Learning for BRICS
or why countries like India can love impact evaluations

Emmanuel Jimenez, Executive Director, 3ie

Delhi Evidence Week: Keynote Lecture
Hotel Eros, New Delhi, India
7 October, 2015
Main points

• BRICS need learning to sustain inclusive growth
• Learning requires rigorous evaluation
• There is progress but much more to be done in countries like India
• 3ie stands ready to help

Source: www.Wikipedia.com
BRICS’ solid foundations: higher average annual growth 2000-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Code</th>
<th>Average growth rate YR 2000 (%)</th>
<th>Average growth rate 2000 to 2010 (%)</th>
<th>Average growth rate YR 2010 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRA</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUS</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IND</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZAF</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro area</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank, WDI;
Note: “BRICS” originally coined in Goldman-Sachs paper in 2001
Like a ton of BRICS? Average annual growth rate for BRICS (2010 – 2014)

Source: World Bank World Development Indicators Database website
BRICS, USA, Japan and Euro Zone: actual and forecasted growth rates 2010-14

Source: World Bank World Development Indicators Database website
## Challenge of inclusion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Maternal Mortality (per 100K)</th>
<th>Infant Mortality (per 1K live births)</th>
<th>Human Development Index (2013-14)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>0.744 (Rank 79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>0.719 (Rank 91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>0.586 (Rank 135)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>0.778 (Rank 57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>0.658 (Rank 118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LMIC</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>58.0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Income</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank World Development Indicators; UNDP
The elusive search for sustainable and inclusive growth

• “It is hard to know how an economy will respond to a policy, and the right answer in the present moment may not apply in the future.” – Growth Commission on Development (2008)

• Shift from “Thinking Big” to “Thinking Small”: role of policy experimentation

Source: www.mintic.gov.co
Example: policy experimentation in China

“It doesn’t matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice.” – Deng Xiaoping, July 1962, Speech at the Communist Youth League

“Decentralized experimentation...decisively shaped the making of policies in domains as diverse as rural restructuring, foreign economic opening, the promotion of private business, state sector restructuring...” – Political scientist Sebastian Heilmann, 2008, writing about China’s reform processes
Evaluation is needed to learn from experiments ... easier said than done

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wardenclyffe_Tower
Evaluating outcomes of World Bank financed health reform pilot project in Russia

Abortion rate in two project regions in Russia: declined over the life of the project.
But the outcomes were improving even before the project
And they were improving for all other regions in Russia
Impact evaluation “means the study of changes in outcomes that are attributable to an intervention.”

Addresses two fundamental evaluation questions:

1) What is the results chain?

Outside factors

Inputs ➔ Activities ➔ Outputs ➔ Outcomes ➔ Impact
Clarifying this chain helps to:

- Identify assumptions to understand the causal links
- Assess the contribution of different inputs and activities to outputs, outcomes and impacts

2) **What is the counterfactual?** What would have happened without the intervention or program?
Establish the counterfactual: why and how?

- Why the counterfactual?
  - Outside factors
  - Selection by participants
  - Selection due to program placement

  *Issue: cannot observe beneficiary without the program*

- Solution: Find a ‘proxy’ for the counterfactual using impact evaluation
  - Experimental methods use a control group
  - Quasi-experimental methods use a comparison group
The numbers of IEs have grown recently

Drew Cameron, Anjini Mishra and Annette Brown “The growth of impact evaluation for international development: How much have we learned?” *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, forthcoming
Trends in country coverage: focus on South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: Cameron et. al 2015
Some big issues being addressed

Combatting pollution

Improving learning

Fighting corruption in social protection programs through technology

Source:
http://www.3ieimpact.org/en/evaluation/policy-influence/3ie-case-studies/

Source:
Can reforms improve the efficacy of regulations and reduce pollution emissions? Gujarat, India

- Regulators often use third party auditors to monitor outcomes: finance, environment.
- Potential conflict of interest due to auditor remuneration
- In two heavily polluted regions in Gujarat, firms randomly assigned to control and treatment where
  - Auditors assigned to industries rather than being chosen by firms
  - 20% of audits randomly chosen by technical backchecking
  - Funds came from central pool and not from individual firms or industries.

