

Course Title: Assessing Public Policy: Methods and Measurements				
Course code: PPS 191	No. of credits: 2	L-T-P: 28-0-0	Learning hours: 28	
Pre-requisite course code and title (if any): None				
Department: Policy Studies				
Course Coordinator(s): Mr Souvik Bhattacharjya		Course Instructor(s): Mr Souvik Bhattacharjya		
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Course type: Core		Course offered in: Semester 2		
<p>Course Description: Assessing public policies contribute to a more informed decision making. This is more valid under conditions of uncertainty. Assessments can have multiple objectives: (a) identifying the causes of success or failure of an existing policy, (b) assessing the suitability of ‘reforming’ an existing public policy towards improving its efficacy, (c) comparing the effectiveness of an existing policy with a proposed one to achieve a given objective or a set of objectives, (d) estimating the impacts of an existing policy and other such.</p> <p>A variety of methods are used for these purposes. This course will familiarise the students with the potentials and limitations of such methods towards this end.</p>				
Course objectives:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To familiarise with the nuances of a well-structured evaluation framework To expose the students to the usefulness of impact evaluation through case studies carried out in Indian sub-continent. 				
Course content				
Module	Topic	L	T	P
1	Introduction to Impact Evaluation Monitoring versus Evaluation Why Evidence-Based Policy Making Prospective versus Retrospective Impact Evaluation Efficacy Studies and Effectiveness Studies Complementary Approaches Ethical Considerations Regarding Impact Evaluation Impact Evaluation for Policy Decisions Deciding Whether to Carry Out an Impact Evaluation - Limitations and Possible Solutions	6		
2	Theory and concepts Developing a Results Chain Specifying Evaluation Questions Selecting Outcome and Performance Indicators Data requirements Causal Inference Counterfactuals Confounders	6		
3	Method and practice – Applications and Limitations Quantitative versus Qualitative Impact Assessments Quantitative Impact Assessment: Ex Post versus Ex Ante Impact Evaluations Design and analysis of impact evaluations Randomized experiments Propensity Score Matching (PSM) Natural experiments and instrumental Variables (IVM) Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) Panel data and ‘difference-in-difference’ (DID) Estimators	6		
4	Case Studies A. Environment and Development programmes	10		

	B. Behaviour, Environment, and Health in Developing Countries C. Demand for Environmental Quality D. Impact of Highway on Firms			
		28	0	0
Evaluation criteria				
A case study on identifying the steps for carrying out an impact evaluation for an existing programme/project in the health, education, infrastructure or environment.				
Learning outcomes: 1. Effectively able to differentiate between association and causation 2. Application of appropriate impact evaluation framework and methodology depending on the problem at hand 3. Understanding of the limitations of different evaluation frameworks and methodologies and how to state the same in the study 4. How to set up logically the theory of change and gleaning out the other factors that can also affect the outcome from the treatment factor 5. How to select the treatment and control units for evaluation purpose				
Pedagogical approach: Teaching means will include discussion, board based teaching and examination of case studies				
Materials				
Required text				
Suggested readings				
References				
Shahidur R Khandker, Gayatri B. Koolwal, Hussain A. Samad, 2010, <i>Handbook on impact evaluation: quantitative methods and practices</i> . The World Bank, Washington DC				
Paul J. Gertler, Sebastian Martinez, Patrick Premand, Laura B. Rawlings and Christel M. J. Vermeersch, 2016, <i>Impact Evaluation in Practice</i> , Second Edition, The World Bank, Washington DC				
S K Pattanayak, 2009, 'Rough Guide to Impact Evaluation of Environmental and Development Programs', (SANDEE Working Papers, ISSN 1893-1891; 2009- WP 40)				
S K Pattanayak and A Pfaff, 2009, 'Behaviour, environment and health in Developing Countries: evaluation and valuation', <i>Annual Review of Resource Economics</i> , 1, pp. 183-207				
J Jalan and E Somanathan, 2008, 'The Importance of Being Informed: Experimental Evidence on the Demand for Environmental Quality', <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> 87, pp. 14–28				
Saugato Datta 2008. <i>The impact of improved highways on Indian firms</i> . Washington, DC: World Bank.				
Michael Moran Martin Rein Robert E. Goodin 2006, "The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy" New York. Oxford University Press.				
Case Studies				
Websites				
Journals				

Other readings
Additional information (if any): None
Student responsibilities Attending classes, completing evaluations on time

Course reviewers

1. Pranab Mukhopadhyay, Professor, Goa University, Goa
2. Kalyan Das, Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guahati