

Appraisal Tool

General information about the source					
Title					
Author/institute					
Date of publication					
Step 1. Relevance and Inclusivity Criteria (ALL sources)					
Appraisal criteria	Assessment				
Relevance	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
1. Purpose: Does the source's purpose or objective align with your analytical question?					
2. Relevance: Does the source contain data, findings, or commentary that help answer your analytical question?					
3. Context: Does the source address the needs, challenges, and circumstances of the context you are interested in?					
Inclusivity	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
1. Representation of marginalised groups: Does the source focus on marginalised groups (such as students from low-income backgrounds, girls, refugees, migrants, children or youth with disabilities)?					
2. Diversity of voices: To what extent does the source acknowledge and involve a plurality of stakeholder perspectives and interests regarding the subject?					
Step 2. Screening questions to determine if the source is research or non-research					
1. Does the source address clear research questions or research objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> If answered ' Yes ' to both questions, the source is an empirical study, and you should assess it using the Methodological Rigour Criteria for Research Sources . Select the appropriate criteria below, based on the research design (qualitative, quantitative randomised, quantitative non-randomised, quantitative descriptive, and mixed methods). <input type="checkbox"/> If you've answered ' No ' to the questions, then apply the Credibility Criteria for Non-Research Sources (also below).				
2. Is data collected to address those research questions or research objectives?					

Methodological rigour criteria (for research sources only)					
Qualitative studies: sources with qualitative data collection and analysis, e.g. in-depth interviews or focus groups, case studies, ethnography, grounded theory.					
Appraisal criteria	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
1.1. Is the qualitative approach appropriate to answer the research question?					
1.2. Are the qualitative data collection methods adequate to address the research question?					
1.3. Are the findings adequately derived from the data?					
1.4. Is the interpretation of results sufficiently substantiated by data?					
1.5. Is there coherence between qualitative data sources, collection, analysis and interpretation?					
Quantitative randomised studies: an experimental study in which participants are allocated to intervention or control groups by randomization.					
Methodological rigour (quant-randomised)	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
2.1. Is randomisation appropriately performed?					
2.2. Are the groups comparable at baseline?					
2.3. Are there complete outcome data?					
2.4. Are outcome assessors blinded to the intervention provided?					
2.5. Did the participants adhere to the assigned intervention?					
Quantitative non-randomised studies: any quantitative study estimating the effectiveness of an intervention without using randomization to compare groups (e.g. non-randomised control trials, cohort studies, cross-sectional studies)					
Methodological rigour (quant- non-random)	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
3.1. Are the participants representative of the target population?					
3.2. Are measurements appropriate regarding both the outcome and intervention (or exposure)?					
3.3. Are there complete outcome data?					

3.4. Are the confounders accounted for in the design and analysis?					
3.5. During the study period, is the intervention administered (or exposure occurred) as intended?					
Quantitative descriptive studies: studies used to describe quantitative variables without analysing causal relationships					
Methodological rigour (quant-descriptive)	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
4.1. Is the sampling strategy relevant to address the research question?					
4.2. Is the sample representative of the target population?					
4.3. Are the measurements appropriate?					
4.4. Is the risk of nonresponse bias low?					
4.5. Is the statistical analysis appropriate to answer the research question?					
Mixed-methods studies: studies that involve combining qualitative and quantitative methods					
Methodological rigour (mixed methods)	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
5.1. Is there an adequate rationale for using a mixed methods design to address the research question?					
5.2. Are the different components of the study effectively integrated to answer the research question?					
5.3. Are the outputs of the integration of qualitative and quantitative components adequately interpreted?					
5.4. Are divergences and inconsistencies between quantitative and qualitative results adequately addressed?					
5.5. Do the different components of the study adhere to the quality criteria of each tradition of the methods involved?					
Credibility criteria (for non-research sources ONLY)					
Credibility	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
1. Author: Is an author (person or organisation) listed on the source?					

2. Date: Is the year given for when this was written or published, or can it be estimated? Month is optional.					
3. Transparency of source information: Does the source transparently document from where the information comes?					
4. Transparency of description: Are the interventions, programmes, plans or policies referenced in the source clearly described?					
5. Soundness of argument: Are the findings, conclusions, or recommendations supported by evidence?					
Step 3. Limitation and Biases (for ALL sources)					
Limitations and biases	Yes	No	Unclear	N/A	Comments
6. Limitations: Does the source note any limitations of the work?					
7. Biases: Does the source have any evident bias, conflict of interest, or personal opinion?					
Step 4. Final assessment of source (select one):	Explain your final assessment:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Include <input type="checkbox"/> Include with reservations <input type="checkbox"/> Probably not include <input type="checkbox"/> Exclude					
Name of Appraiser:					
<p>Note that this information is helpful when multiple people are using the Appraisal Tool for the same project; all users of the Tool should meet regularly to compare and contrast their responses, and to ultimately determine which sources are included or not.</p>					