Can reforms improve the efficacy of regulations and reduce pollution emissions? Gujarat, India

More accurate reporting of suspended particulate parts per million (ppm) of firms backchecked

Suspended particulate ppm of all firms

Improving learning outcomes in Haryana, India

• Despite high enrollment rates, poor outcome indicators
  – 76% of grade 8 students can read at grade 2 level
  – < half can complete grade 4 math problems

• What to do?
  – Continuous and Comprehensive Education (CCE)
  – Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP)

Source: https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_school
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Test_(assessment)
Improving learning outcomes: findings

Increase in score relative to control group (Standard Deviations)

Combating corruption in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Bihar

• MGNREGS had low take up in Bihar, despite being poor
• One reason is corruption – district and block officials seeking payments from village panchayats
• Technology used to help village access state funds directly in 69 blocks. Results compared with 126 other blocks in 12 districts

Source: www.flickr.com
Combating corruption in MGNREGS in Bihar: results

- Average daily spending
  - No difference between treatment and control
  - Spending 24% lower on average during intervention months
  - No difference after
- No significant differences in employment
- No negative effect on labor payments

But much more to be done....

• **BIG GAPS:** Many important programs in key areas remain under-evaluated.


• **MISSED OPPORTUNITES:** A culture of evaluation has not yet been embedded among many decision makers

# Impact evaluations in the BRICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of IEs</th>
<th>IEs per Crore (10 million) Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>26.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trends: HNP, Education, Social Protection and Agriculture have most IEs

Source: Cameron., et al. 2015.
Underusing a good result: immunisation in India

- NGO intervention to increase immunisation rates in India
- RCT IE showed:
  - Setting up reliable immunisation camps increased child immunisation rate from 6 to 18%
  - Camps + 1 kg lentil award to families increased rate to 39%
  - As volume rose, cost per immunisation of child fell to $28 (half)
- Assessment: “one of most successful and policy-relevant studies…last 10 years”

Take up?
- 8 years after study ended in 2007, no scale-up
- JPAL planning more replication studies

Source: www.who.int
What is 3ie?

- An international grant-making NGO that funds the production of rigorous evidence to improve the effectiveness of development policies and programmes
- Main office in Delhi with offices in Washington, London
- Established by donor consortium 6 years ago
What are some of 3ie’s tools?

• **IE Grant Windows**
  – Open, Thematic and Policy Windows

• **Synthesizing Evidence**
  – Systematic Reviews
  – Evidence Gap Maps

• **Supporting Evaluation**
  – Advice
  – Replication and IE Registry
  – Bursaries to build capacity
Establishing a virtuous cycle between the production of policy-informed research and evidence-informed policymaking

Improves uptake and use
Monitoring influence: policy influence from 3ie-funded studies

- Take successful programmes to scale: 7 (2013), 2014, 2015
- Close programmes that do not work: 3 (2013), 2014
- Change policy or programme design: 12 (2013), 2014, 2015
- Inform design of other programmes: 9 (2013), 2014
- Inform global policy discussions: 3 (2013), 2015
- Improve culture of use of evidence: 8 (2013), 2014

Data is obtained from the PIP / SEEP and progress reports. In some cases, 3ie will initiate a call with grantees to understand policy change.
Examples of take up in India

- Improving Gujarat’s industrial pollution inspection standards (2009-10)
- A Wide Angle View of Learning: Evaluation of the CCE and LEP Programmes in Haryana (2014)
Summing up

• BRICS need learning to sustain inclusive growth

• Learning requires rigorous evaluation

• There is progress but much more to be done in countries like India

• 3ie stands ready to help
Thank you

www.3ieimpact.org
@3ieNews
International-Initiative-for-Impact-Evaluation-3ie
3ievideos
international-initiative-for-impact-evaluation

New Delhi  London  Washington, DC