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November 23, 2015

End Date

November 27, 2015



**ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL
Poverty Action Lab**
J-PAL SOUTH-EAST ASIA

JPAL - IPA Executive Education Course on Evaluating Social Programs

Millenia Suites, Manila
23-27 November 2015

Through this executive education training, participants will achieve a comprehensive understanding of impact evaluation, as well as pragmatic step-by-step approaches to developing and conducting randomized evaluations. It will focus on the benefits and methods of randomization, choosing an appropriate sample size, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of the evaluation. While the training is centered around the why, how and when of randomized evaluations, it will also impart insights on the importance of a needs assessment, measuring outcomes effectively, quality control, and monitoring methods, which are useful for evaluations in diverse issues and programs, such as infrastructure, education, health, governance, and others.

Our training is designed for participants from a variety of backgrounds: managers and researchers from international development organizations, foundations, governments and non-governmental organizations. The following key questions and concepts will be covered:

- Why and when is a rigorous impact evaluation needed?
- The common pitfalls of evaluations, and how randomization can help.
- The key components of a good randomized evaluation design.
- Alternative techniques for incorporating randomization into project design.
- How to determine the appropriate sample size, measure outcomes, and manage data?
- Guarding against threats that may undermine the integrity of the results.

- Techniques for the analysis and interpretation of results.
- How to maximize policy impact and test external validity.

The training will achieve these goals through a combination of lectures, case studies, as well as group exercises and presentations. Expert researchers will provide both theoretical and example-based modules complemented by group work where participants can apply key concepts to real-world examples. By examining both successful and problematic evaluations, participants will better understand the significance of various specific details of randomized evaluations. Furthermore, the training will offer extensive opportunities to apply these ideas ensuring that participants leave with the knowledge, experience and confidence necessary to concretely understand randomized evaluations.

Modules description

The following sections describe the modules that comprise the Executive Education Course.

1. What is Evaluation, Why Evaluate

This module presents evaluation as an intervention of its own. Just as policymakers need to think critically about why a specific program or policy is necessary and preferred, they need to think equally carefully about the need and purpose of evaluation. The most important questions are: is the evaluation needed to promote learning, accountability, or both?

This module also puts impact evaluation in the context of the broader category of M&E, using a framework for "program evaluation" that includes:

Executive Education on Evaluating Social Programs

Poverty Action - Philippines hosted managers and researchers from international development organizations, foundations, governments and non-governmental organizations from around the world, as well as trained economists looking to retool, in an Executive Training program.

This five-day program on evaluating social programs provided a thorough understanding of randomized evaluations and pragmatic step-by-step training for conducting one's own evaluation. It focused on the benefits and methods of randomization, choosing an appropriate sample size, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of the experiment. While the program centered around the why, how and when of Randomized Evaluations, it also imparted insights on the importance of a needs assessment, measuring outcomes effectively, quality control, and monitoring methods that are useful for all kinds of evaluations.

Course Coverage:

Specifically, the following key questions and concepts were covered:

- Why and when is a rigorous evaluation of social impact needed?
- The common pitfalls of evaluations, and why does randomization help
- The key components of a good randomized evaluation design?
- Alternative techniques for incorporating randomization into project design
- How do you determine the appropriate sample size, measure outcomes, and manage data?
- Guarding against threats that may undermine the integrity of the results
- Techniques for the analysis and interpretation of results
- How to maximize policy impact and test external validity
- For lectures videos and course content from a past Executive Education course, please [click here](#).



City

Manila

Country

Philippines