



Evaluation Community of India (ECOI)

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Launch: Evaluation community of India (ECOI) was launched on October 16th, 2015 at the conference organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust in collaboration with NITI Aayog and National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD). The Secretariat of ECOI will be housed in the Institute of Social Studies Trust, New Delhi.

Why ECOI: As public development interventions expanded in number, range and scope so has the demand from development planners, funding agencies and civil society organizations for periodic evaluations to ensure that the investments are socially and economically cost-effective. Apart from this growing demand, the discipline of development evaluation has been constantly evolving leading to newer concepts, theoretical advances and innovative practices drawing upon international and national experiences. Unlike in many countries, both advanced and developing, India does not yet have a professional body of evaluators that lays down and ensures maintenance of evaluation standards, helps in sharing the existing state of knowledge, research outcomes and best practices in development evaluation. It plays an advocacy role in furthering the role of quality evaluations in enhancing development results, and nurtures growth of evaluation capabilities. It is in this context that the idea of having a professional umbrella organization is conceived.

Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) seeks to promote knowledge sharing in the area of monitoring and evaluation to promote high quality, credible and useful evaluations which can improve effectiveness of development programs and policies in India. The Community will contribute to formal capacity building at various levels by setting standards, advocating demand for and practice of evaluation, and developing norms of competencies by synthesizing national and international requisites.

The overarching objective of the ECOI is to develop an evaluation culture in India with focus on social equity, gender equality and sustainability.

Mission: To provide a platform for interactions, knowledge and experience sharing within evaluation community and other stakeholders in development to ensure that professionalism, quality and ethics permeate all evaluations to make them utility oriented.

Membership Drive: All professional evaluators, scholars, practitioners, development officials, young professionals, project managers, implementers, civil society, academicians and students interested in the field of development and evaluations are welcome to join. The membership is open to individuals as well as groups/organizations. For details go to our facebook page.

Events

Evaluation Week Celebrations in India (19-23 January 2015)



India celebrated the International Year of Evaluation by organizing an EvalWeek. At this event, Eval Torch was handed over by Marco Segone (Director IEO, UN Women and vice-chair UNEG) to Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Planning (Independent Charge), Government of India. The

event was organized by the National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD) (formerly Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR)) and Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO), NITI Aayog (formerly Planning Commission), Government of India.



A compendium of research papers, titled 'Evaluation for Sustainable Development: Experience and Learning' was released by the Hon'ble Minister. In addition, a framework for Evaluation Policy brought out by the Task team on Enabling Environment of Evaluations of Community of Evaluators- South Asia (COE-SA)

was launched by Marco Segone. Mrs. Mallika Samaranyake, President COE-SA from Sri Lanka was present at launch of the framework.



Several national and international organizations like UN Women, 3ie, Oxfam, UNICEF, Care, ISST

and CMS collaborated in organizing the week long celebrations. Marco Segone delivered the key note address on the theme 'Looking to the future: evaluation for a sustainable and equitable

development'. Following the address, deliberations were held on issues such as stakeholder ownership of evaluations, creating evaluation culture, strengthening evaluation capacities, knowledge products and sharing, equity focused and gender responsive evaluations. The Valedictory address was delivered by Ms. Sindhushree Khullar, CEO, NITI Aayog.

Workshop on Evaluations for Development with Equity and Equality (16-17 April 2015)



The event was organized by Institute of Social Studies Trust in association with NITI Aayog, Government of India. Workshop sessions encompassed perspective of NITI Aayog on development

and evaluation; methodological issues in evaluation; meta evaluation of livelihood programmes; evaluations by Program Evaluation Organization; meta evaluation of education and health programmes; human development reports; and inter-dependence of Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation.

Knowledge Products



Participatory monitoring tool for domestic workers

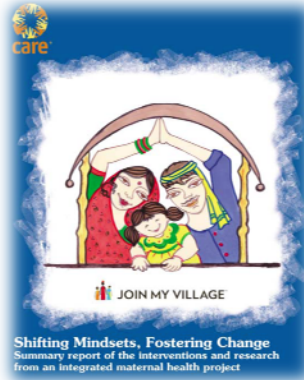
Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) has recently developed self – assessment framework for domestic workers on decent working conditions. The challenge has been how domestic workers can take ownership of their issues

around working conditions and take action to respond to their concerns. Therefore, development of the tool was through a participatory action-learning Community Life Competence Process, aimed at enabling domestic workers to define their vision of desired outcomes in the future and the journey of change from the current situation to an ideal future.

Reflection

New Gender Sensitive Evaluation in the Context of Maternal Health

Join My Village (JMV), a Maternal Health Project, was implemented by CARE India, with objectives to achieve better maternal and neo-natal health outcomes, by addressing the social norms that limit options for a woman to access resources and health services. An innovative tool that was used to facilitate intended behavioural outcome in JMV was 'Social Analysis and Action' (SAA). Most Significant Change (MSC) technique was also employed which captured change in attitudes and behaviours. In the



course of 3 years of intervention 5,826 stories of change were reported and analysed under three domains of change viz. 1) capacities, capabilities, self-esteem (individual and collective); 2) effective and influential leadership of women and girls (multiple levels) and; 3) positive attitudes, support and recognition by others in households, communities, service providers. The final evaluation was carried out in March-April 2015. During reflection it

was observed that initially 95% of the change stories were about the 'Change within me'. Gradually the content of the stories shifted from 'me' to 'my family'. Once the changes were captured, the staff sat together to reflect, through in-depth discussions, the value of reported changes. Interestingly when service providers voted for the most significant stories, change in gender norms turned out to be more significant for them than health services uptake. The full report on MSC stories is available at <http://careindia.org/story-book>. The complete endline evaluation report can be accessed at <http://careindia.org/endline-booklet>.

Getting Involved

Active participation is possible through innovative ideas, discussion forums, blogs, networking, sharing knowledge, feedback, latest information on M&E, future activities, strategic inputs, capacity building, and other contributions.

Capacity Building & Training

A three months' Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation is being conducted in NILERD for international participants which is recognized by Government of India.

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