The Practice of Development Evaluation: An evidence-informed approach to Sustainable Development Goals
A 5-day Executive Programme

organised by
CLEAR/J-PAL South Asia at IFMR

In partnership with
Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, Sonipat, Haryana, India

September 18 – 22, 2017
Venue: O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana
THE PROGRAMME

This course on 'The practice of development evaluation' is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of development practitioners on the what, why, and how of evaluation so as to promote the use of credible evidence to measure, assess, and inform development efforts around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through its set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, provides a pivotal opportunity for the world to collectively move towards an equitable and sustainable society. Compared to their predecessor the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs have a stronger emphasis on systematic review and follow-up mechanisms informed by country-led evaluations as well as capacity-building for strengthening data and evaluation systems.

Evaluations will be necessary to support effective and efficient SDG implementation. Many of the SDG indicators focus on measuring outcomes or impacts. This necessarily requires going beyond ‘monitoring progress’ to generating lessons from evaluations on how to reach these goals by identifying the most equitable, effective, efficient, and sustainable programmes. In other words, measuring progress towards the targets, say to “ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030” is not sufficient. This needs to be combined with lessons from evaluation on what works (and what doesn’t) at scale, when, and for whom. It is also necessary to understand how programmes on different indicators integrate at a local level, improving the chances of success of each. For example, the school indicators, when linked with those on health or drinking water and sanitation at the same location, will add to the understanding of the success in promoting overall development. This requires an understanding of local cultures and contexts as well as the social and economic base, for a start.

In short, rigorous monitoring and evaluation (M&E) can contribute to improved accountability, effective decision-making, an all-round integrated development as well as learning and innovation. Thus, for realising the SDGs, it is important for governments, development practitioners, donors as well as civil society to better understand what to evaluate, how to evaluate, and how to use evaluation results for effective policymaking.
THE CURRICULUM

The programme is designed for commissioners, managers, programme implementers and practitioners of evaluation interested to enhance their knowledge and skills to assess the impacts of development programmes and policies. The programme will combine theoretical concepts with experiential learning and provide participants a hands-on training on evaluation methods and techniques. It seeks to build participant knowledge and understanding of the existing evidence from rigorous evaluations.

More specifically, the objectives of the programme are to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to:

• understand the importance of monitoring and evaluation in the context of SDGs
• learn how to design an effective Theory of Change to explain causal pathways to impact
• learn how administrative data can be used to inform decision-making
• learn key principles for monitoring a programme’s progress
• understand the strengths and weaknesses of different methods for assessing a programme’s impact (i.e., what change can be attributed to the programme or policy)
• understand why, how, and when to conduct a randomised evaluation
• differentiate between different types of data and evidence, and the types of conclusions they can support

The course has been designed with a view to link the key M&E concepts to the SDGs. Each day will focus on a specific SDG goal that will be highlighted through theory-based learning (lectures and group exercises), a talk by an eminent speaker and a panel discussion.

Special attention will be paid to equity-focused evaluation methods that draw attention to gender and other equalities within a human rights framework.

PEDAGOGY

The course will use an array of interactive pedagogical tools including lectures, poll questions, group discussions, case studies, and experiential exercises to enhance participants' understanding of concepts relating to measurement, data collection and its use, monitoring, and impact evaluations. Dedicated group work will supplement lectures to give participants an opportunity to apply the concepts learned using real-world case studies. These exercises will be facilitated by expert moderators from CLEAR/J-PAL SA who will provide structured guidance and feedback to participants throughout the training.
WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The programme is intended for:

- Professionals from development agencies, research institutes and consulting organisations with experience in evaluation.
- Professionals responsible for managing, commissioning or conducting evaluations in their respective organisations (from public, private, non-governmental, and philanthropic organisations).
- Representatives of key ministries and departments responsible for development initiatives especially in the social sectors such as health and nutrition, education, social welfare, water and sanitation, and rural and urban development.

