



Vision

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

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टमेकं तपसि, ब्रह्मेदं ह्यु तपि ब्रह्म।

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

Fieldwork Process: Sampling & Data Collection in Social Impact Assessments (Part-I)

1. Need Assessments and Program Understanding

- **Baseline, Mid-line, and End-line Assessments:**

- The social impact assessor should review any available reports from baseline, mid-line, and end-line assessments of the social project being audited.
- The **baseline measurement** establishes the starting point for the project, while mid-line and end-line assessments provide insights into the changes and challenges encountered throughout the project lifecycle.
- Establishing a baseline is critical for measuring the impact of the intervention.

2. Sample Size Determination

Sampling involves selecting a portion of the population to engage with, assess, and gather feedback about the social project. The sample size is influenced by data availability and accessibility of beneficiaries.

Steps to Determine Sample Size:

i. Type of Universe:

- Define the population or universe, which can be finite (with a certain number of elements) or infinite (with an uncertain number of elements).

ii. Sampling Unit:

- Identify the minimum unit for observation, which could be a social unit (e.g., family, school) or a geographical unit (e.g., state, district).

iii. Sample Size:

- Define the number of items selected from the universe to constitute a sample. The determination of sample size depends on factors such as time, cost, and available resources. Generally, larger samples yield better results but require more resources.

iv. Sampling Methodology:

- The choice of sampling method is influenced by the evaluation objectives, financial resources, time constraints, and the nature of the problem. For statistically significant sample sizes, it is essential to define the confidence interval and margin of error.

3. Data Collection Planning

When planning for data collection, the social impact assessor should consider the following:

i. Assumptions & Limitations:

- Acknowledge the assumptions and limitations of the chosen data collection methodology.

ii. Data Requirements:

- List the data requirements and documents necessary for the social audit.

iii. Performance Trends:

- Review key past performance trends for the project or similar projects.

iv. Implementation Plan:

- Develop a detailed work/implementation plan with monitoring and evaluation calendars.

v. Data Trend Deviations:

- Identify any deviations in data trends compared to the baseline status and provide reasons for these deviations.

vi. Data Alignment:

- Ensure that the data aligns with project outcomes, including national and state priorities, and map it with the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index Indicators as relevant.

vii. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Identify, map, prioritize, and engage stakeholders for data collection.

viii. Indicator Measurement:

- Recognize that data for measuring indicators may be available in both qualitative and quantitative forms.

4. Data Collection Sources

Data collection sources can be categorized into two types:

• Primary Sources:

- These may include individual interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions, and observations, depending on the indicators identified during the planning stage. Respondents will typically be stakeholders affected by the project.

• Secondary Sources:

- These may include journal articles, textbooks, encyclopaedias, dissertations, and editorial pieces that analyse or comment on the project or similar research.

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