



Vision

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

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टं कुरु तृप्तये। बहिर्वेद ह्यु त्रेद विद।

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

Responsibilities of the Social Impact Assessor

The social impact assessor plays a crucial role in the social impact assessment (SIA) process. While they may delegate certain tasks to field-level research agencies or subject matter experts, the ultimate responsibility for the assessment report rests with them. Below are the key responsibilities and considerations for the assessor:

1. Primary Responsibility

The social impact assessor is accountable for the integrity and accuracy of the SIA report, even when delegating tasks to others.

2. Monitoring and Review Procedures

It is essential for the assessor to establish robust procedures to:

- **Monitor** the progress of the delegated work.
- **Track** the findings and methodologies used by the field-level research agency or experts.
- **Review** the outputs to ensure they align with the assessment's objectives and standards.

3. Evaluation of Experts

The assessor must critically evaluate the qualifications of any experts or agencies involved, focusing on:

- **Competence:** Do they possess the necessary expertise in the relevant social issues?
- **Capabilities:** Are they equipped to conduct the required assessments?
- **Objectivity:** Can they provide unbiased findings?

4. Understanding the Social Issue

- A thorough understanding of the social issue at hand is vital. The assessor should:
 - Determine the **nature**, **scope**, and **objectives** of the expert's work.
 - Assess the adequacy of the expert's contributions to the overall social impact assessment.

5. Formal Agreement with Experts

- A clear and comprehensive agreement should be established with the expert, covering the following aspects:
- **Nature, Scope, and Objectives:** Clearly define what the expert is expected to deliver.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Outline the specific duties of both the social impact assessor and the expert.
- **Communication Protocol:** Specify the type, format, and frequency of communication to ensure ongoing collaboration.
- **Non-Disclosure Agreement:** Protect sensitive information through a formal agreement.
- **Evaluation of Findings:** Assess the relevance and reasonableness of the expert's conclusions, including:
 - The assumptions made by the expert.
 - The completeness and accuracy of the source data utilized.

6. Reporting and Reference Guidelines

- The social impact assessor should exercise caution when referencing the work of experts in the assessment report:
 - **Avoid Unnecessary References:** Do not cite expert work unless legally mandated.
 - **Clarification of Responsibility:** If a reference is required by law or regulation, it must be clearly stated in the report that such a reference does not diminish the assessor's responsibility for the overall SIA.

By adhering to these guidelines, the social impact assessor can ensure that the assessment process is thorough, credible, and maintains the integrity of their role. This structured approach not only enhances the quality of the SIA but also fosters trust and transparency among stakeholders involved in the process.

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