct	Project/Evaluation Phase	Indicators	Example Questions
			What cultural aspects were incorporated in the project branding, marketing and distribution of the final project output? Were tools like songs, storytelling, or observations used for monitoring? Were the evaluation tools based on African or local traditions? Did the community participate in using tools like songs, poems, or stories to evaluate the project? How well did the tools connect with the community's culture and practices? What indigenous tools were used to collect data?



Lessons Learnt using Ngwanake cultural Empowerment Framework

- The adoptability of Ngwanake cultural Empowerment Framework during projects design and implementation reveals Intergenerational strategies from exclusionary practices to inclusive, localized solutions ensuring no one is left behind; the tools enables projects implementers and Funders to the address power dynamics within the communities that affect participation and decision-making which includes Mechanisms that seek to ensure inclusion of marginalized groups, such as young mothers and people with disabilities (PWDs).
- The usability of Ngwanake Cultural Empowerment framework during the implementation can easily foster Societal Problem solving through local solutions for Global Impact; appreciation of Cultural innovate practices revolved along utilization of community science towards the Creation of ownership strategies on African indigenous knowledge in business, products thus leading to branding and patenting to comply with legal forces; thus, creating authentic homegrown products for global Markets.
- Utilization of Ngwanake Cultural framework as an evaluative tool would thrush out Labour Generative and job creation outcomes through cultural innovations across value chains.
- Unveils legitimate concerns around intellectual property rights. Communities may be hesitant to share their knowledge without clear assurances of recognition, protection, and equitable benefit-sharing. This caution is well-founded, as there have been instances of exploitation and misappropriation of indigenous knowledge by external entities.

Key Value-Add on usability of Ngwanake Cultural empowerment Framework compared to other frameworks

- Change of mind set; the tool is Youth -Centric with practical integration of technology depicted by appreciation of innovative cultural science in production, improving productivity, preservation and value addition of products.
- Identification of Cultural Bias and aspect of equity; the tool is community-centric with a high affinity to community science and integration of technology.
- The tool encompasses Intergenerational strategies from exclusionary practices to inclusive, localized solutions ensuring no one is left behind; address power dynamics and voice asymmetries within the communities that affect participation and decision-making.
- The tool empowers the youth and community towards labour generative strategies and job creation through cultural innovations.