International Journal of Education, Management, and Technology

e-ISSN : 3026-5444
p-ISSN : 3026-4200

Index: Harvard, Boston, Sydney University, Copernicus, Lens, Scilit, Semantic, Dimensions, etc

https://doi.org/10.58578/IJEMT.v3i1.4785

Influence of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation on Administrative Decision-Making in the Educational Sector

Salihu Kasimu[1], Ladan Maijama'a[2], Idi Hamisu[3], Abubakar Abdulkadir[4]
Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi, Nigeria
ksalihu@fptb.edu.ng; lmaijamaa@fptb.edu.ng

Article Info:

Submitted:	Revised:	Accepted:	Published:
Dec 26, 2024	Jan 10, 2025	Jan 22, 2025	Jan 27, 2025

Abstract

This study investigates the essential role of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation (EMAE) in enhancing the elementary education sector. EMAE frameworks offer systematic methodologies for assessing educational programs, fostering accountability, and facilitating data-driven decision-making. This research serves as a case study of the primary education authority in Bauchi Local Government, with a particular focus on their teachers. According to the 2023 Annual School Census, there are 4,226 staff members, from which 367 were sampled using the Yamane formula. The sampling frame was stratified to reach the target respondents effectively. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire comprised of closed-ended questions that were designed and validated, achieving a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.83. Based on 358 completed questionnaires, the responses were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The findings emphasize how effective EMAE practices can lead to improved educational outcomes by identifying successful teaching strategies and fostering continuous enhancement. Additionally, the involvement of diverse stakeholders—including educators, parents, and community members—strengthens collaboration and ensures that educational reforms remain relevant and sustainable. The results highlight the significance

of EMAE in aligning national education systems with global standards, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ultimately, this research underscores that robust EMAE practices are essential for cultivating an effective, responsive, and equitable educational environment, ensuring that all students receive a quality education.

Keywords: Accountability, Educational Programs, Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation (EMAE), Stakeholders, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

INTRODUCTION

EMAE refers to systematic processes designed to assess the performance, outcomes, and impacts of projects, programs, or policies. Monitoring involves the continuous collection of data on specified indicators to track progress toward defined objectives, whereas evaluation involves assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of a given intervention (Kusek & Rist, 2004; UNDP, 2019). Together, EMAE serves as a feedback mechanism to inform decision-making, improve performance, ensure accountability, and promote learning within organizations and programs.

It is the continuous and systematic collection, analysis, and use of data to track progress against planned objectives and outputs. It ensures that activities are implemented as intended and resources are used efficiently (Kusek & Rist, 2004). It is to provide timely and real-time information to identify implementation gaps or inefficiencies; ensure accountability by measuring input and output indicators; and facilitate adjustments or corrective actions during implementation (UNDP, 2019).

EMAE Components

1. Electronic Monitoring

Monitoring is the continuous process of tracking progress against planned objectives by collecting and analyzing data on predetermined indicators. It helps ensure that activities are on track and resources are used effectively. In order to provide real-time information for decision-making and identify bottlenecks, and guide corrective action during implementation (Kusek & Rist, 2004). For monitoring to successfully implemented, resources such as funding, personnel, and materials. Activities and actions undertaken to achieve the stated objectives established from. Immediate deliverables produced by

program activities, such as training sessions conducted or products distributed (UNICEF, 2021).

2. Evaluation

Evaluation is a systematic and periodic assessment of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of a program or intervention. It seeks to answer the "why" and "how" of success or failure. This is to assess whether objectives were achieved, measure impact, and derive lessons to inform future interventions (Patton, 2017). Evaluation could be in form of formative (Conducted during program implementation to improve design and operations), summative (conducted after the intervention to assess its overall success) of impact evaluation which determines long-term changes attributable to the program or policy (Bamberger et al., 2020).

3. Indicators

Indicators are measurable variables used to assess progress and performance at different levels of a program. They serve as benchmarks for monitoring and evaluation efforts that fall under one of these categories:

a. Input indicators: Measure the resources invested, such as budget allocations.
b. Output indicators: Measure immediate results, like the number of people trained.
c. Outcome indicators: Measure short- to medium-term effects, such as changes in behavior.
d. Impact indicators: Measure long-term effects, such as reduced poverty rates (World Bank, 2017).

