Certificate Course

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Development Professionals

About the Course

As the eight-year countdown to achieving the 2030 SDGs begins, there has been a strong impetus toward improving developmental outcomes and strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems at organizational and national levels. Despite the depth of MEL expertise and extent of practice within the Global South, there have been very few practitioner-driven, knowledge exchange spaces which can facilitate perspective building and enhance the knowledge and skills of early and mid-career development professionals located in the global south. With this in mind, Sambodhi is offering an online certificate course: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for Development Professionals (MEL4DP).

Duration:
October 29, 2022 – March 18, 2023

Language:
English

Level of Effort:
4 hours per week

Requirements:
Access to laptop and internet

Modality:
Online with live-classroom sessions and group assignments

Total Seats: 30

Course Fee and Scholarships
- 700 USD (or its equivalent in local currency)
- Limited complete and partial scholarships available for candidates on a merit-cum-means basis
- Discounts on course fees in case of institutional sponsorships, group enrolments, and for participants from grassroot organizations

Last date to apply: October 10, 2022

The course seeks to:

- Provide conceptual clarity on MEL through a **practitioner's lens,**

- Equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills to **plan, conduct, and manage effective M&E** of programs and foster **continuous learning and program improvement,**

- **Contextualize** the application of existing MEL frameworks and approaches in a Global South context

- Build **critical perspectives** on various aspects of MEL practice and theory,

- Develop cross-sectoral and cross-disciplinary perspective to approach unique problems from a **multi-dimensional perspective**

- Create a space for **peer learning, collective thinking, and networking** for early-career development professionals.

This 18-week course is part of Sambodhi's commitment to enhance the knowledge, skills, and dialogue of the larger evaluation ecosystem.

Sambodhi is driven by data action. We collect and analyze high-quality data using cutting-edge technology and harvest it to inspire policy change, maximize impact, and transform lives. We collaborate with data advocates, policy experts, governments, philanthropies, civil societies, and the public to reshape how we work with data to make processes and policies more responsive to the people they affect.

Central to our philosophy of data action is creating trust and co-ownership of data by democratizing it and building the capacities of professionals and communities to access, analyze and use that data for policy development.

Course highlights:

- **Practitioners' lens:** developed and facilitated by MEL practitioners & experts, for practitioners.

- **Multi-sectoral perspective:** uses case studies & real-world examples from different sectors

- **Real-world examples:** application-based interactive learning through classroom activities

- **Context specific:** builds critical perspective for the global south

- **Merit-cum-means scholarship:** scholarships and discounts offer available

- **Mixed method approach:** uses hands on tools and approaches from quantitative and qualitative perspective.

- **Weekend learning for working professionals:** tailored for early career professionals with weekend classes

Course Andragogy

Designed by development professionals, this course is rooted in practice and embedded in experiences of the Global South. Following the principles of adult learning, the course will use:

- Participatory tools,
- Experiential learning with a 'learning by doing' approach,
- Interactive lectures and case-studies, and
- Reflective group discussions and structured group assignments.

Participants will be divided into groups at the beginning of the course. Each group will work on a unique case study from a sector of their interest (e.g., education, livelihoods, and public health). Learnings from each module will be applied to the case studies and group activities in the virtual classroom.

At the end of the course, each group will present an MEL plan for their case study. In the process, the course will foster peer learning, collaboration, and cross-sectoral dialogue.

Requirements for Course Completion

Sambodhi will provide a certificate to the participants upon successful completion of the course. This would entail:

- 50% classroom attendance,
- Active class participation,
- A minimum 50% score on module-wise assessments, and
- Submission and assessment of final project work.

Course Structure and Intended Learning Outcomes

The course consists of **9 modules** spread over **5 months.** Each module consists of rich classroom discussions and case studies to help build the necessary perspectives and skills to carry out a MEL project.

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

- Differentiate between Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning, and gain a nuanced understanding of MEL vocabulary, contextualize **MEL in Program Cycles,** and define pathways of change using **Theory of Change approaches**,
- Gain an understanding of different **monitoring typologies,** use publicly available datasets for monitoring, and **construct interactive monitoring** dashboards,
- Define and **utilize different evaluation approaches, frameworks, and designs** and Keep pace with **contemporary trends in evaluations,**
- Practically **implement an evaluation** by developing an understanding of Evaluation Cycles, Implementation, Designs, Methods, and Tools, and
- **Harvest learnings** from evaluations, and utilize them for continuous program improvement.

The course will also offer two optional workshops to enhance the participants' practical skills in **Quantitative Data Analysis** and **Visualization & Storytelling.** The course will conclude with a seminar where participants will present their respective case study-based projects.

Each week, there will be 3 hours of online classes (on Saturdays) by course facilitators and an hour of self-paced reading, assignments, or project work.

Modular learning outcomes:

Introduction to MEL | 1 week

- Explain the distinction between monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning,
- Describe the role of MEL in policymaking and program design, and
- Explain the evolution of MEL as a practice in Global South.

Locating MEL in a project cycle and theory of change | 3 weeks

- Describe a project cycle and locate MEL within a project cycle,
- Explain the different terms associated with MEL and list different types of MEL,
- Identify different stakeholders associated with a program, and
- Construct a ToC and Results Framework.

