Training course on Impact Evaluation Methodologies for Social Protection (RCTs, QEDs)

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Social Protection	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Impact Evaluation Methodologies for Social Protection (RCTs, QEDs) is a specialized and rigorous discipline essential for generating credible evidence on the causal effects of social protection programs. In a world demanding greater accountability and efficiency in development spending, understanding whether and how interventions achieve their intended outcomes is paramount. This course delves deeply into the gold standard of causal inference, Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs), and a range of robust Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs), providing participants with the technical expertise to design, implement, and analyze evaluations that can confidently attribute observed changes to specific programs. It recognizes that effective impact evaluation is not merely about measuring change, but about establishing causality to inform policy, optimize resource allocation, and ultimately improve the lives of vulnerable populations. Training Course on Impact Evaluation Methodologies for Social Protection (RCTs, QEDs) is meticulously designed to with the advanced theoretical insights and intensive practical tools necessary to excel in Impact Evaluation Methodologies for Social Protection. We will delve into the foundational concepts of causal inference and counterfactuals, master the intricacies of designing and implementing various RCT and QED approaches, and explore cutting-edge techniques for data collection, management, and advanced statistical analysis. A significant focus will be placed on understanding the ethical considerations, managing practical challenges, and effectively communicating complex findings to diverse stakeholders. By integrating cutting-edge research, analyzing real-world complex case studies, and engaging in hands-on data analysis and evaluation design exercises, attendees will develop the strategic acumen to confidently lead and implement rigorous impact evaluations, fostering unparalleled evidence generation, learning, and accountability in social protection.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Impact Evaluation Methodologies for Social Protection (RCTs, QEDs)

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Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the fundamental concepts of **causal inference and counterfactuals** in impact evaluation.
2. Comprehend the **principles, strengths, and limitations of Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs)** in social protection.
3. Master the design and implementation of various **RCT approaches** (e.g., individual, cluster, stepped-wedge).
4. Develop expertise in **analyzing data from RCTs** and interpreting causal effects.
5. Understand the **principles, strengths, and limitations of Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs)**.
6. Formulate strategies for designing and implementing various **QED approaches** (e.g., Difference-in-Differences, Propensity Score Matching, Regression Discontinuity).
7. Develop expertise in **analyzing data from QEDs** and mitigating potential biases.
8. Implement robust approaches to **data collection, quality assurance, and management** for impact evaluations.
9. Explore the critical role of **qualitative methods** in complementing quantitative impact evaluations.
10. Apply methodologies for **sample size calculations and power analysis** for both RCTs and QEDs.
11. Understand and address **ethical considerations** in designing and implementing impact evaluations.
12. Design a comprehensive **impact evaluation plan (RCT or QED)** for a social protection program.
13. Effectively **communicate complex impact evaluation findings** to diverse audiences.

Target Audience

This course is essential for professionals seeking to lead or contribute to rigorous impact evaluations:

1. **M&E Specialists & Evaluators:** Seeking to specialize in impact evaluation methodologies.

2. **Social Protection Program Managers:** Responsible for evidence-based program design and management.
3. **Researchers & Academics:** Conducting empirical research on social protection.
4. **Government Officials:** From planning, finance, and social welfare ministries responsible for evidence generation.
5. **Development Practitioners:** From NGOs and international organizations implementing social protection.
6. **Data Scientists & Analysts:** Interested in applying causal inference techniques.
7. **Donors & Funding Partners:** Requiring rigorous evidence of program impact.

Course Duration: 10 Days

Course Modules

Module 1: Foundations of Impact Evaluation and Causal Inference

- Define impact evaluation and its core purpose.
- Explain the concept of causal inference and the counterfactual.
- Differentiate between correlation and causation in program assessment.
- Discuss the importance of a well-articulated Theory of Change.
- Introduce ethical principles guiding all evaluation work.

Module 2: Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs): Principles

- Understand the fundamental principle of random assignment.
- Delineate treatment and control groups in an RCT.
- Explain how randomization addresses selection bias.
- Discuss the concept of internal validity in RCTs.
- Identify key ethical considerations in RCT design.

