



Certificate Course

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

At a Glance

Duration:

16-17 weeks

Language:

English

Scholarships:

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

Effort:

3 hours per week

Requirements:

Laptop and internet access

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 SCLI, 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

1. Build a strong foundation in Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) concepts and frameworks.
2. Learn to design and apply appropriate evaluation approaches across diverse development contexts.
3. Integrate gender, equity, and intersectionality into M&E design and practice.
4. Develop practical skills in monitoring system design, public datasets, and interactive dashboards.
5. Gain hands-on experience in quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, including STATA.
6. Learn to translate evaluation findings into actionable insights and communicate them effectively.
7. Join a peer network of development professionals from diverse 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.

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

Course Structure

The course consists of 8 modules spread across 17 weeks. Each week includes 3 hours of live online instruction (Saturdays) plus approximately 1 hour of self-paced reading, assignments, or group project work.

Module 1:

Introduction to Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

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:

Evaluation Approaches and Frameworks

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 3:

Overview of MEL Frameworks

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 4:

Contexts of Monitoring and Evaluation

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:

Public Datasets for Monitoring

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 6 - I:

Qualitative Evaluation Design

How a Qualitative Research design can be made and executed.

Module 6 - II:

Quantitative Evaluation Design (1)

In this session, facilitators will inculcate learning of different evaluation designs and how to apply them.

Module 7:

Quantitative Evaluation Design (2)

This module will shed light upon theory and practice of sampling.

Module 8:

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

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 9 :

Workshop I

This workshop will seek focus on data visualization and storytelling to strengthen your work,

Module 10 :

Learning and Utilization of Evaluation Part 1 and 2

This module will facilitate reflection on the role of learning in MEL for different stakeholders, and inculcate skills on how to optimize the use and learning for program improvement; and communicate the findings among relevant stakeholders.

Module 11:

Capstone Project & Convocation Ceremony

At this completion stage, each group will presentation the final case study and assignments.

Key Highlights



12 Total Cohorts



300+ Participants Trained

Participant Profiles

- ▶ MEL, Data, Impact, and Evidence Professionals
- ▶ Academicians, Researchers, and Policy Analysts
- ▶ Consultants, Advisors, and Social Sector Innovators
- ▶ Program Managers and Development Practitioners
- ▶ Government Stakeholders

How the Course Work

- ▶ Participants are assigned to small groups at the start of the course
- ▶ Each group selects a real-world case study from a sector of their choice
- ▶ Learnings from each module are immediately applied to the group's case study
- ▶ The course concludes with a capstone seminar where groups present their MEL plans to peers and facilitators

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, evaluators looking to deepen their practice or transition into MEL roles, and professionals from consulting firms, think tanks, NGOs, government departments, research organizations, impact investing firms, and donor agencies.

Meet Your Facilitators



Dr. Rajib Nandi

Vice President, Knowledge Management & 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

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.



MD. Arman

Manager, Intelhealth

Arman has extensive experience in designing and implementing evaluations across maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization, and digital health programs.



Amartya Krishna Roy

Manager, Capacity Building

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

Jithin has over 10 years of experience leading research and evaluation initiatives focused on strengthening health systems and generating evidence for policy.



Debrupa

Senior Manager, Research

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

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.



Shikha Rana

Assistant Vice President – Research

Shikha has extensive experience designing and leading evaluations across the development sector, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, women.



Abhilasha Jha

Business Intelligence Partner, Randstad Enterprise

Abhilasha has over nine years of experience transforming complex data into actionable insights using Power BI, SQL, and Python.

Fees and Scholarships

Total Program Fee:

₹ 66,000 (including GST)

Sambodhi is committed to making this course accessible. We offer Partial merit-cum-needs scholarships, institutional and group enrollment discounts, and fee concessions for participants from grassroots organizations in the Global South to make the course more accessible.

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



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Enquiry Now