4. Data Collection and Analysis

The foundation of any EMAE system is robust data collection and analysis, ensuring that decisions are based on accurate, reliable, and timely information strategized under some protocols like:

a. Method: Surveys, interviews, focus groups, case studies, administrative records, and participatory approaches (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017).
b. Data type: Qualitative: Non-numerical insights, including stakeholder perceptions or beneficiary experiences.

c. Quantitative: Numerical data such as enrollment rates or income levels form the basis of developmental evaluation that uses iterative data collection to adapt programs in dynamic contexts (Patton, 2017).

5. Feedback and Reportage

Reportage is the process of sharing findings from EMAE with relevant stakeholders to enhance accountability, learning, and decision-making. It is to ensure transparency and facilitate the application of lessons learned from the subject or intervention. Continuous communication of insights allows stakeholders to refine interventions in real-time (UNDP, 2019).

6. Learning and Adaptation

The ultimate goal of EMAE is not just to assess performance but also to foster learning and improvement by sharing lessons learned through workshops, training, and reports; using insights to revise strategies, policies, and programs (Kusek & Rist, 2004). For instance, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PEMAE) involves stakeholders in learning processes to promote ownership and accountability (Estrella & Gaventa, 1998).

Reasons For EMAE

EMAE systems are widely acknowledged as essential tools for improving decision-making and ensuring accountability in administrative contexts. However, despite significant advancements in EMAE frameworks and their increasing adoption across sectors, there remain critical gaps in understanding how these systems directly influence decision-making processes within administrative and organizational environments. While EMAE is often designed to provide data and insights for informed decisions, evidence of its practical impact on decision-making remains inconsistent and fragmented (Bamberger et al., 2020; Kusek & Rist, 2004).

One major gap lies in the limited empirical research exploring the causal link between EMAE outputs and actual changes in administrative decisions and policies. In many cases, EMAE reports and findings are generated but fail to be effectively utilized, with decision-makers either sidelining such insights due to political or organizational constraints or lacking the necessary capacity to interpret and act on them (Porter & Goldman, 2013). This raises questions about whether EMAE systems are designed and implemented in ways that meaningfully address the needs of decision-makers.

Another critical gap concerns the contextual and organizational factors that mediate the relationship between EMAE and decision-making. Factors such as organizational culture, leadership, the timing of EMAE feedback, and the alignment of EMAE objectives with organizational goals have been identified as potential barriers to effective utilization of EMAE insights (Johnson et al., 2019). Despite these insights, there is insufficient research on how these factors interact in different administrative settings, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where EMAE capacity and resources are often limited (World Bank, 2017).

Furthermore, the evolving nature of data and technology in EMAE presents new challenges and opportunities. While digital tools and real-time data collection have improved the timeliness and accessibility of EMAE information, it remains unclear how these advancements influence decision-making in practice. The gap between technological capability and organizational readiness to integrate these tools further complicates the picture (Patton, 2017).

Addressing these gaps is essential for improving the design and implementation of EMAE systems that not only generate data but also ensure their integration into decision-making processes. This research seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how EMAE can become more impactful in administrative contexts, highlighting the need for targeted capacity-building, contextual adaptation, and alignment with decision-making priorities.

EMAE Effect on Elementary Education

The EMAE plays a critical role in the development, implementation, and improvement of educational programs, particularly in basic education. As education systems around the world aim to provide equitable, high-quality education for all, EMAE serves as a foundation for assessing progress, identifying gaps, and ensuring accountability in achieving educational outcomes.

The impact of EMAE in elementary education is transformative, driving improvements in learning outcomes, access, equity, teacher performance, accountability, and policy development. EMAE enables education systems to identify challenges, implement evidence-based interventions, and optimize the use of resources. As governments and organizations work toward achieving global education goals, robust

EMAE systems will remain a cornerstone of efforts to provide quality basic education for all.

EMAE in basic education is focused on assessing the effectiveness of educational programs and policies in delivering desired outcomes, such as improving student learning, increasing enrollment rates, enhancing teacher performance, and reducing inequalities in access to education. Monitoring involves the continuous tracking of inputs (resources), processes, and outputs (deliverables), while evaluation examines the outcomes and long-term impacts of interventions (UNICEF, 2021).

