Programme Booklet

EvalFest
2024

The Shifting Sands in Evaluation: Need for Responsive, Adaptive and Future-proof Approaches

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi | 21 –23 February 2024

Organized By:

EVALUATION COMMUNITY OF INDIA

Eval Youth India

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EvalFest 2024

Our Partners

New Development Bank

UNFPA

unicef — for every child

IEO — Independent Evaluation Office — GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY | 20 ANNIVERSARY

UN WFP — World Food Programme

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

ISST

+GEH — CENTER ON GENDER EQUITY AND HEALTH

Decade of EVALUATION for action #Eval4Action

SAMBŌDHI

USAID — FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Agency for all

3ie — International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

كلية السياسات العامة College of Public Policy — جامعة حمد بن خليفة HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY

Campbell South Asia

SOUTH ASIA SOCIAL NORMS & AGENCY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

pci INDIA

IWWAGE — Institute for What Works to Advance Gender Equality

LEAD — LEVERAGING EVIDENCE FOR ACCESS AND DEVELOPMENT — KREA UNIVERSITY

PORTICUS

LADY IRWIN COLLEGE NEW DELHI

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DAY 01

21st February, 2024

Registration
Time: 09:00 – 09:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Opening Ceremony
Time: 09:30 – 11:00 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

Session Details:
- Welcome and opening remarks (ECOI)
- Lighting of the Lamp by the dignitaries
- Inaugural address by the Guest of Honour
- Address by the Keynote Speakers
- Vote of thanks: ECOI

Tea Break
Time: 11:00 – 11:30

Plenary 1
Time: 11:30 – 01:00 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

Use of AI in Evaluation: Opportunities and Challenges

The session will provide a platform to deliberate on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the evaluation landscape. This discussion will address the potential benefits and challenges associated with incorporating AI methodologies in evaluation processes. Attendees will gain insights into how AI technologies can enhance efficiency, data analysis, and decision-making in evaluations while acknowledging and navigating the ethical and practical challenges that may arise.

Chair:
Geeta Batra, Deputy Director, IEO - Global Environment Facility

Speakers:
- Marco Segone, Director, Evaluation Office, UNFPA
- Suhel Bidani, Lead - Digital, BMGF India
- Sebastian Martinez, Director of Evaluation, 3ie
- WFP (TBC)

Event Schedule

DAY 01

21st February, 2024

Lunch
Time: 01:00 – 02:00

Panel 1
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Evaluation Approaches and Lessons on Sustainable Infrastructure Development by BRICS New Development Bank and other Development Partners (Organised by IEO-New Development Bank)

Sustainable infrastructure development is pivotal for global progress, fostering economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. The BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and key development partners have been instrumental in bridging the infrastructure financing gap and driving economic progress in emerging economies. The panel will explore these institutions' experiences, drawing insights from both successful and challenging projects, emphasizing best practices and approaches to assess their development impact.

Panel 2
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak II

Who drives MEL? Who uses MEL? (Organised by Porticus)
The session aims to present the discourse surrounding the role of communities in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) and research, with an intention to build upon the outcomes of the discussion. The session's objectives include initiating a dialogue among funders, evaluation professionals, youth, and community-based organizations. The goal is to create an environment where participants are energized and motivated to share power, fostering collaborative efforts towards meaningful participation.

Event Schedule

DAY 01
21st February, 2024

Roundtable 1
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Marigold

Stakeholder Partnership for Developing Evaluation Capacity (ECD) in India: (Organised by ECD Working group and Sambodhi)

In India, diverse initiatives aim to enhance evaluation skills. Despite good intentions, these efforts often lack coordination and a comprehensive understanding of ECD, with limited stakeholder dialogue. To address this, a working group formed to comprehend ECD efforts in India, focusing on needs, actors, approaches, outcomes, and adequacy. This working group is implementing four key ideas: developing a position paper, standardizing and validating M&E curriculum, creating instructional design and a cadre of trainers, and establishing a knowledge hub. The session will present these initiatives, fostering a dialogue with the participants to discuss present and future activities, ensuring support and ownership of proposed endeavours.