ABOUT US

JSGP—the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy—is a research-driven school. It aspires to be a centre of excellence which continually generates ideas and knowledge about democratised development. The students receive a well-grounded education and are exposed to the field and actual institutional processes. JSGP promotes interdisciplinary studies and joint teaching and research programmes in partnership with its sister schools and across universities. JSGP hopes to create a commons of ideas and practices relevant for a new generation of citizens and stakeholders. Apart from research papers, it has brought out the India Public Policy Report, and other reports are under preparation. It also brings out Policy Briefs on issues of current interest.

1 CLEAR (The Centres for Learning on Evaluation and Results) is a global initiative supported by several donors and coordinated by the World Bank’s Independent Evaluation Group (IEG).
FACULTY

The programme will be directed and facilitated by the following resource persons:

**A K Shiva Kumar** is a development economist and evaluator who works on issues related to human development including poverty, health, nutrition, basic education, and the rights of women and children. Shiva Kumar is a Visiting Professor at the Ashoka University, and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government where he teaches economics and public policy. Shiva Kumar is an alumnus of Bangalore University, the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad as well as Harvard University from where he did his Masters in Public Administration and Ph.D in Political Economy and Government.

**Harini Kannan** is a Post-doc and Senior Manager at J-PAL SA. Her interest in evidence-based policy formulation influenced her decision to work with J-PAL SA. She is currently working in New Delhi, India on a variety of education and health projects. She also works with the capacity building team providing advisory services for various partners such as USAID, Governments of Haryana and Tamil Nadu, Pratham etc. She has a PhD. in Economics from the Georgia State University.

**Rajeev Malhotra**, is Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Development and Finance, Lead Author and Chief Editor, India Public Policy Report, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy He holds an M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics and an MSc from the London School of Economics. He served for many years in the Indian Economic Service before taking up a Professorship in the Jindal School of Government and Policy.

**R Sudarshan**, Professor and Dean of the Jindal School of Government and Policy, Sonipat. An alumnus of the Delhi School of Economics and Oxford, he has taught in Cambridge, worked in the Ford Foundation sponsoring innovative research and the UNDP in a variety of roles. He was an important participant in the UNDP’s global effort in preparing Human Development Reports, and pioneered the system of using the state level Human Development Report to influence policy in India. After taking up the present position, he was responsible for launching India’s first master’s course in Public Policy.
**Shobhini Mukerji** is the Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)'s South Asia regional centre, hosted by the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) in Chennai. Shobhini is based in New Delhi and provides technical, administrative, financial and strategic oversight to the multi-sector research, policy, and training engagements across India and the region. She is a principal investigator on a randomised evaluation of an education project which looks at interventions to improve learning levels of children in government schools. Shobhini holds a Master's degree in Social Research Methods from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

**Shubhra Mittal** is a Senior Policy and Training Manager at J-PAL South Asia at IFMR, and supports the regional office's efforts to build partnerships with policymakers and promote evidence-based policy in the region. She brings in extensive experience working in the private, non-profit, and development bank space. Shubhra holds a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Master's in Economics from Delhi University, New Delhi.

**Vinod Vyasulu**, an economist trained in the Delhi School of Economics, and with a PhD from the University of Florida, has taught in the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, held the RBI Chair in the Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, and been Director of the Institute of Public Enterprise, Hyderabad and the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies in Bangalore. He is currently Professor and Vice Dean in the Jindal School of Government and Policy.

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Interested applicants may email the completed application form to Rashmi Pandey (Rashmi.pandey@ifmr.ac.in) or send it via post to the following address:
   - Rashmi Pandey, CLEAR/J-PAL South Asia at IFMR
   - 2, Balbir Saxena Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -110016, India
2. All applications must reach before 5:00 PM IST on August 1, 2017
3. Contact Rashmi Pandey (rashmi.pandey@ifmr.ac.in) for any questions

## OTHER DETAILS

**Programme fees**
Total fees: USD2,200 inclusive of accommodation and meals

**Programme dates**
The programme starts at 9:30AM on September 18, 2017 and concludes at 5:00 PM on September 22, 2017.