Asian Development Bank - International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Video Lecture Series

Introductory lecture

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Making Impact Evaluation Matter conference
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Two meanings of impact

- Within a monitoring and evaluation framework - OECD Development Assistance Committee definition: ‘long-run, intended and unintended, effects’

- What difference the intervention made: only impact evaluation can tell us this
Impact evaluation measures the (outcome) indicator with the intervention compared to what it would have been in the absence of the intervention:

\[ Y_t(1) - Y_t(0) \]

We can see this, but we can't see this. So we use a comparison group. Will learn more about the definition in lecture 1.

- Y is outcome
- t is time
- 1 is treated
- 0 is untreated
Types of impact evaluation

- Can get comparison group through
  - Experimental designs, that is randomized controlled trials, discussed in lecture 3
  - Non-experimental designs, discussed in lecture 4

These are large n statistical methods, where n is the sample size used for the evaluation
Why do impact evaluation?

• Only way to know what difference our projects and programmes make
• So should be foundation of results system
• And evidence used to inform design and investment decisions
Use of evidence

• But policy decisions should not be based on single studies, but, as discussed in lecture 5, the systematic review of the best available evidence

• So we need explicit policy engagement throughout the study cycle, examined in lecture 6
Sectoral applications

- Infrastructure (lecture 7)
- Humanitarian relief assistance (lecture 8)
- Health (lecture 9)
- Democracy and governance (lecture 10)
- Agriculture, natural resources and rural development (lecture 11)
Sectoral applications

• Environment and climate change (lecture 12)

• Education and labour market interventions (lecture 13)

• Social protection (lecture 14)

• Microfinance (lecture 15)
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