

Certificate Course

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
for Development Professionals
(MEL4DP)

At a Glance

Duration:

16-17 weeks | 8 modules + 1 workshop

Language:

English

Effort:

3 hours per week

Requirements:

Laptop and internet access

Scholarships:

The scholarships will be available on a merit or needs basis.

Format:

Online with live Saturday classroom sessions and group assignments or class activities (On the Zoom platform)

Course Fee:

₹ **66,000** (including GST)

Seats:

Limited to **30 participants**

Why MEL4DP?

With just a few years left to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the demand for skilled **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)** professionals has never been greater. Organizations across the development sector need practitioners who can design robust MEL systems, generate credible evidence, and turn data into decisions that drive real change.

MEL4DP, developed by Sambodhi, is a practitioner-led certificate course built for the realities of the Global South. It goes beyond textbook theory, grounding every concept in case studies, real-world datasets, and lived experiences from diverse development contexts.

Whether you are building MEL skills from scratch, strengthening your practice, or transitioning into an M&E role, this course equips you with the tools, frameworks, and professional network to make an impact.

What You Will Gain

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

Understand and apply core MEL concepts, vocabulary, and frameworks, including Theory of Change and Results-Based Management

Design and manage monitoring systems using publicly available datasets and interactive dashboards

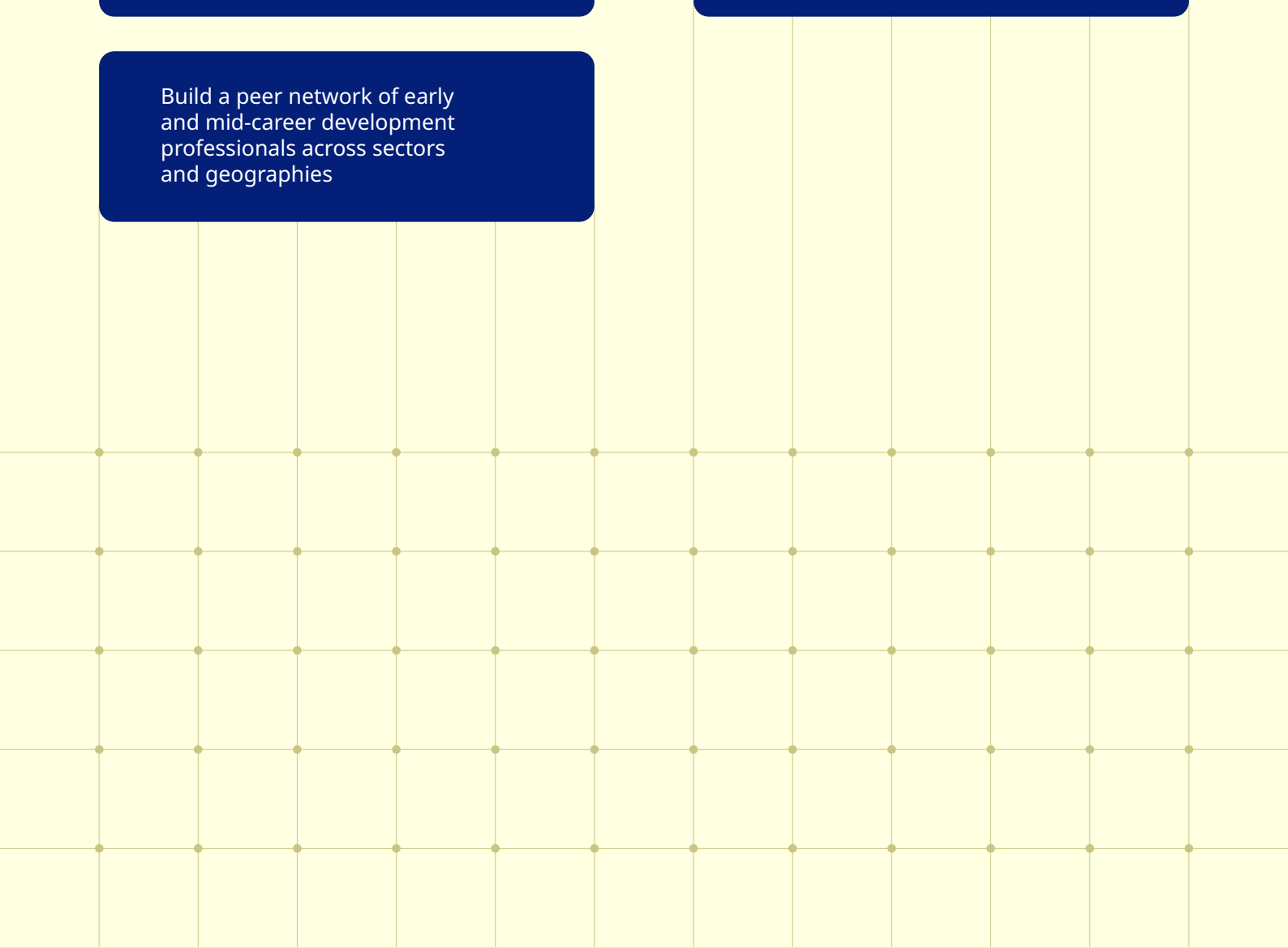
Select and implement appropriate evaluation approaches (Theory- Based, Participatory, Realist, OECD-DAC) for different program contexts