In elementary education, EMAE encompasses activities such as tracking student enrollment and attendance, assessing teacher performance, evaluating curriculum effectiveness, and measuring learning outcomes. For instance, organizations like UNESCO and UNICEF emphasize the use of EMAE to monitor progress toward global education targets, such as those outlined in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all by 2030 (UNESCO, 2020).

EMAE Impacts on the Educational Sector

1. Enhanced Learning Outcomes

One of the most significant impacts of EMAE in basic education is the improvement of student learning outcomes. By systematically assessing the quality of teaching, the relevance of curricula, and student performance through standardized assessments, education stakeholders can identify gaps in learning and take corrective measures. For example, data collected through EMAE systems has been used in many countries to address learning deficits caused by factors such as teacher absenteeism, inadequate teaching materials, or ineffective teaching methods (World Bank, 2018). A study by USAID (2021) highlighted that rigorous monitoring of early-grade literacy programs in Sub-Saharan Africa led to improved reading scores by informing targeted teacher training and providing supplementary learning resources.

2. Improved Access and Equity

EMAE plays a key role in identifying and addressing barriers to access and equity in basic education. By tracking enrollment, attendance, and dropout rates, education systems can uncover disparities related to gender, socioeconomic status, geography, or disability. For instance, monitoring data in India revealed significant gender disparities in school

enrollment, leading to the introduction of targeted interventions such as free textbooks for girls and conditional cash transfer programs (UNESCO, 2019).

Moreover, evaluations of inclusive education programs have enabled governments to design policies that better support marginalized groups, including children with disabilities or those from ethnic minorities.

3. Improved Teacher Performance

Monitoring teacher performance is critical to ensuring the quality of instruction in basic education. Through classroom observations, student assessments, and feedback systems, EMAE provides insights into teaching effectiveness and professional development needs. For example, in Rwanda, teacher monitoring systems have been integrated into school management frameworks, leading to improved lesson delivery and higher student achievement levels (World Bank, 2020). Additionally, evaluations of teacher training programs have revealed key factors that influence teacher effectiveness, such as the importance of ongoing mentorship and peer learning opportunities (Bamberger et al., 2020).

4. Transparency and Accountability

EMAE fosters transparency and accountability within education systems by providing evidence of how resources are allocated and utilized. Education stakeholders, including governments, donors, and communities, rely on EMAE data to ensure that investments in basic education are yielding tangible results. For example, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) emphasizes the use of EMAE in tracking the implementation of education sector plans, ensuring that funds are directed toward interventions that maximize impact (GPE, 2021). Transparent EMAE systems also empower communities to hold schools and governments accountable, promoting trust and collaboration in achieving shared educational goals.

5. Policy Development and Decision-Making Based on Evidence

Evaluation findings play a crucial role in shaping education policies and reforms. By analyzing what works and what does not, policymakers can design interventions that are grounded in evidence. For instance, evaluations of school feeding programs in Kenya demonstrated their effectiveness in improving attendance and retention rates, leading to the expansion of such programs to underserved regions (UNICEF, 2019). Similarly, data from

national assessments has informed curriculum revisions and resource allocation in several countries.

METHODS

This research utilizes a survey design that involves the numerical transformation of data gathered through a structured, closed-ended questionnaire. According to Creswell (2018) and Babbie (2021), quantitative data-gathering techniques focus on collecting measurable data and performing statistical analyses. The aim is to address the established research questions and hypotheses, providing a reliable framework to assess the collective perspectives of the participants regarding the impact of monitoring and evaluation.

The research population comprises teachers from the Bauchi Local Government Education Authority. According to the 2023 Annual School Census, there are 4,226 staff members, from which 367 were sampled using the Yamane formula. The sample frame was divided into four districts: Bauchi, Galambi, Miri, and Zungur. The selection of target respondents was proportional to the staff sizes in each of these districts.

