ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Medicine

STEPS OF RESEARCH UTILIZATION, GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCHERS

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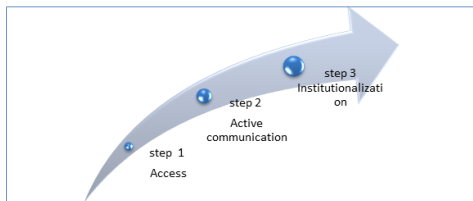
ABSTRACT

Knowledge translation refers to the application of evidence to policies, programs, and practices to improve health outcomes. To insure application of (research) results, all stakeholders including the researcher play an important role. Steps of research utilization are considered to be a tool to increase confidence, accountability, and satisfaction of the researcher for utilization of research product in the community.

INTRODUCTION

Research utilization refers to the application of evidence to policies, programs and practice to improve outcomes. Research utilization involves various strategies including stakeholder engagement and collaborative research [1], the use of champions [2], the use of knowledge brokers [3], and advocacy and communication [4], and is bi-directional. It links current research with opportunities to inform policy, programs, and practice. At the same time, it facilitates the use of experience from programs, policies, and practice to inform new research agendas.

According to the literature on research utilization, researchers and end-users of the research—mainly policy-makers, program managers, service providers, and clients—are often disconnected. In a 2002 systematic review of 24 studies [5] on how evidence and information influence health-focused decision makers, the absence of personal contact between researchers and policy-makers and the lack of timeliness or relevance of research were the most common constraints

Health system researches are carried out to affect policies and programs and service development but mostly are not utilized due to lack of tools, skills, and stakeholders' attitudes [6]. So while the end-users should institutionalize systematic methods in their organizations to apply research results, researchers also need to struggle constantly to be effective [7]. Steps of research utilization are guidance to the researcher including the following three steps:

Shape 1: Three steps of research utilization for researchers

First step) Access to the results is provided for the end-users.
1. Evidence show that the task (work) is ordered and main stakeholders have been contributed in executing the project.
2. Complete report of the research is prepared in a systematic format as model 1, 3, and 25.
3. Research report contains particular messages addressed to four groups of audiences: researchers, service providers, managers, and the public.
4. Research report is formed as policy document, law draft, program, educational pack, regulations, or instructions.
5. The results are located on a specific port.
6. The article is printed in valid scientific research journals.

Second Step) Results are conveyed to the end-users through active communication.
1. Corresponding and holding dedicated sessions with end-users are carried on and pursuit constantly.
2. The results are presented at scientific conferences, policy research meetings, and training workshops.

3. The advocacy coalition framework or community symbolic individual operates to influence policy and law making processes.
4. Particular messages are distributed through media including news agencies and the press, radio and TV.
5. Special messages are conveyed to the service providers via valid channels.

Third Step) Institutionalization of the project results by the end-users.
1. Responsible person in government or other sectors notify a written and authorized commitment for applying the results.
2. The approved commitment is piloted or fully implemented in the field.
3. An evidence-based change is happened in the community behavioral and environmental factors being affected by the (research) results.

Utilizing this method, researches at least enjoy the following benefits:
1. This tool helps the researcher plan and follow-up applying the research findings.
2. The researcher could inform of the quality and quantity of his research information transfer to the end-users.
3. The researcher could hear the weak points of the research or its report from the audience through this tool and more completely and accurately consider stakeholders contribution in his future researches.
4. The researcher is more content for a relative confidence in the efficiency of his research findings for the environment.
5. Applying this tool, the researcher thrives to investigate in priority needs of the society because of his inclined interaction with end-users.

CONCLUSION:
Most of the offered tools in resources for knowledge translation are based on organizational changes or organized measures by end users; but, in this model focus is on the researcher to follow up the stages of utilizing his research in three levels. Universities and scientific organizations could benefit the model as a tool to evaluate social accountability of the researchers . A change like this requires acquaintance of researches with principles and techniques of research utilization. Moreover, changing research proposal formats and incorporating the researcher program for research utilization, encourage method of monitoring researches to ensure the quality of research and end-users' contribution throughout the research and also showing the researchers commitment in research contracts to use the tool and similar guides.

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