Education Innovation Evaluation

Education innovation should spark change. A well-developed evaluation strategy can help define this change and discover how and why it happens—or *does not* happen. When evaluating innovation in education, consider these three principles:

I.   **Education innovation evaluation is an iterative and non-linear process**
Remain open to identifying indicators of change along the way as you learn more about your innovation. It is not always possible to identify meaningful outcomes in advance.

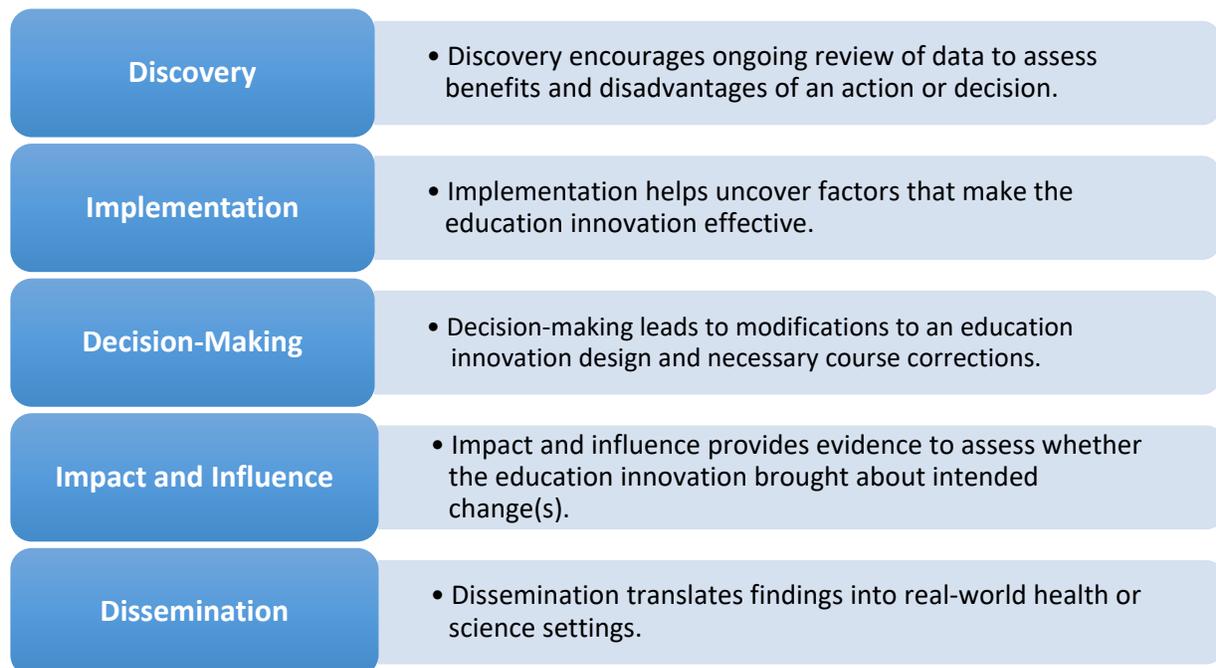II.   **Education innovation evaluation focusing on high failure rates suggests ambition**
Embrace 'failure' as part of the exploration process. A high number of 'failures' can be indicative of an education innovation that attempted to reach beyond the status quo. Take advantage of these opportunities to learn from what did not work and understand why.

III.   **Education innovation evaluation must include a process of discovery in addition to outcome delivery**
Emphasize opportunities to learn from what was attempted (regardless of outcome) by identifying the extent to which there has been any attempt to:
   •   take risks and learn from both 'failures' and 'successes';
   •   understand the perspectives of key stakeholders of the innovation;
   •   explore and discover new processes and systems; and
   •   test the innovation through diverse networks.

A well-developed education innovation evaluation strategy promotes:

Discovery	• Discovery encourages ongoing review of data to assess benefits and disadvantages of an action or decision.
Implementation	• Implementation helps uncover factors that make the education innovation effective.
Decision-Making	• Decision-making leads to modifications to an education innovation design and necessary course corrections.
Impact and Influence	• Impact and influence provides evidence to assess whether the education innovation brought about intended change(s).
Dissemination	• Dissemination translates findings into real-world health or science settings.

For additional support for evaluating your education innovation, contact: Nikki Zaidi, PhD, RISE Evaluation and Assessment Director – bibler@med.umich.edu.