

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON PARTICIPATORY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Why participatory monitoring & evaluation?



Engaging the community in a participatory analysis of stakeholders in the cooperative project. (IIRR Training Photo 2008)



Learning practical and participatory tools for tracking project or program development and assessing outcomes. (IIRR Training Photo)



Facilitating the empowerment of communities: knowledge is power but the "monopoly" of knowledge can be broken when community members learn how to monitor and evaluate

The history of development work reveals that planning and implementation of development initiatives has often received greater attention than monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of such initiatives. The growing concern for M&E by donors, government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), and other development organizations can be attributed to such factors as scarcity of funds; a new slant in management circles towards accountability and results; trends towards decentralization and devolution needing new forms of oversight; and the growing capacity of NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) as actors in the development process. M&E activities that emerged in response to these concerns have often been focused on measurements, externally driven, oriented to the needs of the donors and policy-makers rather than local stakeholders, emphasizing objectivity and the distance between evaluator and participants, and conducted for the purpose of making judgments rather than learning and empowerment. These and other limitations of conventional M&E have often been cited in literature.¹

At the same time, there is a growing global appreciation and understanding of participation as a critical element in development. Methods in participatory research have evolved in support of participatory development activities. These methods include participatory action research (PAR), rapid rural appraisal (RRA), participatory rural appraisal (PRA), participatory learning and action (PLA), and farming systems research (FSR).

Course description

This course is intended to broaden participants' understanding of PM&E as a support to program/project management at different levels and as a tool for strengthening participation, enhancing local capacity, and increasing local people's confidence and control over development decisions and processes. The course examines PM&E concepts and principles, as well as methods, tools and techniques, which have been tested and used in the field. Drawing from a range of significant experiences, the course also highlights key elements that enrich the application and maintenance of PM&E system.

Learning objectives

By the end of the course, participants will have:

1. articulated the rationale for the applications of PM&E within the context of the paradigm shifts in development work;
2. identified various elements that constitute the application of PM&E;
3. reflected on the practical application of PM&E within the context of their own organization, program or projects, and
4. identified ways to improve on their current practices in monitoring and evaluation.

Content

The course has four modules:

Module 1: *Situational analysis* – provides participants the opportunity to review the global and organizational contexts within which PM&E is implemented. This means a review of the concepts and processes of program/project management and conventional M&E that form the foundation of PM&E. The module also looks into global development trends, issues and the arguments for participatory approaches to human development.

Module 2: *Designing and Facilitating the PM&E Process* – focuses on the PM&E processes and details the requirements in designing and implementing PM&E. It emphasizes the facilitative role of the development worker in the entire process and outlines the necessary attitudes, skill and tools to make PM&E possible.

¹Marisol Estrella and John Gaventa. "Who Counts Reality? Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation : A Literature Review." IDS Working Paper No. 70; August 1998. Institute of Development Studies, UK, 1998.

Module 3: *Strengthening Systems for PM&E* – describes elements that support the establishment and maintenance of PM&E in the context of development organizations. This module discusses the important factors in the implementation of PM&E and the key strategies that enable organizations to sustain, institutionalize and expand PM&E practices.

Module 4: *Action planning* – provides participants the opportunity to reflect on, synthesize and apply their learning from the course through developing an action plan.

Learning methods

The course will use participatory methods to stimulate learning and facilitate discussion and sharing processes. Case analysis; fieldwork, and workshops will be the major learning methodologies.

Who should attend

The course is intended for planning, monitoring and evaluation officers, program officers, project managers, research/action research officers, trainer/extension workers, community animators/facilitators and advocacy workers, with at least 2 years direct experience in either planning, implementing or managing monitoring and evaluation activities. Participants are requested to bring information materials describing their organizations and monitoring and evaluation activities. English proficiency is a requirement.

When and where

The three-week course will be held on **September 14 – October 3, 2009** at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course. Course participants will be met by an IIRR staff upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 50-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories. It also has recreational facilities and nature trails.

Course Fees and Related Terms

The course fee of US\$2,500 covers the registration fee of \$200, training costs, course-related local travel, materials, meals, accident insurance and shared double room accommodation (single room accommodation can be requested for an additional fee of US\$10 per day of stay). It does not include international airfare, laundry and incidental expenses (a minimum pocket allowance of US\$100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses). Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies.

Applicants should immediately pay course fees upon receipt of acceptance letter to confirm and reserve their slot. This should not be later than **August 10, 2009**.

Please be informed that IIRR reserves the right to cancel the course, one month before its schedule, unless a minimum of 12 applicants have confirmed their participation. This will be immediately conveyed to the applicants. Course fees will be refunded fully to the applicants, including the US\$200 registration fees.

Should the applicant cancels his participation to the course for any reason, the registration fees will NOT be refunded; while the remaining amount of the course fees will be refunded in full (100%) if cancelled three weeks before the schedule; and only in half (50%) if cancelled LESS THAN three weeks before the schedule. Should the applicant wishes to apply to another course, the un-refunded registration fees can be transferred to that course.

How and When to Apply?

Application forms can be downloaded from the IIRR website (www.iirr.org), and sent by fax or email. We encourage early registration to ensure your reservations for this course. For further inquiries please contact:

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