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**Role of research from an implementing organization's perspective: A case study from the Philippines**

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**Objectives/aims**

Evidence-driven innovation, knowledge generation, and cost effectiveness are core operational values of many organizations that aim to address poverty. Because research of poverty alleviation programs often entails partnering with academics, outcomes of this work may focus on academic interests and overlook the experiences of implementing organizations. Thus, there is a need to identify and discuss the challenges and lessons learned of conducting research from an implementing partner's perspective to better understand benefits and costs of embedding research into operations of an organization.

**Methods**

International Care Ministries (ICM) is a non-profit organization that works with extremely poor Filipinos. Since 2011, ICM has partnered with academics from Innovations for Poverty Action and universities on research topics such as program evaluation, social networks, maternal and child health, and early childhood education. This case study will discuss obstacles faced and lessons learned as an implementing partner conducting randomized control trials (RCTs) and other experimental studies. It will also reflect on the process of establishing a culture of research and evaluation within ICM.

**Main findings**

The context of implementing partners, such as organizational culture and definitions of success, should be considered when conducting research in partnership with poverty alleviation organizations to ensure research designs are operationally and logistically feasible and to improve implementation fidelity. In addition, a shift in focus from impact evaluations towards nimble tests of theories and assumptions upon which programs are based is more likely to demonstrate the value of research to organizations as they are given data to validate if and under what conditions their programs work.