Contexts of Monitoring and Evaluation — 1 week

- Describe how power and social-cultural contexts might characterize stakeholder groups and influence M&E,
- Describe what gender, equity, and intersectionality perspective means in M&E, and
- Describe and engender an evaluation cycle.

Monitoring for Program and Policy Ecosystems - I — 1 week

- Learn how to utilize different monitoring typologies
- Develop a monitoring plan and monitoring indicators.

Monitoring for Program and Policy Ecosystems - II — 1 week

- Learn how to utilize publicly available datasets for monitoring
- Create basic monitoring dashboards

Evaluation approaches and frameworks — 1 week

- Develop evaluation questions, and
- Utilize the OECD-DAC criteria and compare them with other criteria.

Holiday break and self-paced work on course assignment

Evaluation approaches and frameworks *(continued)* — 2 weeks

- List different evaluation approaches and their strengths/weaknesses
- Select evaluation approaches for different evaluations
- Explain contemporary trends in evaluation approaches

Evaluation Design
2 weeks

- List and describe types of evaluation designs,
- Set up experimental and quasi-experimental evaluations, and
- Select evaluation designs based on evaluation objectives, context, and resources.

Doing evaluation: Data collection, methods, sampling, and analytics
4 weeks

- Construct and pilot tools for surveys, FGDs, interviews,
- Develop sampling strategies, especially multi-stage sampling and compute sample sizes,
- Conduct basic descriptive (quant) and content and thematic (qual) analysis, and
- Describe the ethics of data collection.

Workshop I
Quantitative analysis
Optional

Learning and utilization of evaluation
1 week

- Design actionable recommendations from the evaluation,
- Explain how M&E feeds into program learning and improvement,
- Describe the role of effective reporting to support evaluation use, and
- Describe the importance of taking M&E learnings to stakeholders, including project participants.

Workshop II
Data visualization and storytelling
Optional

Capstone Project and Convocation
1 week

- Presentation of group projects
- Convocation Ceremony
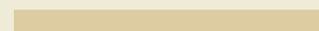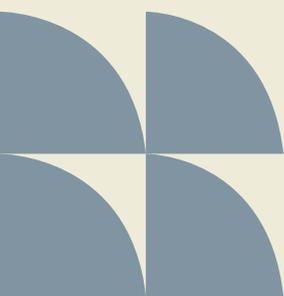
Course Facilitators

The course will be anchored by senior professionals from Sambodhi with expertise in different aspects of MEL.

Rajib Nandi

Vice President – Knowledge Management & Capacity Development

Expertise: gender transformative evaluations, work and labour

Rajib, the founder and co-leader of the Evaluation Community of India (ECOI), has over 24 years of experience implementing impact evaluations.

Akashi Kaul

Assistant Vice President - Research

Expertise: livelihoods and education; research methods

Akashi has served on the board of Washington Evaluators and has extensive experience designing evaluation methodologies.

Vijay Avinandan

Assistant Vice President - Research

Expertise: food security and nutrition; theory-led evaluations

Vijay brings nine years of impressive background in developing global monitoring and evaluation systems and technologies.

Abhishek Sharma

Assistant Vice President - Research

Expertise: WASH and livelihood, quasi-experimental & RCT designs

Abhishek has worked at the forefront of research and evaluations to enable evidence-based decisions over the course of his nine-year career.

Course Convenor

Mahima Taneja

Senior Manager - Research

Expertise: feminist evaluation, capacity building, WASH, public health, urban development

Mahima has 8+ years of experience in conducting qualitative research, mixed-methods evaluations, exploratory and formative studies across multiple domains.

Given our vast network and experience in MEL and capacity building, we will partner with **voluntary evaluation organizations** and **national and international experts** to bring them on as **guest lecturers** to further enhance learning. The course will also offer avenues for continuous **engagements, mentorship, exposure to international MEL practices** and help alumni networks grow to support the participants in their career development.

Who Can Apply?

- Young and emerging evaluators and early-career development professionals
- Persons of all nationalities
- Persons with 1-6 years of relevant experience

º Professionals seeking to build skills in MEL, set up MEL systems within organizations, or mark a career transition to MEL.

º Professionals with experience in development – working across consulting firms, think tanks, research firms, government departments, impact investing firms, NGOs, and donor organizations will find this course helpful.

How to Apply?

If you meet the eligibility criteria and are willing to commit adequate time to this course, please apply by filling out the form by **October 10, 2022:**

Link: https://sambodhi.co.in/capacity-building/application-form/

Note: Since this is a facilitated course with group assignments and classroom discussions; students are expected to engage with the course actively to gain the most out of it.

Scholarship And Fees

The course is priced at USD 700 which can be paid in easy **installments** and any currency. To enhance access to the course, especially for early-career professionals, we will offer:

- **Complete and partial scholarships** to a few participants (request for a scholarship must be specified in the application form),
- Discounts in case of any **institutional sponsorship** and **group enrollments,** and
- Discounts to participants working with **grassroot organizations** in the Global South.

Contact Us

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