Tea Break
Time: 03:30 – 04:00

Panel 3
Time: 04:00 – 05:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Building Responsive and Adaptive Evaluation Functions for the 2030 Child-Centered SDGs (Organised by UNICEF)

The panel aims to examine the construction of future-proof evaluation functions. Looking ahead to 2030, in addition to evaluating the achievement of Child-Centric SDGs, evaluation functions prepare for a changing world—one marked by shifting funding patterns, the introduction of new technologies, imminent climate emergencies, and numerous unforeseen challenges. So, what does it mean for an evaluation function to be prepared for the future? The panel will explore capacities, structures, and systems essential for future-proofing our evaluation functions, sharing insights into how these functions can proactively adapt to emerging trends and crises. Panelists will provide insights into the architecture of their respective evaluation structures, along with the challenges and successes they've encountered. The panel aspires to catalyze a paradigm shift, instilling a vision where evaluation functions are not merely reactive but serve as proactive instruments in advancing the well-being of children and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Event Schedule

Event Schedule

EvalFest 2024

Panel 4

Time: 04:00 – 05:30 | Venue: Silver Oak II

Measuring women's empowerment: Findings and experiences in implementing gender evaluation tools (Organised by 3ie)

Several development organizations are adopting strategies that seek to integrate a gender perspective into their policies, programs, activities, and decision-making processes. In this session, we will unpack findings and experience in implementing gender evaluation tools across different projects and discuss the way forward for organizations to combine learning to ensure steady progress to achieve specific points related to gender equality as mentioned under Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Roundtable 2

Time: 04:00 – 05:30 | Venue: Marigold

Making Governments Accountable for Evidence-based Policy Making

The panel serves as a dynamic platform for parliamentarians and members of the Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation to discuss the nexus between governance and evidence-based policy. It explores strategies to hold governments accountable in decision-making by emphasizing the integral role of evidence. Fostering dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders, the panel amplifies the importance of evidence-based policy, encouraging transparency and accountability within parliamentary frameworks. Participants gain valuable insights into effective approaches, ensuring that evidence guides legislative and policy decisions for more informed and impactful governance.

DAY 02
22nd February 2024

Plenary 2
Time: 09:30 – 11:00 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

Emerging Concerns and Systemic Impacts of Evaluation

The session will delve into the evolving landscape of evaluation practices and their broader systemic implications. Delving into the intricacies of evaluation, the session will meticulously examine how evaluations extend their influence beyond individual projects, resonating within larger systems. Join us for an engaging dialogue as we navigate the complexities and unveil the multifaceted nature of evaluation's impact on the broader systems within which it operates.

Chair:
Sanjay Kumar, Director General, DMEO, NITI Aayog

Speakers:
- Neeta Goel, Country Lead, MLE, BMGF
- Ajay Singh, Chief Controller of Accounts, Min. of Information and Broadcasting
- Paramjyoti Chattopadhyay, Head of RAM and Evaluation, WFP, India
- Speaker 4 (TBC)

Tea Break
Time: 11:00 – 11:30

Panel 5
Time: 11:30 – 01:00 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Leveraging Stakeholder Partnership for National Evaluation Systems (Panel organized by UNFPA)

Leveraging stakeholder partnerships is crucial for strengthening National Evaluation Systems (NES) and establishing an effective evaluation framework. By fostering collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and international bodies, NES can tap into a wealth of perspectives and expertise. This collaborative approach enhances evaluation credibility, inclusivity, and provides a more comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic landscape. The panel will highlight these strategic partnerships, and how NES can effectively navigate challenges, share resources, and cultivate a shared vision for advancing national-level evaluation practices.

DAY 02

22nd February 2024

Panel 6
Time: 11:30 – 01:00 | Venue: Silver Oak II

Engendering SDGs Monitoring: Multiple Pathways (Organized by the Institute of Social Studies Trust)

Ensuring a gender-sensitive approach to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) involves exploring diverse pathways in monitoring. This multifaceted endeavor requires integrating gender perspectives into monitoring mechanisms, incorporating inclusive data collection, gender disaggregation, and empowering women in decision-making. These multiple pathways enable effective tracking of progress toward SDG targets, promoting gender equality and revealing nuanced insights into challenges faced by women and girls. The emphasis on addressing gender disparities is a key component in the broader sustainable development agenda, fostering a more inclusive and equitable path toward SDG achievement.

