



## ***Visibility, Voice, and Value***

**7- 9 February, 2018, New Delhi, India**

***EvalFest 2018 is a three-day event that aims to contribute to building a culture of evaluation through advocacy, and capacity building by sharing knowledge about best practices, approaches and evaluation methods that are participatory, contextual, replicable and adaptable.***

Join us as we build a new paradigm of evaluation practice

Over three days we will reflect upon what evaluation really means at its core, whilst considering the real impact on ourselves and on communities of current practices.

We will help each other question widely-held assumptions about our practices and explore whether it is possible to create positive impact through evaluation.

We understand that any transformation starts with us: that we must embody the new paradigm in our individual evaluation practice so that others can learn and support this transition.

We will strive to extend the evaluation community by enthusing and encouraging non-active stakeholders to appreciate importance of objective evidence in decision-making.

### **Evaluation Community of India (ECOI):**

India was the first country to celebrate International Year of Evaluation 2015 and was honored by receiving the EvalTorch. Out of this week-long celebration emerged the need for a professional body of evaluators and other stakeholders in the developmental process that promotes a continuous dialogue on issues to improve evaluation standards; helps in sharing the existing state of knowledge, research outcomes and best practices in development evaluation; plays an advocacy role in furthering the role of quality evaluation in enhancing development results; nurtures growth of evaluation capabilities; and contributes to the evolution of an evaluation culture in the country. In response to this demand, the Evaluation

Community of India (ECOI) was established in October 2015. The motto of the Community is 'Share and Learn'. In its two year's journey, ECOI has achieved various milestones like bringing out a series of Newsletters, participation in various global, regional and national forums and conferences, organizing workshops, constituting action groups and establishing ne-working relationships with other evaluation associations. ECOI is managed by a team of nine core group members: Rashmi Agrawal (independent consultant, formerly with NILERD, NITI Aayog); Shubh Kumar-Range (independent consultant); R.S. Goyal (independent consultant, formerly with IIHMR); Rituu B. Nanda (Consultant, ISST); Aniruddha Brahmachari (OXFAM International), BVLN Rao (formerly with Indian Statistical Service), Alok Srivastava (Centre for Media Studies), Nabesh Bohidar (CARE India) and Rajib Nandi (Institute of Social Studies Trust).

ECOI is organizing an **EvalFest** in February 2018 in collaboration with various partners like 3ie, ISST, CMS, Oxfam, ImpactReady, UNFPA, UNDP, IIHMR-Delhi and others to contribute to building evaluation culture and evaluation capacities. 3ie (**International Initiative for Impact Evaluation**) is an international NGO promoting evidence-informed development policies and programs. It is a global leader in funding and producing high-quality evidence of what works, how, why and at what cost in international development and believes that better and policy-relevant evidence will make development more effective and improve people's lives. ISST (**Institute of Social Studies Trust**) is a non-governmental research organization based in New Delhi. ISST's overall aim is research for social change with a focus on livelihood, work and wellbeing of vulnerable communities from a gender perspective. ISST attempts to bridge the gaps between research, action and policy debates with objectives of promoting social justice and equality for the underprivileged. CMS (**Centre for Media Studies**) is an independent, not-for profit organization dedicated to multidisciplinary research-driven initiatives that enable policy makers to take informed decisions on development and social change to improve quality of life. **OXFAM India** is a voluntary organization whose vision is to help create an equal, just and sustainable society by empowering the underprivileged through a rights-based approach. Its activities are based on exhaustive research that leads to intensive knowledge materials. International Institute of Health Management Research- Delhi (**IIHMR**) is a premier research and training institute in public health management. Its activities include, inter alia, evaluative research and capacity building in health-related evaluations. **ImpactReady** is a UK based organization that works around the world on evaluation, program design and social enterprise. The overall approach of ImpactReady is geared to maintaining the high-quality standards of evaluations, whilst pushing the boundaries in terms of innovation, usability and communication. The Campbell Collaboration is a voluntary, non-profit, international research network. The network produces and disseminates systematic reviews of the effects of interventions in the social and behavioral sciences. **UNDP** has worked in India since 1951 in almost all areas of human development, from democratic governance to poverty eradication, to sustainable energy and environmental management. UNDP's programmes are aligned with national priorities and are reviewed and adjusted annually. **UNFPA**, the United Nations Population Fund, is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

## Why an EvalFest?

Evaluation is integral to development. It provides evidence of how, why and to what extent development programs succeed or fall short of their objectives and reach intended beneficiaries. Evaluations examine results as well as processes, and help us better understand how they contribute to solving development problems. It is widely recognized that evidence can improve an ongoing project, strengthen the planning of new initiatives, and refine programming and policies. It is well established that development programs and policies are more successful when they are designed and implemented through an inclusive and participatory approach.

Government of India has unfolded a new vision and mission for inclusive development and in this process unveiled several new programs. Some of the major initiatives are for financial inclusion (*Jan Dhan Yojana*), for skill development (Skill India), for promoting indigenous enterprise and production (Make in India), and for elimination of open defecation (*Swachh Bharat Mission*). The priority of the Government is “*Sabka Saath SabkaVikas*” so that no one is left behind. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups such as women, differentlyabled, socially and economically deprived so that they could be mainstreamed in development process. These initiatives are in tune with the globally adopted SDGs. Evaluations with focus on equity and gender equality can play an important role in ensuring that these initiatives lead to the intended results.