Data collection involved a structured, closed-ended questionnaire featuring 36 statements that assessed knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices related to monitoring and evaluation, presented on a five-point scale. The questionnaire was validated, achieving a Cronbach's alpha of 0.83. The collected responses were analyzed through both descriptive and inferential statistics, specifically regression analysis. The analysis was conducted at a 5% level of significance, based on 358 complete cases.

RESULTS

This section encompasses the presentation of findings and analyses, which are illustrated through detailed tables and visually engaging graphs. These formats aim to enhance the clarity of the data and facilitate a deeper understanding of the results.

Table 1: EMAE administrative efficiencies (H_{01})

	Items Description	EMAE	Resource Allocation	Streamline Processes	Optimize Organizational Performance
EMAE	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2tailed)				
	N	358			
Resource Allocation	Pearson Correlation	0.864	1		
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000			
	N	358	358		
Streamline Processes	Pearson Correlation	0.708	0.495	1	
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000	0.000		
	N	358	358	358	
Optimize Organizational Performance	Pearson Correlation	0.898	0.538	0.325	1
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	N	358	358	358	358

The P-value corresponding to the respective variables is less than the level of significance in each case ($\alpha = 0.05$) indicating a positive and significant relationship among the variables. The positive relationship showed a parallel association between monitoring and evaluation and independent variables. Positive and significant relationships between EMAE and various organizational factors such as resource allocation, streamlined processes, and optimized organizational performance were portrayed.

There is a strong correlation between EMAE practices which significantly enhance the ability of organizations to allocate resources efficiently. This relationship emphasizes the importance of integrating EMAE systems into resource management frameworks. Utilizing EMAE data, organizations can make informed decisions that align resources with strategic priorities, ultimately leading to improved operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Streamlined Processes ($r = 0.708$; $p = 0.000$). The strong correlation between EMAE and streamlined processes suggests that organizations employing effective EMAE frameworks can identify inefficiencies and bottlenecks within their operations. This

capability enables them to optimize workflows and processes, which is crucial for enhancing productivity. Streamlined processes not only lower operational costs but also improve service delivery, a key factor in competitive environments.

Moreover, the positive correlation between EMAE and organizational performance ($r = 0.708$; $p = 0.000$) underscores the significant role of EMAE in facilitating performance improvements. Organizations that adeptly utilize EMAE are better equipped to evaluate their performance metrics, adapt their strategies, and implement best practices. Such adaptability is essential for sustaining a competitive edge and achieving long-term objectives.

Table 2: Administrative efficiencies are more likely to improve when EMAE frameworks incorporate regular feedback mechanisms, key stakeholder engagement, and timely and accessible data to decision-makers (H_{02})

	Item Description	EMAE	Regular Feedback Mech.	Key Stakeholders	Timely & Accessible Data
EMAE	Pearson Correlation	1			
	Sig. (2tailed)				
	N	358			
Regular Feedback Mech.	Pearson Correlation	0.638	1		
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000			
	N	358	358		
Key Stakeholders	Pearson Correlation	0.669	0.594	1	
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000	0.000		
	N	358	358	358	
Timely & Accessible Data	Pearson Correlation	0.791	0.596	0.525	1
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.000	0.000	0.000	
	N	358	358	358	358

The findings reveal that all variables associated with an EMAE demonstrate a positive and significant relationship with various factors, as evidenced by their respective correlation coefficients and p-values. A correlation coefficient of 0.638 indicates a moderate to strong positive relationship between EMAE and the implementation of regular feedback mechanisms. This suggests that as EMAE effectiveness improves, so too

does the frequency and quality of feedback provided within the organization. Regular feedback is vital for continuous improvement and adaptation in educational settings, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions based on real-time data.

Furthermore, a correlation of 0.669 reveals a strong positive relationship between EMAE and the engagement of key stakeholders—including teachers, parents, and community members—in the EMAE process. Their involvement can greatly enhance the relevance and applicability of EMAE findings, leading to more effective educational strategies and policies.

The highest correlation coefficient, 0.791, signifies a very strong positive relationship between EMAE and the availability of timely and accessible data. This highlights that effective EMAE systems facilitate the collection and dissemination of essential data for decision-making. Timely access to this data allows educators and policymakers to respond swiftly to emerging issues and adjust their strategies accordingly. Research supports the notion that EMAE systems contribute to improved educational practices by providing the necessary data for informed decision-making and ongoing enhancement.

