**Abstract Submission for NEC 2024**

**Title:** Enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation in Qatar's Education Sector: Demonstrating Impact and Informing Policy for Sustainable Development

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**Conference Stream:** Stream A: National Evaluation Systems – Building strong evaluation systems ensuring use

**Abstract:**

**Background:**

The Education Above All Foundation (EAA) has been at the forefront of transforming education for marginalized and vulnerable populations globally. In Qatar, the foundation's initiatives align with the national vision of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader educational objectives of Qatar's National Vision 2030. This abstract presents a comprehensive analysis of the current state of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in Qatar’s education sector, highlights the importance of strong M&E systems, and demonstrates how EAA's programs contribute to increased access to quality education.

**Objective:**

This study aims to:

1. Assess the current M&E capacity and practices in Qatar's education sector.
2. Highlight the role of robust M&E systems in showcasing the impact of Qatar’s contributions and EAA's educational programs.
3. Provide actionable recommendations for enhancing M&E practices to support evidence-based policy-making and sustainable educational outcomes.

**Methods:**

The analysis incorporates a mixed-methods approach, including a review of institutional frameworks, technological resources, and existing networks and platforms. Data were gathered from regional and international M&E networks such as EvalMENA, and partnerships with international organizations and UN agencies. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from Educate A Child Program of EAA are utilized to track progress in educational access, retention rates, and policy influence.

**Findings:**

1. *Institutional Framework:* Qatar's Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA) plays a pivotal role in coordinating national M&E efforts, supported by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. However, there is a need for continuous improvement in data quality and accessibility.
2. *Technological Resources:* Investments in advanced data collection and management technologies are critical. Yet, enhancements are required to ensure data comprehensiveness across educational levels.
3. *Networks and Platforms:* Engagement with EvalMENA and other international partners facilitates knowledge sharing and capacity building, essential for M&E advancement.
4. Strategic focus: EAA’s new strategy, in line with Qatar Vision 2030, emphasizes robust M&E methods, contributing to increased educational access, improved retention rates, and effective policy influence.

**Importance of Strong M&E:**

Effective M&E systems are crucial for:

* Demonstrating the tangible impacts of educational initiatives, thereby enhancing accountability and transparency.
* Providing evidence-based insights for policy-making, ensuring alignment with national and international educational goals.
* Identifying areas for program improvement, leading to enhanced educational outcomes and sustainability.

**Recommendations:**

1. **Capacity Building:** Implement comprehensive training programs for M&E professionals to enhance skills in data collection, analysis, and utilization.
2. **Advocacy and Awareness:** Promote the value of M&E within development educational forums and government agencies to foster a culture of continuous improvement.
3. **Technical Support:** Provide resources and tools to local entities, aligned with international best practices.
4. **Collaborative Projects:** Foster partnerships with regional and international organizations to create a cohesive M&E ecosystem in Qatar.
5. **Data Management:** Improve data management systems to ensure accuracy, accessibility, and effective use in decision-making processes.

**Conclusion:**

Enhancing M&E in Qatar's education sector is essential for achieving development goals and ensuring the effectiveness of educational policies and programs. By addressing current challenges and leveraging existing opportunities, the Education Above All Foundation can lead this transformation. Strong M&E systems will highlight the impact of Qatar's contributions, ensuring that EAA’s programs provide access to quality education for all.

**Keywords:** Monitoring and Evaluation, Education, Qatar, Sustainable Development Goals, Policy-making, Education Above All Foundation, Capacity Building, Data Management

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