It is important to build a culture of evaluation in the country so that all stakeholders like policymakers, program managers, evaluation practitioners, non-governmental organizations, academia and most importantly the community are convinced about the process and practice of evaluation and accept it as means to evidence-informed decision making and information dissemination. Coming together of these stakeholders will help build common understanding of the importance of evaluation, how it is done and its usefulness for learning and making improvements by sharing knowledge and perspectives. **EvalFest 2018** is conceptualized as a step in this direction - to co-produce and share knowledge, and build partnerships with various stakeholders to ensure that evaluation and evidence use are cornerstones in working towards achieving SDGs, focusing upon engaging stakeholders, inclusiveness and innovation.

## Event concept

This event is conceptualized with the belief that every stakeholder involved with the process of development has something critical and mutually reinforcing to bring to the field of evaluation. EvalFest provides the convening space to bring them together to have collective ideas. The event is envisaged to be inclusive and participatory for a range of actors from beneficiaries through to policymakers.

The point of intersection for these diverse actors is their interest and involvement in some or the other way in development process, monitoring and evaluation of development programs. The three-day event will encourage flexible and interactive sessions, for example, talk show style panels, world cafés or fish bowls, along with a few keynotes where there would be time

for discussion with the presenters. Alongside these types of sessions, EvalFest 2018 will provide space for and encourage less traditional forms of information sharing, such as theatre and storytelling using drawing, photos or oral histories (**Visibility for all**) to focus on evaluation experiences from non-traditional voices in evaluation conferences (**Voice for all**). Possible themes will focus on the multiple types of values that evaluation can have and reduce misunderstanding and anxieties that people might have about it. (**How to Value evaluations taking out Fear of evaluation and enhance their use**)

### Major Themes

- ❖ Engaging Community and other stakeholders in Development and Evaluation: Field building, Innovation in process and utility orientation.
- ❖ Inclusion: social, economic, cultural and behavioral
- ❖ Innovations: New knowledge and practice
- ❖ Ethics and evaluations
- ❖ Road to SDGs: prioritization, building evaluation capabilities, gender & equity and evidence use

## EvalFest- The Process

**I. Pre Fest Events-** EvalFest will be flexible in its approach and process. There will be pre-Fest events such as:

- ❖ ***Outreach to students-*** Prior to EvalFest, on-campus interactions with faculty and students of educational institutions about how they perceive development and M&E, how it is or should be done and how they could contribute to enhance the developmental results
- ❖ ***Outreach to community-*** ECOI teams will visit some of the community groups to take their perception of evaluation and how could they be involved in the process of development and evaluation
- ❖ ***Outreach to cities other than Delhi-*** Need-based discussion workshops will be organized in various parts of the country collaborating with academic institutions and other players.

## II. Main Event

Main event will take place from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The program on the first day i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> February will include satellite events on above mentioned themes convened by partnering organizations at venues in their respective institutions. The formal inauguration of EvalFest 2018 will be on 8<sup>th</sup> February with key-note address, open forums and technical sessions for sharing knowledge. On 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, the final day, the outcomes and the takeaways from the event will be discussed and finalized along with some technical sessions. A detailed program will be finalized in consultation with various stakeholders and partners.

### **III. Outreach to Media**

Media is a strong pillar of development process. It can play a very active role in creating a culture of evaluation. Media needs to be sensitized about evidence based reporting and how to be a proactive player. For this purpose, meetings will be convened with both print and electronic media.

### **IV. Venue**

The events on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February will take place at Silver Oak, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. The events on 7<sup>th</sup> February will be organized at different locations of Delhi by the partner organizations.

### **Expected outcomes from the EvalFest 2018**

- Learning by sharing information, experiences and perspectives from respective and diverse contexts.
- Wider access to current and new knowledge in development and evaluation through interactions.
- An opportunity to network with various stakeholders for future activities.
- Dissemination of good evaluation practices, approaches and techniques which are participatory, contextual, replicable and adaptable.
- Greater awareness about development and evaluations with equity and equality among various stakeholders
- A compendium of academic papers on evaluation.

### **Call for collaboration**

EvalFest 2018 is an opportunity to showcase the role of national and global organizations in evidence generation in support of policy debates and decisions in India and other countries. This event will also help sharing the experiences of various organizations involved in development and evaluation process in addressing evidence gaps. Please join hands together participate and contribute to make it a grand success.

### **How can you Participate?**

- By Sponsoring events and venue
- By sponsoring participants
- By sponsoring the edited volume to be published on this occasion
- By organizing pre-Fest events
- By developing Fest material- poster/ charts/ videos/ theatre/songs any other
- By proposing panels
- By presenting innovations
- By suggesting interesting mode of presentation
- By generating awareness about the event and bringing participants from varying fields

## **Please contact us for further information:**

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