

PARTICIPATORY PLAYGROUND:

Most Significant Change Interviews

WHAT IT IS

The Most Significant Change technique was developed by Rick Davies and Jess Dart as a participatory method for collecting and analyzing stories of change. By analyzing them together, participants can help show impact through a story approach without using pre-defined indicators.



Photo: La Cocina entrepreneurs

HOW WE USED IT

Engage R+D facilitated a participatory evaluation with La Cocina, a technical assistance program that provides BIPOC and immigrant women opportunities to build their restaurant businesses. Most Significant Change interviews allowed participants to:

- Explore the impacts of the program
- Highlight what entrepreneurs valued
- Gather stories of impact to share with potential funders

CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensuring that participants understand the goals, use, and audience
- Consent and opting in to sharing story (and name or affiliation, if applicable)

RESOURCES

- The 'Most Significant Change' (MSC) Technique A Guide to Its Use by Rick Davies and Jess Dart
- Translations

PROTOCOL

1. How did you first become involved with [project] and what is your current involvement?
2. From your point of view, describe a story that epitomizes the most significant change that has resulted from [project].
3. Why was this story significant for you?
4. How, if at all, has the work for [project] contributed to this?

DATA COLLECTION IDEAS

- Participants interview one another
- Share stories through group discussion
- Invite participants to write down their own stories

AEA ROUND 1: DATA COLLECTION

- Pair up and take turns answering the prompt: **From your point of view, describe a story that epitomizes the most significant change that has resulted from your attendance at AEA.**
- Interviewers write down a significant change on a sticky note and add it to the wall.

ANALYSIS IDEAS

- Participants review and select stories to highlight (this may require multiple rounds or levels of review)
- Participants and/or facilitators conduct a themes analysis
- Participants review stories or themes and write “headline findings”

AEA ROUND 2: SENSEMAKING DISCUSSION

- Review the sticky notes on the wall
- In small groups, **develop 1-2 “headline findings”** about what you see in the data