Designing and Implementing Policy Evaluation & Impact Assessment Training Course



Ref: #GOV7859

Course Introduction / Overview:

The effectiveness of public policies is a major concern for governments, organizations, and citizens alike. This training course from BIG BEN Training Center provides a comprehensive framework for designing and implementing rigorous policy evaluation and impact assessment. It will teach you how to systematically determine if a policy or program is achieving its intended outcomes and whether it's creating positive change. The course covers everything from crafting strong evaluation questions to choosing the right methodologies and using the results to improve decision-making. We'll explore various quantitative and qualitative methods, including randomized controlled trials, quasi-experimental designs, and case study approaches. Drawing on the insights of leading thinkers like Donald T. Campbell, a pioneer in the field of evaluation, and his work in the book Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Designs for Research, this program is designed to be both academically rigorous and highly practical. By the end of this course, you'll be able to create an evaluation plan that is both feasible and insightful. You will be able to turn data into action and ensure that resources are used wisely to achieve the greatest possible social and economic impact.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Government officials and civil servants involved in policy development.
- Monitoring and evaluation professionals in NGOs and international organizations.
- Project and program managers in the public and private sectors.
- Researchers and analysts focused on social science and public policy.
- Donors and philanthropic foundation staff assess grant effectiveness.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Government agencies and ministries.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- International development and aid organizations.
- Public health and social services.
- Education and labor sectors.
- Philanthropic foundations.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL).
- Strategic Planning.
- Policy and Research.
- Program Management.
- Internal Audit.
- Performance and Budgeting.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Formulate clear and testable evaluation questions for any policy or program.
- Choose the most suitable evaluation design, from experimental to non-experimental methods.
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to measure policy impact.
- Measure the effectiveness, efficiency, and relevance of public interventions.
- Use evaluation findings to inform policy decisions and improve future programs.
- Communicate complex evaluation results to diverse audiences in a clear and compelling way.
- Apply ethical principles and standards throughout the evaluation process.

Course Methodology:

This training course uses an interactive and hands-on methodology to ensure you not only understand the concepts but can also apply them in real-world settings. The course will be built around practical case studies that challenge you to design an evaluation plan for different types of policies and programs. You will take part in group workshops and exercises on everything from creating a program logic model to developing data collection tools like surveys and interview guides. We will use a mixed-methods approach, combining lectures with group discussions, peer feedback sessions, and real-time problem-solving. A key element of this training is the use of collaborative projects where participants work in teams to analyze a hypothetical policy and propose a detailed impact assessment plan. This collaborative environment fosters a deep understanding of the challenges and nuances of evaluation. BIG BEN Training Center is committed to providing a learning experience that bridges the gap between theory and practice, giving you the practical skills, you need to become an effective evaluator. The final output is a fully developed evaluation plan that can be applied to a current project.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of Policy Evaluation.

- The purpose and scope of policy evaluation.
- Types of evaluation: process, outcome, and impact.
- Understanding the policy lifecycle.
- Developing a program theory and logic model.
- Formulating strong evaluation questions.
- Ethical considerations in evaluation and data collection.
- The role of stakeholders in the evaluation process.

Unit Two: Evaluation Designs and Methodologies.

- Introduction to quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Experimental designs: Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs).
- Quasi-experimental designs: difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity.
- Non-experimental designs: case studies and surveys.
- Choosing the right methodology for your context.
- Data collection techniques: interviews, focus groups, and surveys.
- Data quality and validity.

Unit Three: Data Analysis and Impact Measurement.

- Quantitative data analysis: descriptive and inferential statistics.
- Qualitative data analysis: coding and thematic analysis.
- Measuring policy impact and attribution.
- Conducting a cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Using software tools for data analysis.
- Synthesizing findings from different data sources.
- Dealing with data limitations and missing information.

Unit Four: Reporting and Using Evaluation Findings.

- Structuring and writing an evaluation report.
- Creating clear and effective data visualizations.
- Communicating findings to policymakers and stakeholders.
- Disseminating results for maximum influence.
- The importance of recommendations and lessons learned.
- Using evaluations to improve policies and programs.
- Building an evaluation culture in your organization.

Unit Five: Advanced Topics and Practical Application.

- Monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Integrating gender and equity into evaluations.
- Evaluating complex and multi-sectoral policies.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for your own project.
- Peer review of evaluation plans.
- A global case study of a major policy evaluation.
- Feedback session and next steps for professional development.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

How can evaluators ensure the findings of a rigorous policy impact assessment are genuinely used to influence political decision-making, rather than being dismissed or ignored?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This training course stands out by providing a balanced and integrated view of policy evaluation, going beyond just the technical skills. It connects the "how-to" of data collection and analysis with the strategic thinking required to ensure evaluation findings are used to create meaningful change. We focus on real-world challenges, such as how to work with incomplete data, manage diverse stakeholders, and communicate complex results effectively. This program is not just about tools; it's about building a mindset for evidence-based decision-making. It emphasizes the critical importance of framing the right questions and designing evaluations that are both methodologically sound and politically savvy. By integrating case studies from a variety of sectors, from public health to urban development, the course ensures that the principles taught are adaptable to many different contexts. Participants will leave with a deep understanding of the ethical responsibilities of an evaluator and the ability to champion the use of evidence in their organizations. This holistic approach ensures that you are prepared not just to conduct an evaluation but to become a leader in the field.