



Vision

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

Motto

सत्यं वद। धर्मं चर। इष्टार्कं तेन त्पार्कः अर्किते ह्यु तेन ब्रह्म

Mission

"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

Introduction to Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Frameworks

A guiding framework is essential for social enterprises to effectively measure and communicate their social impact. It ensures that the process is purposeful, strategic, and aligned with the organization's mission. Such frameworks provide a roadmap for navigating the complexities of demonstrating contributions to positive social change.

Two widely used frameworks in this context are the **Theory of Change (ToC)** and the **Logic Model**. While both frameworks serve important roles in program planning, evaluation, and implementation, they have distinct differences in structure, focus, and underlying philosophy. Below is a detailed comparison of the two frameworks:

Aspect	Theory of Change (ToC)	Logic Model
Philosophical Approach	The ToC is narrative-driven, emphasizing the underlying theories, assumptions, and causal pathways that explain how a program is expected to achieve its goals. It seeks to capture a deeper understanding of the change process and the context in which it occurs.	The Logic Model is visually oriented, focusing on the linear relationships between program inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes. It is often seen as a simplified and linear representation of a program's components.
Causality and Assumptions	The ToC explicitly highlights the causal links between program activities, intermediate outcomes, and long-term outcomes. It involves identifying and testing the assumptions underlying these causal pathways, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of how change occurs.	While the Logic Model also depicts causal relationships, it may not delve as deeply into the underlying theories and assumptions. It tends to present a more straightforward cause-and-effect sequence, which can be easier to understand but may lack depth.

Flexibility and Adaptation	The ToC is often viewed as more flexible and adaptable. It encourages ongoing reflection, learning, and adjustment of strategies based on feedback and changing circumstances. This adaptability allows organizations to respond to new information and evolving contexts.	The Logic Model, with its linear structure, may be perceived as less flexible. It is often seen as a static representation of the program, which can limit its responsiveness to change. However, it can still be adapted in practice to some extent.
Visual Representation	The ToC can be represented visually, but it typically involves a narrative or a detailed map that explains the program's theory in depth. This representation can be complex and may require more explanation to convey the full picture.	The Logic Model is a visual representation that uses a linear diagram to show the inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes in a sequential manner. This makes it easier to communicate and understand at a glance.
Scope of Context	The ToC considers the broader context in which a program operates, including external factors that may influence the change process. It explores the underlying assumptions about the context and how it interacts with the program, providing a comprehensive view of the environment.	The Logic Model tends to focus more on the internal components of a program and may not explicitly address the external context in the same depth. This can lead to a more limited understanding of how external factors impact the program's success.

In practice, organizations may choose to use one framework over the other based on their specific needs, the complexity of the program, and the audience they are communicating with. Some organizations also opt to use a combination of both frameworks to capture the strengths of each approach, allowing for a more robust understanding of their social impact. By leveraging both the narrative depth of the ToC and the visual clarity of the Logic Model, organizations can enhance their ability to measure, communicate, and ultimately achieve their social impact goals.

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