

9-1-2539

Ideal MIS Package for a Well-Established FPA with a Variety of Family Planning and Related Services

Kua Wongboosin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.car.chula.ac.th/jdm>



Part of the [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Wongboosin, Kua (2539) "Ideal MIS Package for a Well-Established FPA with a Variety of Family Planning and Related Services," *Journal of Demography*. Vol. 12: Iss. 2, Article 2.

Available at: <https://digital.car.chula.ac.th/jdm/vol12/iss2/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Chulalongkorn Journal Online (CUJO) at Chula Digital Collections. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Demography by an authorized editor of Chula Digital Collections. For more information, please contact ChulaDC@car.chula.ac.th.

**IDEAL MIS PACKAGE FOR A WELL-ESTABLISHED FPA
WITH A VARIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING
AND RELATED SERVICES***

Kua Wongboonsin**

Management information systems (MIS) is a subject area of management. According to Laing (1982: 45), the term refers to the activities of field-data collection, data transfer to a more central level, and data processing for analysis. It is an important system for monitoring the performance of a programme. It is said that an appropriate MIS helps improve the performance of a programme. On the other hand, a poor MIS results in a huge, but useless, database, with poor information for programme management. Therefore, a good MIS also relates to the capacity to bring about reliable and useful information from a database.

As Giridhar (1994: 223) puts it, many organizations are facing the problem of abundant data, but little information. According to his definition, data is like raw materials, while information is viewed as the finished product. He contends that the reason for acquiring an MIS is not the problem of data availability, but the poor capacity of retrieving the huge amounts of data at hand.

*
The paper was prepared for the Regional Programme Advisory Panel Meeting, International Planned Parenthood Federation East & South East Asia and Oceania Region, Kuala Lumpur, 26-27 January 1996.

**
Associate Professor, Vice-President of Chulalongkorn University.

Since the main purpose of an MIS is to monitor the performance of a programme, an MIS package is to support the whole process of programme policymaking. According to Walt (1994), the policymaking process generally is comprised of four stages. They are policy identification, policy formulation, policy implementation, and policy evaluation. The first two stages, policy identification and formulation, are associated with the function of planning, according to Giridhar (1994). In other words, they deal with a project design in conformity with the goals. On the other hand, policy implementation and policy evaluation are associated with the function of monitoring. During the implementation stage, one tests implementation according to programme design. In the end, the evaluation stage assesses the effectiveness in reaching the set targets of the programme.

Thus, if we concentrate the main purpose of an MIS on monitoring the performance of the programme during the implementation and evaluation stage of a family planning association (FPA), the gap between the achieved level of performance and the expected level can be identified. In this case, an ideal MIS package during the implementation and evaluation stage of the programme deals with information of the FPA's various inputs, processes, and outputs, under the criteria of performance and sustainability.

With regard to the performance, the MIS is to look at the coverage, cycle time, quality and cost-effectiveness of the services:

A. Coverage: Whether the performance covers the unmet-needs group, namely, people in the remote rural areas, hill tribes, refugees, urban poor, construction workers, and teenagers.

B. Cycle Time: The length of time taken for the transformation from an input to a final output.

C. Quality: How well the FPA did in a previous year in reaching the objectives set in its three-year plan/work-programme budget; and how well the expectations of the serviced customers are met.

D. Cost-Effectiveness: The cost-effectiveness of an FPA is measured in terms of the average of the following costs: cost per acceptor, cost per two years of protection, and cost per birth averted. By the same token, the cost-effectiveness of information, education,

and motivation (IEM) activities for women, young people, and males can also be measured in the same way. In other words, it is to be measured in terms of the total cost of providing these kinds of activities per output.

With regard to sustainability, the MIS is to look at the development of both financial and human resources as follows:

A. Financial-Resource Development: The MIS tells how the FPA mobilizes resources locally; and how it recovers their costs. The MIS may have to provide the following information: Capability of the FPA to attract donor funds; percentage of its income from, for example, the sale of contraceptives, service fees, and fund-raising activities. The MIS also has to deal with the extent of the FPA's collaboration with other research groups in attracting donor funds. The notion derives from the fact that some funding agencies grant more resources to pure, rather than practical, research, or even prefer both kinds of research in a proposal submitted to them. The MIS will also have to answer whether the FPA is increasingly cost-effective and self-reliant over time.

B. Human-Resource Development: The MIS tells whether the FPA plans for human resource development in all levels of their staff. The MIS also looks into the extent to which the people at the grassroots level are involved in resource mobilization.

From above, with a better understanding of the characteristics of the processes of the FPA activities and an appropriate evaluation of the results brought about by a well-designed MIS, the FPA manager will be able to reduce certain costs of services and thereby improve the degree of cost-effectiveness.

This paper concludes with the notion put forward by Harrington (1994: 114): "Understanding the process characteristics is essential for three reasons. First, it helps identify key problem areas within the process.... Second, it provides the database needed for us to make informed decisions about improvements.... And the third, it is the basis for setting improvement targets and for evaluating results."

REFERENCES

- Giridhar, G. 1994. "Management Information Systems: A Background Paper." In *New Directions in Population and Programmes in Thailand*. Compiled by UNFPA Office in Thailand, Bangkok, pp.220-232, Publication No.217/94. Bangkok: Institute of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University.
- Harrington, H.J. 1991. *Business Process Improvement: the Breakthrough Strategy for Total Quality, Productivity, and Competitiveness*. McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- Laing, J. 1982. *Demographic Evaluation of Family Planning Programs*. Demography Teaching Notes, No.4. Canberra: Development Studies, Australian National University.
- Walt, G. 1994. *Introducing Health Policy: Power and Processes*. London: Zed Press.

REFERENCES

- Chatranon, W. 1988. "Thailand's National Breast-feeding Programmes." Paper given at the Invitational Asian Regional Lactation Management Workshop, 30 June - 3 July 1988. Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia.
- Commission on Health for Development. 1990. *Health Research: Essential Link to Equity in Development*. Oxford: University Press.
- Johnson, G., and Scholes, K. 1983. *Exploring Corporate Strategy: Text and Cases*. 3rd.ed. Englewood cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.
- Knodel, J.; Chayovan, N. and Wongboonsin, K. 1990. "Breastfeed Trends, Patterns and Policies in Thailand." *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, 5: 135-150.
- Mintzberg, H. 1994. *The Rise and Fall of Strategic Planning*. New York: Free Press.
- Mintzberg, H. 1994. "The Fall and Rise of Strategic Planning." *Harvard Business Review*, January-February: 107-114.
- Nag, M. 1983. "The Impact of Sociocultural Factors on Breastfeeding and Sexual Behavior." In *Determinants of Fertility in Developing Countries*. R.A. Bulatao and R.D. Lee, eds., Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- Pitjakkapat, K. 1996. "Strategic Planning and Policy for High Level Public Health Managers." (s.l., s.n.) (Typewritten).
- Wehrich, H. 1982. "The TOWS Matrix: A Tool for Situational Analysis." *Long Range Planning*, 15: No.2, 54-66.