Module 3: Designing and Implementing RCTs

- Learn various randomization techniques (individual, cluster, stratified).
- Develop a robust sampling strategy for RCTs.
- Understand the practical steps of RCT implementation.
- Address potential challenges like contamination and attrition.
- Plan for baseline and endline data collection.

Module 4: Data Collection and Management for RCTs

- Design effective survey instruments for RCT data.
- Implement strategies for high-quality data collection.
- Learn to manage and clean large datasets.
- Explore the use of digital data collection platforms.
- Ensure data security and privacy protocols.

Module 5: Analyzing Data from RCTs

- Apply statistical methods to compare treatment and control groups.
- Conduct regression analysis to estimate average treatment effects.
- Understand the interpretation of confidence intervals and p-values.
- Explore methods for analyzing heterogeneous treatment effects.

- Utilize statistical software (e.g., Stata, R) for analysis.

Module 6: Introduction to Quasi-Experimental Designs (QEDs)

- Recognize situations where RCTs are not feasible.
- Understand the challenges of causal inference in QEDs.
- Identify common threats to internal validity in QEDs.
- Discuss the strengths and limitations of QEDs.
- Explore the ethical considerations unique to QEDs.

Module 7: Difference-in-Differences (DiD)

- Master the core principles of the DiD method.
- Understand the critical parallel trends assumption.
- Learn how to implement DiD using panel data.
- Interpret DiD results and their policy implications.
- Analyze case studies of DiD in social protection.

Module 8: Propensity Score Matching (PSM)

- Grasp the concept of balancing observable characteristics.
- Learn the steps involved in estimating propensity scores.
- Understand various matching algorithms in PSM.
- Conduct balance checks to ensure comparability of groups.
- Interpret PSM results and their limitations.

Module 9: Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD)

- Explore the unique design of RDD leveraging a cutoff.
- Differentiate between sharp and fuzzy RDD.
- Understand the assumptions required for valid RDD.
- Learn how to implement and interpret RDD analysis.
- Analyze real-world applications of RDD in social protection.

Module 10: Advanced Statistical Techniques for Impact Analysis

- Apply advanced regression models (e.g., fixed effects, random effects).
- Address issues of endogeneity and instrumental variables.
- Explore techniques for robust standard errors.
- Understand power calculations for complex designs.
- Utilize advanced features of statistical software.

Module 11: Mixed Methods and Qualitative Insights

- Understand the value of combining quantitative and qualitative methods.
- Learn qualitative data collection techniques (FGDs, KIIs).
- Explore methods for qualitative data analysis (thematic, content).
- Integrate qualitative findings to deepen causal understanding.
- Discuss the role of process evaluation in impact assessment.

Module 12: Communicating and Utilizing Evaluation Findings

- Develop strategies for tailoring messages to diverse audiences.

- Learn to create compelling evaluation reports and policy briefs.
- Utilize data visualization effectively to convey insights.
- Understand how to foster evidence-based decision-making.
- Discuss the importance of dissemination and learning from evaluations.

Training Methodology

- **Interactive Workshops:** Facilitated discussions, group exercises, and problem-solving activities.
- **Case Studies:** Real-world examples to illustrate successful community-based surveillance practices.
- **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Practice engaging communities in surveillance activities.
- **Expert Presentations:** Insights from experienced public health professionals and community leaders.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative development of community surveillance plans.
- **Action Planning:** Development of personalized action plans for implementing community-based surveillance.
- **Digital Tools and Resources:** Utilization of online platforms for collaboration and learning.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Sharing experiences and insights on community engagement.
- **Post-Training Support:** Access to online forums, mentorship, and continued learning resources.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call +254769199797

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

- Participants must be conversant in English.
- Upon completion of training, participants will receive an Authorized Training Certificate.
- The course duration is flexible and can be modified to fit any number of days.
- Course fee includes facilitation, training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch, and a Certificate upon successful completion.
- One-year post-training support, consultation, and coaching provided after the course.
- Payment should be made at least a week before the training commencement to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice, to enable better preparation.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price

23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

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