

A Consultation on

Ethical Standards in Social Research and Evaluation:

Indian and International Perspective and Practices

On February 7, 2018

at CMS, RESEARCH HOUSE, SAKET COMMUNITY CENTRE, New Delhi

The relevance of practicing ethical norms is increasing day by day in the field of social research and evaluation, particularly in India, with around 1.3 billion population living in a religiously, culturally diverse multi-lingual society.

Relevance and importance of practicing ethical norms is very critical as it ensures objectivity, promotes truth and knowledge and ensures lesser occurrence of error. While on one hand, research involving human participants must not violate universally acceptable ethical standards, on the other hand, it prohibits immoral approach towards information/data collection and presentation. Further, restricts misrepresentation of information/data and restricts researchers from being biased.

In India, institutionalized review of ethical practices in non-clinical research is scarce, almost non-existent. CMS-IRB, a registered body since 2008, is one such review board, having representation of professionals from CMS, other like-minded organizations and independent consultants. A few other institutions in India, mostly universities have duly constituted ethics committees but their review is limited to research by their faculty and students and not to research done outside the University purview.

EvalFest 2018 organized by Evaluation Community of India (ECOI) and partner organizations such as, CMS, 3ie, ISST, Oxfam among others aims to popularize practice of ethics in evaluation and social research. With this objective a half-day Consultation with professionals in development sector, which include those representing international/national agencies, social research organizations/institutions and independent consultants, is proposed on **February 7, 2018 in the premises of CMS Office.**

Participation from government as well as non-government institutions and individual professionals engaged in evaluation and research will be invited to have a 360 degree sharing of views and opinion.

Agenda: The consultation will primarily focus on two core aspects:

- ✓ One, how best can we sensitize, facilitate and help each other towards improving and ensuring practicing of ethical standards in social research and evaluation, particularly in context of India.
- ✓ Two, way forward towards developing policy guidelines on ethics in social research and evaluation in India and institutionalizing the operation of the ethical framework.

Programme Schedule:

9.30-9.45 am: Registration and Tea

9.50 am: Welcome Address by Ms. P. N. Vasanti, Director General, CMS

10.00- 10.30 am: "Ethics in Social Research and Evaluation in India-Current Practices & Challenges"- Dr Sushanta K Banerjee, board member, CMS-IRB and Senior Director (Research & Evaluation), Ipas Development Foundation

10.45-11.15 am: "Ethics in SDG era: Catalysts for Change and Challenges- Ms. Beryl Leach, Director & Head (Policy, Advocacy and Communication), 3ie

11.15am -12.00 noon: Open Forum for participants to share their views, opinion and Q&A sessions

12.05-1.00 pm: Way Forward for making Ethical Practices a mandatory norm in Evaluation and Research

Venue: Centre for Media Studies (CMS), RESEARCH HOUSE, 34-B, Saket Community Centre (Behind PVR Anupam/Canara Bank), New Delhi-110017

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Venue Route Map:

