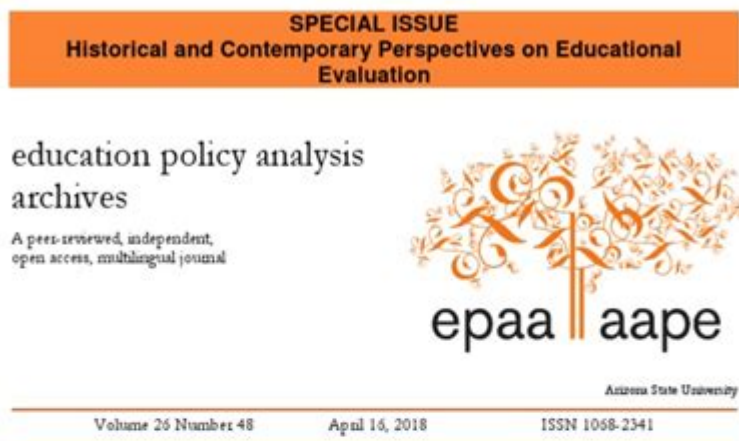


Educational Policy Analysis Archives



Methodological Perspectives: Standardized (Summative) or Contextualized (Formative) Evaluation?

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Citation: Shavelson, R. J. (2018). Methodological perspectives: Standardized (summative) or contextualized (formative) evaluation? *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 26(48). <http://dx.doi.org/10.14507/epaa.26.3813> This article is part of the Special Issue, *Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Educational Evaluation: Dialogues with the International Academy of Education*, guest edited by Lenn W. Andersson, Maria de Ibarrola, and D. C. Phillips.

Abstract: A critical issue in educational evaluation is whether evaluations should focus on standardized (summative, often quantitative) or contextualized (formative or often qualitative) evidence. The author of this article advises readers to beware of false dichotomies. The big issue is not whether evaluations should be "standardized" or "contextualized" but rather whether the evidence collected rigorously addresses the policy and/or practice questions driving the evaluation. The questions asked, in turn, lead to evaluation designs which may be standardized (summative), contextualized (formative) or both. Three general questions drive research and evaluation: (1) Descriptive—What's Happening? (2) Causal—Is there a systematic effect? and (3) Process or mechanism—Why or how is it happening? Depending on the nature of the question, summative and/or formative data might be collected. Equally important are politics, measurement methods

Journal website: <http://epaa.asea-edu.org/>
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Manuscript received: 1/15/2018
Revisions received: 2/18/2018
Accepted: 2/18/2018

Educational Policy Analysis Archives (EPAA) is a prominent platform that serves as a repository for scholarly articles on educational policy and its implications. Established to promote the dissemination of knowledge related to education policy analysis, EPAA is a vital resource for researchers, educators, policymakers, and students. This article explores the significance of EPAA, its contributions to the field of education, the types of content it hosts, and the impact it has on educational research and practice.

Understanding Educational Policy Analysis Archives

Educational Policy Analysis Archives is an open-access journal that publishes

peer-reviewed articles, research studies, and policy analyses related to education. The archives address a wide range of issues, including:

- Curriculum development
- Educational equity
- Teacher policy
- School funding
- Accountability measures
- Innovative educational practices

The journal aims to bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical application, providing insights that can influence educational practices and policies worldwide.

History and Development

EPAA was founded in 1993 by Dr. Gene V. Glass and has grown significantly over the years. Initially, it catered to a niche audience, but its commitment to quality research and accessibility has led to increased visibility and usage. As an open-access journal, EPAA allows researchers to share their findings without financial barriers, thus promoting wider dissemination of critical educational insights.

Mission and Vision

The mission of EPAA is to provide a platform for rigorous, high-quality research that informs educational policy and practice. The journal aspires to:

1. Encourage scholarly discourse on educational policy issues.
2. Promote the use of evidence-based research in policymaking.
3. Support interdisciplinary approaches to educational research.
4. Enhance the visibility of educational research from diverse perspectives.

The vision of EPAA is to become the premier source of educational policy analysis, fostering a global community of researchers and practitioners dedicated to improving education systems and outcomes.

Content and Contributions

Educational Policy Analysis Archives hosts a variety of content types that contribute to the field of education policy analysis. This includes:

Research Articles

Peer-reviewed research articles are the cornerstone of EPAA. These articles typically present original research findings, methodological innovations, or theoretical advancements in the field. They cover a wide array of topics, such as:

- Comparative education studies
- Policy implementation and evaluation
- The role of stakeholders in education reform
- Impacts of socio-economic factors on education

Policy Briefs

Policy briefs are concise documents that synthesize research findings and provide actionable recommendations for policymakers. These briefs are designed to be accessible and informative, ensuring that critical research can influence policy decisions effectively.

Commentaries and Reviews

In addition to research articles, EPAA features commentaries and literature reviews that analyze current trends and debates in education policy. These pieces often provide context for ongoing discussions and highlight gaps in existing research.

Special Issues

EPAA occasionally publishes special issues focused on specific themes or emerging trends in educational policy. These issues bring together multiple perspectives and foster comprehensive discussions on pressing educational challenges.

Impact on Educational Research and Practice

The contributions of Educational Policy Analysis Archives significantly impact both educational research and practice. Here are some key areas where EPAA makes a difference:

Accessibility of Research

One of the defining features of EPAA is its commitment to open access. By removing paywalls, EPAA democratizes access to scholarly research, allowing educators, policymakers, and the public to engage with the latest findings in educational policy. This accessibility fosters a more informed discourse around education issues.

Influencing Policy Decisions

Through its rigorous research and policy briefs, EPAA plays a crucial role in informing policymakers. By providing evidence-based recommendations, the archives help shape educational policies that are responsive to the needs of students and communities.

Encouraging Collaboration

EPAA promotes interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, educators, and policymakers. By providing a platform for diverse voices, the journal fosters innovative solutions to complex educational challenges. This collaborative spirit is essential for addressing systemic issues in education.

Supporting Emerging Scholars

The journal serves as a valuable resource for emerging scholars in the field of educational policy. By publishing their work alongside established researchers, EPAA helps new voices gain recognition and contributes to the development of the next generation of education policy analysts.

Challenges and Future Directions

While Educational Policy Analysis Archives has made significant strides in the field of education research, it faces several challenges that may impact its future. These include:

Maintaining Quality Standards

As the volume of submissions increases, maintaining high-quality peer review processes becomes critical. EPAA must ensure that it continues to uphold rigorous standards for publication to maintain its credibility and relevance in the academic community.

Adapting to Technological Advances

The rapid evolution of technology in education presents both opportunities and challenges for EPAA. The journal must leverage advancements in digital platforms to enhance user experience while remaining committed to its mission of accessibility and quality research.

Global Reach and Inclusivity

While EPAA has a strong foundational presence in the U.S., expanding its reach to a global audience remains a priority. The journal must continue to seek out and publish diverse perspectives from international scholars to enrich the discourse on educational policy.

Conclusion

Educational Policy Analysis Archives plays a pivotal role in the landscape of educational research and policy. By providing a platform for high-quality research, promoting accessibility, and fostering collaboration, EPAA significantly impacts the way educational policies are formulated and implemented. As the field continues to evolve, the archives will undoubtedly remain a key resource for all stakeholders involved in education, helping to bridge the gap between research and practice. Its future will depend on its ability to adapt to new challenges while staying true to its mission of improving education through informed policy analysis.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Educational Policy Analysis Archives?

Educational Policy Analysis Archives is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that publishes research on educational policy and practice, focusing on issues that affect education systems worldwide.

How does Educational Policy Analysis Archives contribute to the field of education?

The journal contributes by providing a platform for scholarly research, offering insights into policy implications, and facilitating discussions among policymakers, educators, and researchers.

Who can submit articles to Educational Policy Analysis Archives?

Any researcher, educator, or scholar in the field of education can submit articles, provided that the research meets the journal's standards for quality and relevance.

What topics are commonly covered in the Educational Policy Analysis Archives?

Topics often include educational equity, policy reform, assessment practices,

governance, and the impact of socio-economic factors on education systems.

Is Educational Policy Analysis Archives accessible to the public?

Yes, as an open-access journal, all articles published in the Educational Policy Analysis Archives are freely available to the public, promoting wider dissemination of research findings.

How can readers stay updated with new publications from Educational Policy Analysis Archives?

Readers can subscribe to the journal's mailing list or follow their social media channels to receive notifications about new publications and updates.

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