Roundtable 3
Time: 11:30 – 01:00 | Venue: Marigold

Measuring Agency and Norms: Experiences and Way Forward (Organized by GEH, UCSD and Agency for All)

This session will discuss the importance and complexities of integrating measurement and analysis of agency and norms into evaluations and related research projects. Participants will discuss research and experiences from a USAID-funded implementation science project, a cross-sectional survey focused on agency and norms in women's work, and the use of large datasets to measure and examine shifts in agency and norms over time.

Lunch Break
Time: 01:00 – 02:00

Event Schedule

DAY 02
22nd February 2024

Panel 7
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Empowering South Asian Communities: Advancing Data Democracy through Technology and Ownership (Organized by Sambodhi)

Data democratization empowers citizens, irrespective of technical expertise, fostering informed decision-making for equitable, sustainable, and responsive development. This panel, featuring perspectives from M&E practitioners, government officials, donors, implementing bodies, and legal researchers, aims to deepen the data capacities of key stakeholders. Spotlighting the use of public intent data, the discussion explores better utilization, addressing structural and technological challenges. Emphasizing creative deployment for efficiency and accountability, the panel tackles challenges and intentions of data democratization from both the demand and supply side, while examining existing gaps in data capacities.

Panel 8
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak II

Reimagining Government Evaluation Capacities (Organized by World Food Programme)

The session will begin with an introductory presentation on global evaluation systems, positioning India within this continuum. Speakers will address the scope and needs for government evaluation capacity development, exploring the role of partners and emphasizing evaluations in the national review of SDGs, with a focus on food security and nutrition. The discussion will also examine state government support needs and strategies for contextualizing evaluation capacity building at the state or sub-state level. Using examples from food security, the conversation will extend to embedding evidence and evaluation capacities in multilateral funding frameworks. The session will conclude by identifying immediate steps for effective evaluation capacity development.

Event Schedule

DAY 02
22nd February 2024

Roundtable 4
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Marigold

Standards for Meaningful Engagement of Youth in Evaluation (Organized by Eval4Action)

At the outset, the session will introduce the standards designed to elevate the meaningful engagement of youth in evaluation. These standards are crafted with the goal of fostering accountability and facilitating the effective involvement of youth in evaluation processes. Offering practical guidance and pathways, these standards cater to a diverse range of organizations, including Eval4Action partners, youth organizations, international bodies, Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation (VOPEs), academia, the private sector, and the wider evaluation community. Post-presentation, a dialogue will be initiated among the speakers, focusing on the utilization and adoption of these youth in Evaluation standards.

Tea Break
Time: 03:30 – 04:00

22nd February 2024

Plenary 3

Time: 04:00 – 05:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

Transformation in Evaluation: Emerging Networks, Approaches, Actors, and Future Paradigms

This plenary will critically explore the expanded engagement of various stakeholders, as evaluation has evolved to encompass a broader spectrum of perspectives. While the initial focus was primarily on outcomes and impact, evaluations today are addressing more complex issues, including social equity, gender disparities, and the often-neglected realm of human rights. Recent challenges such as climate change, conflicts, pandemics, and their profound impact on the global development landscape, necessitate evaluations to adapt. It is imperative to actively involve communities and citizens to ensure a comprehensive reach, emphasizing that the last mile should be considered the first mile. This discussion aims to delve into the evolving landscape of evaluation networks and their role in addressing contemporary issues for effective and inclusive development.