Table 3: Framework of EMAE for Implementation of the Challenges with N = 61

Item Description	**Mean**	**Standard Deviation**	**Decision**
Lack of resources	3.885	0.915	Substantial
Attitude	3.066	0.629	Substantial
Inadequate training and capacity	3.082	0.690	Substantial
Resistance to change	3.033	0.795	Substantial
Data quality and reliability	3.508	1.074	Substantial
Complexity and educational context	3.115	0.755	Substantial
Limited stakeholder engagement	2.951	0.884	Substantial
Sustainability issues	3.475	0.648	Substantial
Technological barriers	3.279	0.710	Substantial
Valid N (listwise)			

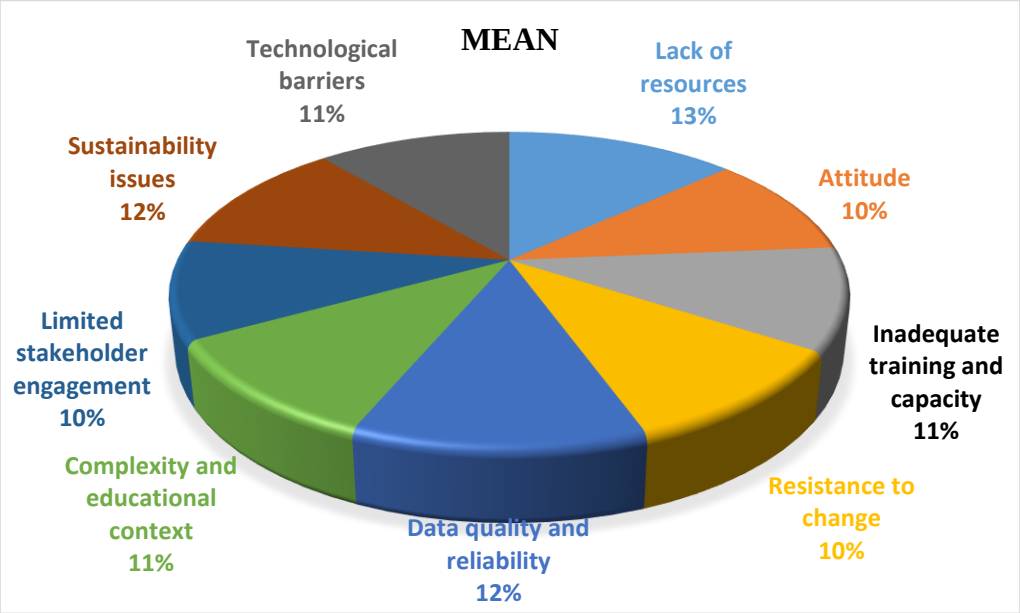

Figure 1: Mean Distribution Implementation of EMAE Framework

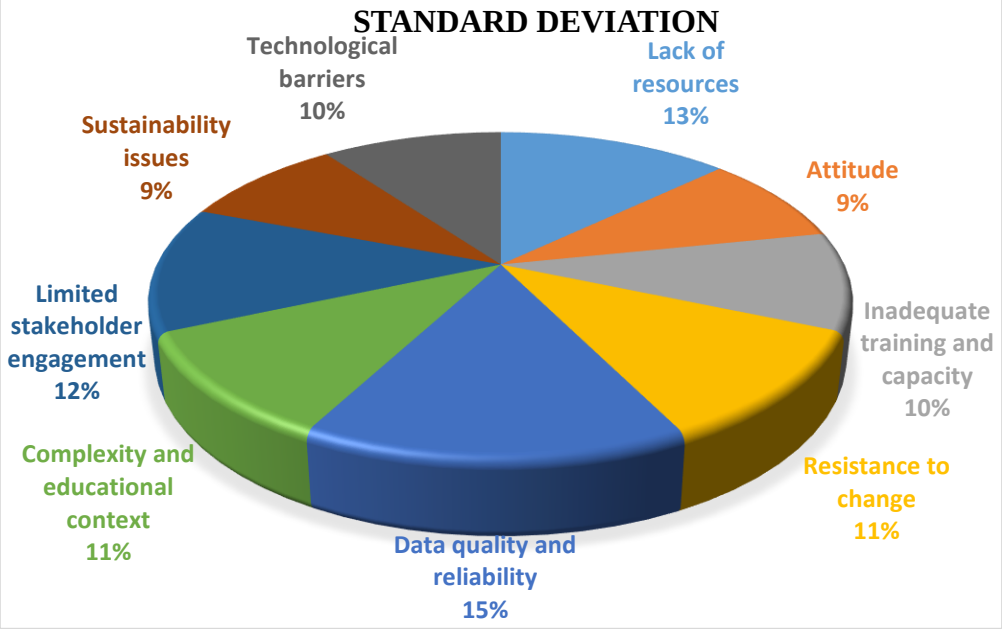

Figure 2: Standard Deviation Distribution Implementation of EMAE Framework

DISCUSSION

Implementing Monitoring and Evaluation (EMAE) frameworks in basic education can significantly enhance educational outcomes, yet several challenges hinder their effective execution. As indicated in Figure 1, the mean distribution of responses reveals a notable lack of resources, with an average score of 3.88, reflecting the budget constraints faced by many educational institutions. This shortage limits their ability to develop and maintain robust EMAE systems, ultimately affecting the quality of data collection, analysis, and reporting. The respondents also highlighted the impact of attitudes, with a mean score of 3.0656, emphasizing that the mindset and perceptions of stakeholders—such as teachers, administrators, and community members—can either facilitate or obstruct the implementation of EMAE efforts. Inadequate training and capacity were also significant concerns, scoring 3.082, as many educators lack the necessary skills to effectively deploy EMAE frameworks.

This deficiency can lead to ineffective decision-making, particularly when combined with resistance to change, which was noted with a mean score of 3.0328. Such resistance often arises from a reluctance to alter established organizational cultures and practices, compounded by fears of accountability and a limited understanding of the benefits of EMAE. Furthermore, ensuring data quality and reliability emerged as a critical challenge, with a mean score of 3.508. Inconsistent data collection methods and a lack of standardization can lead to inaccuracies that undermine the credibility of EMAE findings. The complexity of the educational context, indicated by a mean score of 3.0255, adds another layer of difficulty. Diverse socio-economic conditions, cultural differences, and varying educational needs complicate the implementation of EMAE frameworks, necessitating tailored approaches that can be challenging to achieve.

