

**PROCEEDINGS AND WORKING PAPERS OF THE SECOND
CONFERENCE OF THE HEADS OF CENTRAL AND STATE
EVALUATION ORGANISATIONS, NEW DELHI, 7-8 JULY,
1987.**

This report relates to the proceedings and working papers of the Second Conference of the Heads of Central and State Evaluation Organisations held on 7-8 July, 1987 which emphasis the role that evaluation has to play in the planning process. In order to improve the evaluation system, such Conference also provides opportunity to exchange views between the Central and the State Government officials working in the field of evaluation.

Some of the major recommendations of the conference are as follows:

- i) A Standing Committee, at the Central level should be constituted to select projects/programmes for evaluation studies to be undertaken by the PEO.
- ii) There is need for greater collaboration between the central and the state evaluation organisations through workshops, seminars and exchange of publications. Conference of central and state organisations should also be organised at least once in two years for taking stock of the work done by evaluation organisations in the country, exchange of views among them and drawing up the future programmes.
- iii) PEO should promote and provide training facilities to evaluation personnel. For providing institutional training to the evaluation personnel, institutions with development faculties and related infrastructure may be utilised.
- iv) To facilitate joint evaluation studies the central PEO and the state evaluation organisations should intimate one another their annual evaluation programme.
- v) The PEO should take up studies at all India level covering programmes of national importance and studies of centrally sponsored schemes. The SEOs should concentrate themselves with evaluation studies which cater to the needs of the State Governments.
- vi) The SEOs located in some of the North Eastern States need strengthening; NEC should provide necessary assistance.

- vii) For such evaluation studies which could not be taken up by the evaluation organisations at the centre and in state on account of commitments and resource constraints, carefully selected research institutions may be entrusted with evaluation studies
- viii) The recommendations of Dubhashi Committee on strengthening of central and state evaluation organisations should be implemented in full and the PEO's resources strengthened to discharge the functions expected from it.
- ix) The Evaluation Organisations at the Centre and the States should have adequate statistical expertise for purposes of study design, data processing and statistical analysis.
- x) The Statistical discipline should also be adequately represented in the Technical Advisory Committee of PEO which is set-up for finalising the study design.
- xi) The Technical Advisory Committee should be of multi-disciplinary nature; it should have representation from other disciplines, such as Economics, Sociology and Management.
- xii) Various stages of an evaluation study should be delineated, time required for each state estimated and all efforts made to complete the study within their time schedule.
- xiii) Some standardised questions and instruments of observation should be devised in certain commonality of areas such as, income, employment generation, etc. so as to minimise time lag in bringing out results of evaluation studies.
- xiv) Evaluation organisations at the Centre and in the States should exchange their study design, tabulation plans, etc., for mutual benefit.
- xv) The question of centralisation verses decentralisation of field units engaged in evaluation work should be left to State Governments.
- xvi) The recommendations made by the State Evaluation Organisations and the Central PEO should be pin-pointed so that follow-up action is made feasible.
- xvii) In the Annual Plan discussions, the recommendations of the Evaluation Studies should be taken note of.

- xviii) The Annual Reports of the various departments should make a specific reference to the action taken on the recommendations of the Evaluation Reports.
- xix) The recommendations made by the Puri Committee on Training in Evaluation still hold good and necessary steps should be taken to implement these recommendations.

A sub-group may be set up to look into different aspects of training needs of evaluation personnel at the Centre, in ministries and in States. It should also look into the training material made available to trainees by different training institutes, bring thus at one place after proper and editing so that this may serve as background material for future training courses.