Conduct data collection using quantitative and qualitative methods, with hands-on experience in SPSS and STATA

Apply gender-responsive, equity-focused, and intersectionality-informed perspectives to M&E design

Translate evaluation findings into actionable recommendations and communicate results effectively to stakeholders

Build a peer network of early and mid-career development professionals across sectors and geographies



Course Highlights

01

Practitioner-Led Learning

Developed and facilitated by seasoned MEL experts with decades of on-the-ground experience in health, education, livelihoods, gender, and more. No generic frameworks - every lesson is grounded in practice.

02

Global South Perspective

Case studies, datasets, and examples are drawn from the Global South, making the course directly relevant to the contexts where most participants work.

03

Designed for Working Professionals

Saturday live sessions and self-paced content make it possible to complete this course without stepping away from your job.

04

Hands-On, Team-Based Projects

From day one, participants work in groups on a real-world case study, applying each module's learnings to build a complete MEL plan by the end of the course.

05

Cross-Sectoral Dialogue

Peer learning across sectors such as education, public health, livelihoods, governance creates a uniquely rich environment for professional growth and networking.



Course Structure

Module 1:

Introduction to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

1 week

Lays the foundation: key concepts, MEL vocabulary, the distinction between monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning, and the evolution of MEL in the Global South. Participants explore how MEL shapes policy and program design.

Module 2:

Overview of MEL Frameworks

1 week

Deep dive into essential MEL frameworks including Logical Frameworks, Results-Based Management, and Theory of Change. Participants learn to critically apply these frameworks to real development challenges.

Module 3:

Public Datasets for Monitoring

1 week

Introduces participants to administrative and public-intent data for program monitoring. Covers concurrent monitoring plans, real-time tracking systems, and hands-on dashboard building using public datasets.

Module 4:

Contexts of Monitoring and Evaluation

1 week

Examines the socio-cultural and power dynamics that shape M&E practice. Focuses on gender-responsive design, equity-driven frameworks, and intersectionality — ensuring evaluations are contextually relevant and socially conscious.

Module 5:

Evaluation Approaches and Frameworks

1 week

Covers the full spectrum of evaluation approaches including Theory-Based, Participatory, Realist, and OECD-DAC, with a focus on crafting strong evaluation questions and selecting the right approach for each context.

Module 6:

Quantitative Evaluation Design

2 weeks

Equips participants with research design skills across causal (experimental, quasi-experimental), descriptive (cross-sectional, longitudinal), and non-experimental approaches. Includes an introduction to qualitative methods and thematic analysis.

