

## Importance of Monitoring & Evaluation in the Development of a Country

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### Abstract

### Review Article

The critical indicators of development for a nation are in the field of health, education, agriculture, skill building & service sectors. All these areas need to be periodically seen whether the country is making progress or not. Here progress monitoring can be periodical & on a more frequent basis. The former addresses the concept of evaluation while the later addresses the concept of monitoring.

**Keywords:** Monitoring, Evaluation, SDG, Development Sectors.

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## INTRODUCTION

It is just like a class monitor who tracks the discipline & other related activities in the class. He/she is actually doing it on a daily basis thereby implying that the nation should track the progress of the development sectors on a more frequent basis under the concept of monitoring & see the progress on a periodical basis say once in 3 months under the concept of evaluation. Unless we track the progress using the concept of M & E, the nation cannot track its development trajectory. So, it is obvious that the concept of M&E is critical for the development of a nation [1-3].

Monitoring is frequent, ongoing and continuous & in line with the horizontal axis since the process is not in depth. Evaluation is in depth, periodical, not frequent and is in tune with the vertical process as it involves in depth analysis [1-3].

### M&E across sectors

Let us take the example of agriculture. The nation should see that there is a balance between the contribution of agriculture sector & the service sector. Both the sectors should grow hand in hand towards the contribution to the GDP of the nation. Further, the concept of Labor Force Participation survey shows the role of gender in these sectors. Currently, the male participation is 3/4<sup>th</sup> & the female participation in the workforce is 1/4<sup>th</sup>. Unless we use the track of the gender participation in the work force through the concept of M&E, the nation cannot track its gender equality related SDG #5 & cannot develop [9, 10, 12].

Currently for our nation & for all UN related nations, the tracking of the progress of the SDGs are critical & all nations use the concept of M&E. In India, we track poverty & the recent NITI Ayog report says that we have moved people out of extreme poverty & we are progressing in the right direction towards the tracking of goal# 1 of SDG. Similarly, the NFSA, 2013 & the food distribution system has ensured that we are progressing

towards no hunger which is the SDG#2. Health comes under SDG#3. Here it is critical to note the progress under NMR, IMR & MMR [6-8, 10].

### M&E in Health

More than 150 infants used to die during the time of independence per 1000 live births. Currently, the IMR is only 28 per 1000 live births. This is possible to track through the concept of M&E. Similarly, we have reduced the NMR so that the IMR reduces. Again, this is tracking through M&E that has helped the nation. Further, we need to reach to 25 per 1000 live births regarding U5 MR. Currently, we are at 32 [4, 5, 7]. Again, regarding MMR, we are at 97 & need to progress to 70 by the end of the SDG period. Use of the concepts of M& E has helped India to know that the nation is in the right path as far as SDG is concerned in all these related goals [4, 5, 7, 8, 12].

### Education sector & M&E

Similarly, the education sector progress tracking helps the nation to track the enrolment rate, skilled HR needed for the sector, infrastructure needed for the sector. The NEP & the SSA are monitored on this basis while M& E is also used to track the numeracy & comprehension skills of the students. As far as agriculture sector is concerned, the area which has been seeded, irrigated & not using the stubble burning practices not only helps India to track the input & output but also healthy practices in terms of agriculture [11].

Further, in service sector, we see the percentage of employment that the sector provides including the import & export related activities pertaining to the sector.

### CONCLUSION

So we see that M&E is a cross cutting tool used to track the progress of all the sectors. Most importantly, the carbon emission is also tracked to see the progress in

environmental sector. In this note, I tried to cite examples of various sectors & how it is important to track the progress of these sectors through the application of M& E tools to track the indicators related to development of these sectors & thereby of the nation.

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