



Development Evaluation Society of India

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REVIVING AND SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION CULTURE IN INDIA

An elaborate Monitoring and Evaluation infrastructure was created in India in the 1950s to get feedback on progress, performance and impact of development projects and programs initiated under the Five Year Plans and to learn lessons from experience in development planning and administration. However, over time, the capacity of the public M&E institutions have considerably weakened as evidenced in shrinking staff strength and physical infrastructure of these institutions, lack of investment in creating human capital required for this purpose and low demand for M&E information in the public sector. Development Evaluation Society of India (DESI) was formed with a view to providing a forum for exchanging views and experiences of professionals in the field of planning, development administration, performance auditing, monitoring and evaluation to understand the factors contributing to this scenario and evolve a strategy to revive the culture of development evaluation in the country to ensure development effectiveness. While promoting evaluation as a key tool for bringing about development effectiveness, transparency, accountability and good governance, DESI seeks to facilitate evaluation capacity building and promote excellence in theory and practice of development evaluation through establishment of networks with other national and international evaluation associations.

Aims and Objectives of DESI

- To provide platform for promotion of evaluation as a key tool for managing results, for promoting transparency and accountability in decision making and other governance processes, and facilitating knowledge learning on evaluation and development issues through training, workshop, conference, seminar and publication of books, periodicals, journals etc.
- To facilitate and promote evaluation capacity development initiatives at the national level, with emphasis on advocacy towards mainstreaming evaluation in the overall development process.
- To carry out studies to identify and understand the factors that help create an enabling environment for mainstreaming development evaluation.
- To undertake studies on impact evaluation.
- To conduct training programs on development evaluation in collaboration with reputed institutions/development evaluation specialists for the public sector officials, NGOs and researchers to familiarize them with latest tools and techniques of monitoring/evaluation.

Members of DESI

Members of DESI are evaluation professionals and researchers from Government organizations, NGOs and reputed research/academic institutes who have rich experience in and exposure to

of DESI have first hand experience in conducting development evaluation the public sector agencies at both Federal and Provincial levels.

Activities of DESI

DESI has provided consultancy services to a few organizations and has identified the following areas that need to be acted on a priority basis:

- Preparation of “Best Practice Guide Book on Development Evaluation for Indian Professionals”.
- Preparation of “Compendium of Best Evaluation Studies (in India) and Lessons Learned”.
- Taking up studies to understand the demand and supply side factors that influence evaluation capacity development. The IDRC, DESI and Institute of Resource Management and Economic Development, New Delhi have taken initiative to bring out a volume titled “India: State of Development Evaluation Report,2010”
- Establishing Networks with other international/ national development evaluation associations and development agencies.

Present Activities

DESI is in the process of preparing “India: State of Development Evaluation Report: 2010” with financial support from International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The report is expected to be released by June 2010. Conceptualized as the first of a series of reports to be prepared, the 2010 Report will provide an insight into the present status of development evaluation in India. General objective of the Report is to

- Provide evidence-based analysis on the present state of development evaluation processes and systems in India to inform various stakeholders involved in development evaluation.

The specific objectives are to undertake diagnostic analysis to identify the present state of demand and supply side strengths and weaknesses of development evaluation in India through:

- identifying the users / demanders of evaluation;
- a capacity audit of the key agencies engaged in development evaluation to understand the state of supply and;
- Initial analysis of other dimensions of the field of development evaluation in India (including availability of evaluation training / curriculum) and initial exploration of the challenges and opportunities around evaluation use.

In its endeavour to achieve its objectives, the proposed Report will

- trace the evolution of the organizations engaged in development evaluation in India since the beginning of the Five Year Plan era;
- Identify the factors that influenced the state of development evaluation in India over time; and
- Identify the contributions of major stakeholders in creating demand for development evaluation and their respective interests in the process not only in terms of making effective use of the lessons learnt from evaluation studies, but also developing and adhering to strict standards of evaluation.

For further enquiry about DESI , feel free to get in touch with

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