Chair:
Ashwani K. Muthoo, Director General, IEO-New Development Bank
Speakers:
- DMEO, (TBC)
- Dr Asela Kalugampitiya, Director, Center for Evaluation, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Chelladurai Solomon, Vice President, IOCE
- Ada Ocampo, President, IDEAS

Event Schedule

DAY 03
23rd February 2024

Innovation Bazar
Time: 09:30 – 01:00 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

'*Innovation Bazaar'* is where individuals/organizations can present their innovative ideas around evaluation and in exchange can get participants feedback. The bazaar will be in the form of a space with each participant/organization given to present their innovative ideas, and the participants visit the 'bazaar stall' to hear from the presenters on the innovations. Presentations can use innovative medium e.g. storytelling, slideshows, posters etc. The presenters will need to bring their own laptops, projectors, charts, etc. to showcase their innovations.

Lunch Break
Time: 01:00 – 02:00

Panel 9
Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I

Bridging Voices: The Eval South Approach (Organised jointly by School of Public Policy, Hamid bin Khalifa University and ECOI)
The panel discussion prioritizes promoting south-south collaboration among evaluators, highlighting localized and culturally resonant evaluation practices rooted in indigenous perspectives. Advocating for decolonized methodologies in the Global South, this panel underscores the significance of such initiatives and provides a collaborative platform for practitioners and academics. The goal is to develop a knowledge hub that incorporates diverse, contextually relevant insights and strategies in evaluation, enriching and transforming practices to align with the unique experiences of the Global South. This collaborative effort aims to inspire a new generation of culturally sensitive, inclusive, and decolonized evaluators and scholars.

Event Schedule

Panel 10

Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Silver Oak II

Gender equality, social equity and inclusivity in development (Organized by IWWAGE and PCI)
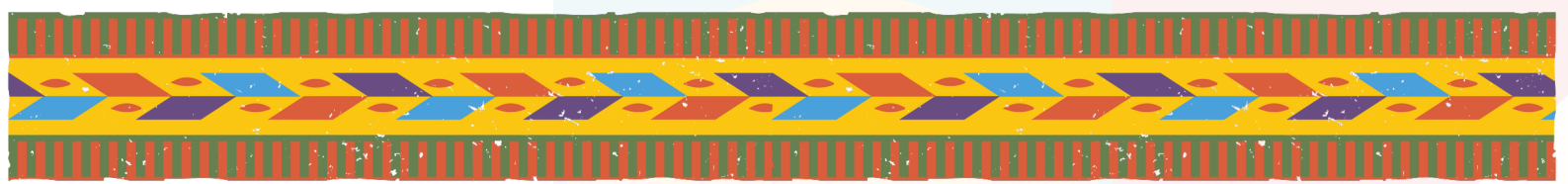
The panel aims to amplify the perspectives of seasoned and emerging researchers and practitioners, shedding light on their success stories and challenges encountered when integrating research into ongoing public sector programs. The discussion will delve into key achievements and hurdles faced by these individuals. The panel will specifically focus on the utilization of a curated advocacy tool is emphasized as an effective strategy to engage policymakers, academia, practitioners, and experts, ultimately advancing the mandate of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Roundtable 5

Time: 02:00 – 03:30 | Venue: Marigold

Institutionalization of National Evaluation Capacities: Learning from Youth Networks (Organised by EvalYouth India)

The recent 4th APEA conference called for action for institutionalisation of M&E for achieving the SDGs through the Manila Declaration. Previously in 2016, the Colombo declaration called for institutionalisation of evaluation within parliaments. In 2013, the participants at the National Evaluation Capacities conference developed and signed 18 commitments to enhance national evaluation capacities and to encourage accountability by calling participant countries to commit to actions and collaboration. The Global evaluation agenda was adopted in 2016. A lot of such calls to action have been made in recent times, but very little real progress has been made in India through concrete action. Through this roundtable, we wish to invoke ideas from YEEs about contextualising these different commitments and developing an action agenda for India.

DAY 03
23rd February 2024

Tea Break

Time: 03:30 – 04:00

Closing Ceremony

Time: 04:00 – 05:30 | Venue: Silver Oak I & II

- Key takeaways of the EvalFest 2024 (ECOI)
- Address by the keynote speakers and the Chief Guest
- Announcements and the Vote of thanks: ECOI

Event Schedule