Limited stakeholder engagement, reflected in a mean score of 2.9508, diminishes the effectiveness of EMAE efforts, as successful frameworks require the involvement of teachers, parents, and community members. Sustainability issues, with a mean score of 3.4754, further complicate matters, as changes in leadership, shifting priorities, or fluctuating funding can disrupt ongoing EMAE initiatives. Lastly, technological barriers, indicated by a mean score of 3.2787, present significant obstacles, particularly in low-resource areas where access to data management tools is limited.

Overall, these findings underscore the multifaceted challenges associated with implementing EMAE frameworks in basic education, as illustrated in Figure 2, which provides a standard deviation distribution reflecting the variability in responses regarding these obstacles. Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering robust and effective EMAE practices that can lead to improved educational outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research highlights the significant role of Electronic Monitoring and Evaluation (EMAE) frameworks in enhancing administrative decision-making within the educational sector. The findings indicate that effective EMAE practices can lead to improved educational outcomes, as they facilitate systematic assessment and foster accountability. However, several challenges—such as a lack of resources, inadequate training, and resistance to change—hinder the implementation of these frameworks. The study emphasizes the necessity of addressing these obstacles to optimize the effectiveness of EMAE systems.

Furthermore, the research underscores the importance of stakeholder engagement, as collaboration among educators, parents, and community members is crucial for ensuring the relevance and sustainability of educational reforms. The alignment of EMAE practices with global standards, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is essential for cultivating a responsive and equitable educational environment.

In conclusion, robust EMAE systems are vital for informing data-driven decision-making, ultimately ensuring that all students receive a quality education. Future research should focus on developing strategies to overcome the identified challenges, enhance capacity-building initiatives, and explore the contextual factors that influence the successful implementation of EMAE frameworks in diverse educational settings.

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