Module 7:

Doing Evaluation: Data Collection, Methods, Sampling, and Ethics

4 weeks

The most intensive module. Covers questionnaire design, sampling techniques, descriptive statistics, data collection ethics, and practical use of SPSS and STATA for analysis. Combines group exercises with hands-on data work.

Module 8:

Learning and Utilization of Evaluation

2 week

The capstone module. Focuses on using evaluation insights for continuous program improvement, generating actionable recommendations, and communicating findings to stakeholders. Groups present their complete MEL plans.

Key Highlights



11 Total Cohorts



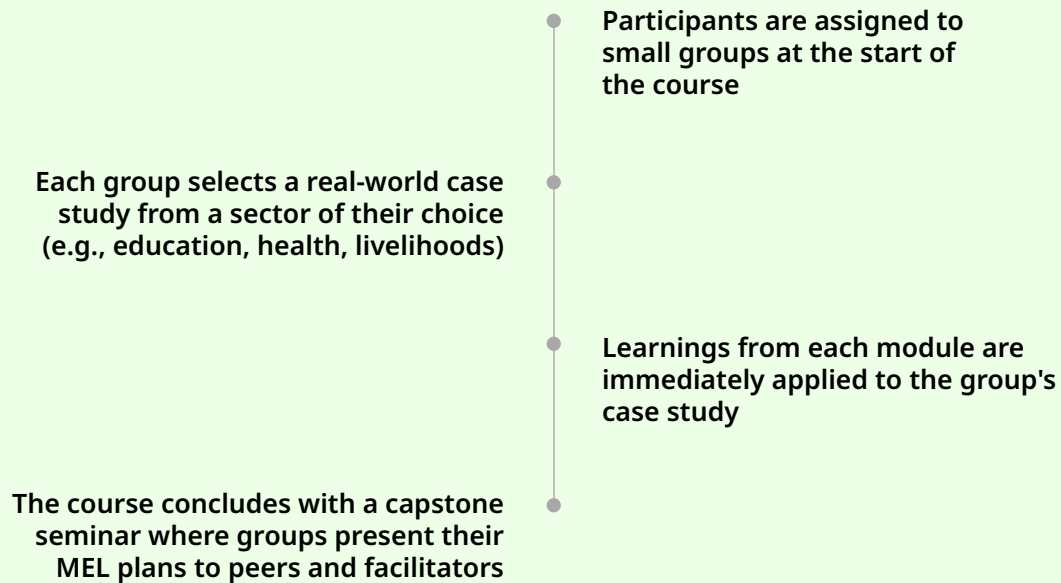
304 Participants Trained

Participant Profiles



- ▶ MEL, Data, Impact, and Evidence Professionals
- ▶ Academics, Researchers, and Policy Analysts
- ▶ Consultants, Advisors, and Social Sector Innovators
- ▶ CSR, Philanthropy, and Sustainability Practitioners
- ▶ Program Managers and Development Practitioners
- ▶ Government Fellows, NGO Leaders, and International Development Professionals

How the Course Works



Requirements for Certification

Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate of completion from Sambodhi. Completion requires:

At least 50% classroom attendance

Active participation in live sessions and group work or class activities

Submission and satisfactory assessment of the final group project

Who Should Apply?

MEL4DP is designed for:

Early and mid-career development professionals (1- 6 years of relevant experience)

Evaluators looking to deepen their practice or transition into MEL roles

Professionals from consulting firms, think tanks, NGOs, government departments, research organizations, impact investing firms, and donor agencies

Persons of all nationalities are welcome

A Community Across the Sector

MEL4DP has brought together development professionals from a wide range of organizations working across the development sector. Past cohorts have included participants from C3, NIUA (National Institute of Urban Affairs), Linsi Foundation, Better Cotton Initiative, The Nudge Institute, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), Tata Steel Foundation, and Mantra4Change, among others.

The course has also welcomed professionals from Watershed Organization Trust, AISECT (All India Society for Electronics and Computer Technology), WHO Health Emergencies, WISH Foundation, PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action), Learning Links Foundation, and many more organizations working at the forefront of development research, policy, and implementation.

This cross-organizational diversity enriches the peer learning experience — participants bring unique sectoral perspectives that make every discussion richer and every case study more grounded in real-world complexity.

Fees and Scholarships

Total Program Fee:

₹ 66,000 (including GST)

Sambodhi is committed to making this course accessible. We offer:

Partial scholarships for a limited number of candidates on a merit-cum-needs basis (must be requested in the application form)

Discounts for institutional sponsorships and group enrollments

Discounts for participants from grassroots organizations working in the Global South

Meet Your Facilitators

The course is anchored by senior Sambodhi professionals with deep expertise across MEL disciplines.



Dr. Rajib Nandi

Vice President, Knowledge Management & Capacity Development

Expertise: Gender Transformative Evaluation, work and labour, and capacity development. Rajib has over 26 years of experience in impact evaluation and is the Chairperson of the Community of Evaluators South Asia (CoE-SA), where he has been instrumental in strengthening evaluation practice across the region.



Nidhi Prabha

Senior Manager, Capacity Building

Expertise: Capacity Building, gender equality, social inclusion, urban transport, climate change, inclusive urban systems. Nidhi Prabha has nearly a decade of experience in inclusive development across South Asia, and serves as Senior Manager, Capacity-Building at Sambodhi, leading a grassroots AI upskilling program reaching 15,000 rural beneficiaries. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Studies from Centre for Political Studies, JNU, on gendering public transport systems in India.



Amartya Krishna Roy

Manager, Capacity Building

Expertise: MEL, strategy consulting, policy advocacy, capacity building, and program implementation. Amartya has over 7 years of experience working across UN bodies, multilateral agencies, government departments, NGOs, and global consulting firms, with postgraduate degrees in Data Analytics and Rural Development Management.



Jithin Jose

Senior Manager, Research

Expertise: Public health, financial inclusion, livelihoods, and health information systems. Jithin has over 10 years of experience leading research and evaluation initiatives focused on strengthening health systems and generating evidence for policy.



Debrupa Bhattacharjee

Senior Manager, Research

Expertise: Public Health, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCH), and behaviour change. Debrupa has over 7 years of experience in public health research, with academic grounding in Sociology and Public Policy and Governance.



Stella George

Senior Manager, Research

Expertise: Program evaluation, MEL systems, climate action, just transition, and sustainability policy. Stella has nearly a decade of experience in research and evaluation across climate, agriculture, and inclusive growth, with prior roles at KPMG India, Development Alternatives, and the Institute of Economic Growth.

What Our Participants Say



MEL4DP helped me get clarity on MEL through a clear practical lens. The course taught me various aspects of MEL practice and theory and dashboard making by drawing examples from different case studies. I strongly recommend this course to beginner and mid-level professionals interested in monitoring and evaluation."

- Hashir P.V

Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies



Right from the history of monitoring and evaluation to all the techniques and technicalities, this course is a complete package for any professional wanting to get into the domain of M&E. This course also offers learning while doing, which is great and easy to cope with alongside regular office work."

- Abha

Senior Research Manager, Sambodhi



I now have the concepts and practical skills in M&E which I am using for my professional growth. The facilitators are real professors — they have love and interest in sharing their knowledge."

- Peter Mazed

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, South Sudan



The diverse experts and hands-on activities make this a comprehensive course perfect for aspiring professionals. The Sambodhi team ensures a conducive learning environment through continuous support to all participants."

- Ugyen Samdrup Lhamo

Bhutan Center for Media & Democracy

How to Apply

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

Note: This is a facilitated course with group assignments and live sessions. Participants are expected to engage actively to get the most out of it.

Contact Us



| arvind.jha@sambodhi.co.in



| +91 9289201141



| Sambodhi Research and Communications Pvt. Ltd.
C-126, Sector 2, Noida- 201301, Uttar Pradesh, India

Enquiry Now

SCLI Sambodhi
Capacity
and Learning
Institute

