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**An Innovative Approach for Getting Research Evidence in Health Development Projects**

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**Objectives/aims**

There has been tremendous efforts to improve clinical practice and public health programs through the use of evidence, but there is still lack of a sound scientific approach in measuring the level of evidence used in public health intervention and health development projects.

Our objective is to use an innovative tool; the evidence barometer to evaluate and make recommendations for health programs

**Methods**

We developed a tool for evaluation and recommendations for evidence use in health development projects, the Evidence barometer which evaluates use of evidence within a practice through a scoring process and provides recommendations for improvement. We evaluated a project for the prevention of chronic obstructive airway disease and improving vision for children who read with poor light source. We used the tool retrospectively to measure our use of evidence over time, while highlighting surrounding activities in a quest to bring out influencing factors for the use of evidence in our projects.

**Main findings**

We identified and incorporated 10 evidenced-based criteria into the tool. The project scored 9 points out of 26 points. The tool recommended changes in 9 domains from results obtained, including the use of evidence-based guidelines and best practices. An evaluation of 10 projects over a 5-year period showed a steady increase in our use of evidence.

Based on our evaluation, Evidence Barometer can improve the quality and performance of health intervention and development projects. Further testing and discussions will facilitate improving this tool.