Empirical Methods for Evaluating Educational Interventions. Educational Psychology

Description: New US government requirements state that federally funded grants and school programs must prove that they are based on scientifically proved improvements in teaching and learning. All new grants must show they are based on scientifically sound research to be funded, and budgets to schools must likewise show that they are based on scientifically sound research. However, the movement in education over the past several years has been toward qualitative rather than quantitative measures. The new legislation comes at a time when researchers are ill trained to measure results or even to frame questions in an empirical way, and when school administrators and teachers are no longer remember or were never trained to prove statistically that their programs are effective.

Experimental Methods for Evaluating Educational Interventions is a tutorial on what it means to frame a question in an empirical manner, how one needs to test that a method works, what statistics one uses to measure effectiveness, and how to document these findings in a way so as to be compliant with new empirically based requirements. The book is simplistic enough to be accessible to those teaching and administrative educational professionals long out of schooling, but comprehensive and sophisticated enough to be of use to researchers who know experimental design and statistics but don't know how to use what they know to write acceptable grant proposals or to get governmental funding for their programs.

Provides an overview to interpreting empirical data in education
Reviews data analysis techniques: use and interpretation
Discusses research on learning, instruction, and curriculum
Explores importance of showing progress as well as cause and effect
Identifies obstacles to applying research into practice
Examines policy development for states, nations, and countries

Contents:

J.R. Levin, Randomized Classroom Trials on Trial.
D.F. Halpern, Dissing Science: Selling Scientifically Based Practices to a Nation that Distrusts Science.
R.E. Mayer, The Failure of Educational Research to Impact Educational Practice: Six Obstacles to Educational Reform.

Part II: Basic Issues When Addressing Human Behavior: An Experimental Research Perspective.
J.C. Valentine and H.M. Cooper, Can We Measure the Quality of Causal Research in Education?
J.T. Behrens and D.H. Robinson, the Micro and Macro in the Analysis and Conceptualization of Experimental Data.

R. Boruch, Beyond the Laboratory or Classroom: The Empirical Basis of Educational Policy.
G.D. Phye, Academic Learning and Academic Achievement: Correspondence Issues.
A.M. O'Donnell, Experimental Research in Classrooms.
S. Graham, K.H. Harris and J. Zito, Promoting Internal and External Validity: A Synergism of Laboratory-Like Experiments and Classroom-Based Self-Regulated Strategy Development Research.

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