A Study of Impact Evaluation of Government Interventions for Public Policy Decision Making

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Abstract

An Impact Evaluation assesses the causal impact of a programme, policy, or organisation, or any other aspect thereof, on its outcomes. It estimates and compares outcomes with and without the execution of such an intervention. It helps in answering the questions; like, "does it work" or "did the intervention lead to the observed outcomes?" Public policy evaluation refers to a structured and evidence-based assessment of the design, implementation or results of a planned, ongoing or completed public intervention. It assesses the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and/or sustainability of a policy based on its objectives (OECD, 2022). OECD Public Policy Evaluation Implementation Toolkit (2025) aims at enabling better understanding of public policy impact evaluation from experiences and trends of OECD member countries; and, provides practical guidance for improving impact evaluation capacities and systems. The primary objective of this paper is to study approaches, methodologies, frameworks and impact evaluation resources used by selected OECD member and non-member countries. The analysis and conclusions presented in this paper are based on qualitative desk-review of selected Impact Evaluation guidelines, toolkits and websites of governmental and international evaluation agencies. The literature search for this study was initiated with OECD Public Policy Evaluation Implementation Toolkit; and, further literature searches were conducted using references and Evaluation guidelines repository enlisted in this toolkit. This paper is a narrative summation of governmental initiatives of different countries in their endeaour of building a culture of continuous learning and evidence-informed policymaking.

Keywords

Government intervention, impact evaluation, public policy, evidence-based impact evaluation, rapid impact evaluation.