

# Localizing Democracy, Rights and Governance Evaluation Practices

**Project: Mobilizing South Asian Local Knowledge to Democratize Evaluation theory and practice**

## INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Community of Evaluators – South Asia (CoE SA) has received a project grant from EvalPartners under its Innovation Challenge programme on *Strengthening the Role of VOPEs in Democratizing Learning and Evaluation: Democracy, Human Rights and Governance as a Showcase*.

The project will attempt to mainstream the substantial, but under-utilized **local** knowledge, theory and practice of evaluation found in South Asia, to make it more responsive to the needs of the region – asking the question “what is uniquely South Asian in the theoretical framing and practice of evaluation”? Evaluation theories and practice used in South Asia are heavily dependent on North-based worldviews, values and paradigms. Despite the impressive growth in knowledge assets, evaluation capacities and democratic engagement in South Asia – what, how and for whom evaluation takes place largely ignores local knowledge, philosophies and realities. The project seeks to bring South Asian knowledge and culture into mainstream evaluation discourse, thus ensuring a rights-based approach for governance.

In this regard, CoE SA wishes to commission a series of research papers from South Asian countries (Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Afghanistan) to landscape the evaluative situation with reference to how and what extent local knowledge and practices have been used and what their contribution is towards democratizing evaluation and to make it more culturally relevant. This should include examples in-country of how cultural principles and local knowledge were used in practice.

Contributors could be from any relevant field – anthropology, sociology, development studies, human rights, psychology, environmental studies to name a few. The contributors are expected to have evaluation or research related experience on multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary areas with special reference to indigenous evaluation methods or participatory research methods.

Although there is no specific limit, it is expected that the review papers will be about 2,500 – 3,000 words in length. The content shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- Status and knowledge on culturally-sensitive programme evaluation methods including important contextual elements such as historical, cultural, social, and environmental aspects;
- Compilation of information relating to:
  - indigenous evaluation knowledge, views and realities;
  - Community stimulated research; and
  - Indigenous evaluation methodologies and participatory frameworks.

The contributors will receive a nominal honorarium for their work and may be invited to present their findings at an expert consultation to be organised by CoE SA in mid-2019 in a South Asian country. The expected date for the draft papers is 31 March 2019. This will provide time for a review and revision, if required.

Those interested are kindly requested to express their interest with a short narrative on their experience to Dr Sonal Zaveri, Vice President, Community of Evaluators – South Asia <sonalzaveri@gmail.com> by 15 February, 2019.