



**Vision**

"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

**Motto**

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टं कुरु त्वत्कामं। ब्रवीतु ते त्वत्कामं।

**Mission**

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

### Elements of Social Impact Assessment Engagement

The process of social impact assessment (SIA) is structured around five critical elements that facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of social projects, programs, or interventions.

1. **Three Party Relationship:** The first element is the **Three-Party Relationship**, which involves three distinct parties: the social impact assessor, the responsible party, and the intended users. The social impact assessor is a qualified individual who is registered with a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) and has successfully completed a certification program conducted by the National Institution of Securities Market (NISM) and holds a valid certificate. The responsible party refers to the individuals or groups within the social enterprise who are actively involved in implementing the social project. Importantly, the responsible party may not necessarily be the same as the engaging party, which could be a donor or another entity. The intended users are those individuals or groups for whom the social impact assessment report is prepared. While the responsible party can be one of the intended users, they are not the only stakeholders involved.
2. **Social Project/Program/Intervention Scope:** The second element is the Social Project/Program/Intervention Scope. This aspect of the engagement is crucial as it helps define the boundaries and focus of the assessment. It relates to the thematic areas of activities conducted by the social project, program, or intervention. By clearly delineating the scope, the assessment can effectively address the specific social issues and objectives that the project aims to tackle.
3. **Social Project Monitoring Framework:** The third element is the **Social Project Monitoring Framework**. This framework is essential for understanding how social projects are designed and evaluated. It typically employs methodologies such as the Theory of Change or the Logic Model Approach. These methodologies provide a structured way to map out how and why a desired change is expected to occur within a specific context. The monitoring framework outlines the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts of the project. This detailed mapping contributes significantly to the social impact assessor's understanding of the project's nuances, enabling them to identify key evaluation parameters and thematic areas of intervention, as well as the benefits rendered to the community.
4. **Social Impact Assessment Evidence:** This refers to the data and information collected during the assessment process that supports the findings and conclusions regarding the social impact of the project. The evidence is critical for substantiating claims about the effectiveness and relevance of the intervention, as well as for informing stakeholders about the outcomes achieved.

5. **Social Impact Assessment Report:** This comprehensive document synthesizes the findings of the social impact assessment, presenting the evidence, analysis, and recommendations for stakeholders. The report serves as a key communication tool, conveying the results of the assessment to the responsible party, intended users, and other interested stakeholders.

### Key Parameters for Assessing Impact

In addition to the structural elements of social impact assessment, several key parameters are considered when evaluating the impact of a social project.

1. **Inclusiveness** is a fundamental parameter that assesses the ability of various stakeholders, particularly the poorest and most marginalized groups, to access the benefits of the project. It examines whether these groups can participate in institutions such as healthcare or education committees and whether they can share in the benefits provided by the intervention.
2. **Relevance** pertains to the alignment of the project's objectives with the identified needs and priorities of the target population or community. This parameter evaluates whether the initiative addresses a genuine issue and is appropriately designed to meet the expectations of stakeholders. It raises critical questions about the planning process, such as whether it was participatory and how success indicators were developed.
3. **Effectiveness** measures the degree to which the project achieves its intended goals and produces the desired outcomes. This parameter is vital for determining whether the intervention is making a positive difference in the lives of its beneficiaries and the broader community. It prompts evaluators to consider whether the activities have effectively addressed community expectations and whether there is potential for replicating the solution in other contexts.
4. **Efficiency** focuses on how well resources—such as time, money, and human capital—are utilized to achieve the intended impact. It emphasizes the importance of optimizing resource allocation and minimizing waste while ensuring that desired outcomes are achieved. Evaluators assess how effectively resources have been deployed, monitored, and utilized throughout the project.
5. **Convergence or Coherence** examines the degree to which the social initiative aligns with existing policies, strategies, and priorities within the given context. This parameter helps assess whether the intervention complements or conflicts with other social and development initiatives, ensuring that resources are not duplicated or fragmented.
6. **Sustainability** is a critical aspect of the assessment, focusing on whether the impacts generated by the social project can continue to benefit the target population or community in the long term. It evaluates whether the changes brought about by the initiative can endure beyond the initial intervention or funding period. Significant questions include whether communities feel ownership over the assets created and whether the institutions involved are adequately strengthened to manage and sustain the activities after the project concludes.

*Source: NISM Series XXIII: Social Impact Assessors Certification Examination workbook*