

## Concept Note

### How Evaluation impacts the programme Design and Implementation – The Karnataka Experience

The sustainable development goals- 2030 agenda has put the State in a responsible position as a development agency to promote welfare of the masses by reaching the targets in 2030. This calls for judicious use of scarce resources by focusing on targeted groups and programmes so that no one is left behind. In this context, evidence-based policy helps the governance to make informed decisions about programmes and policies by placing the best possible evidence from research and evaluation to design new programmes and/or modify the existing for maximising the outcomes and impact.

Government spending on welfare schemes and programmes is on continuous increase. The Social Sector expenditure is around 7-8 percent of GDP over the last decade in India. In Karnataka it is around 6-7 percent of GDP during the same period. The Social Sector expenditure forms around 40 percent of the total expenditure in the State. 24 percent of the state budget is allocated to SCP/ TSP schemes. Thus, a large part of the state resources are directly allocated to schemes that are impacting human development and women empowerment. The existing monitoring framework largely concentrates on achievement of physical and financial targets. The question remains that whether the desired outcomes are attained, and impact is achieved as expected from the theory of change behind the programme. If not, it reflects the underutilisation of scarce resources caused by inappropriate programme design or implementation lags or institutional rigidities. Here an independent evaluation system plays an important role in identifying factors responsible for this situation at each stage of planning, implementation, and monitoring for making appropriate interventions

Karnataka was one of the first States in the Country to evolve an Evaluation Policy in 2000. **Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA)** was set up vide Government of Karnataka order no. PD/8/EVN (2)/2011 dated 11th July 2011 and registered as a society vide on 19th September 2011 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. This pathbreaking initiative was appreciated by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, the then Deputy chairman of Planning commission. The vision before KEA is to develop an effective and efficient practice of evaluation of Government Programmes and Policies to enable the government to use evaluation as a tool to benchmark the state of affairs, refine its public policies and design programmes and schemes with prudent and optimal use of resources for maximizing the intended and measurable outcomes and citizen satisfaction. Over time, KEA has developed a transparent and quality evaluation system to bring out the programme outcomes and impact at field level and suggest appropriate changes in the existing structure or design the new interventions.

## **Impact of Evaluation on programme design and implementation- evidence**

The evaluation studies conducted through empanelled organizations by KEA have brought out the programme results positive as well as negative and based on public opinion and field realities have suggested changes in programme Design and implementation. Some examples are presented here:

- The report on Evaluation of Bhagyalakshmi scheme noted, that “With 18 years of age and minimum eighth standard education, the scheme looks somewhat marriage oriented.” Considering a majority of parents (76.7%) use the Bhagyalakshmi scheme money for marriage purpose when the girl child attains the age of 18, the State Cabinet, increased the age limit to 21 for withdrawal of the full amount under the scheme. The remodelled scheme allows for withdrawal of a portion of the total amount of ₹1.27 lakh to be withdrawn at the age of 18 for pursuing education and the remaining at 21 years.  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/bhagyalakshmi-scheme-changed-attitude-towards-girl-child-among-poor-report/article32933217.ece>
- The suggestions given in Concurrent Evaluation of the 104 Arogya Sahayavani Health Information Helpline in Karnataka and perspective evaluation of its augmentation and modification are being implemented and the helpline is being used to address the health issues in Covid-19.
- As per the recommendations of the study on Evaluation of Udyogini – a state scheme for economic assistance to women, the action is taken in the Budget 2018-19) ‘Under “Udyogini Scheme” for special category and general category women, the maximum limit of loan will be increased from Rs.1 lakh to 3 lakhs, subsidy at 30% of the loan amount, income limit of the family to Rs.1.5 lakh and age limit for all categories will be increased from 45 to 55 years’ (Para 154 of the budget 2018-19).
- A study on superstitions has initiated the process of formulation of a Law.
- A study on Greenhouse farming under protected cultivation single village clusters are being developed and tunnel cultivation techniques are under consideration. Value chain and cold chain for horticulture crop structures is initiated. A new software HBMS is introduced for online registration.

(For details visit our website - <https://kmea.karnataka.gov.in>)

The webinar is expected to offer a knowledge sharing platform to enrich the development monitoring and evaluation experience for the participants from different states for evolving better models of evaluation for promoting quality governance to attain SDG 2030 agenda.

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