



ABSTRACT

Evaluation - Institutionalize an evidence-based approach to policy making to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programmes and policies in the State-Partnership with Abdul Latif Jameel – Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) – Orders – Issued.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES (ST2&E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.81

Dated: 02.09.2014.
Jaya – Aavani 17,
Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2045.

READ:-

Announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110
in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 08.08.2014.

ORDER:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister made an announcement under Rule 110 in the Legislative Assembly on 08.08.2014 stating that, evidence based policy making is an important element in effective governance. Hence, this Government will lay emphasis on the proper monitoring and evaluation of ongoing schemes and projects. The Department of Evaluation and Applied Research will be strengthened with more impact evaluation studies being undertaken to assess effectiveness of various Government programmes and policies so that the lessons learnt could be used to effect midterm corrections and to formulate better and more effective schemes in the future. Accordingly, the Government has proposed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Abdul Latif Jameel – Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, which will enable the involvement of some of the best development economists and social scientists in the world in the formulation and evaluation of various schemes in the State in key sectors like school education, health, poverty alleviation and skill development. An allocation of Rs.3.00 crores will be provided in the current financial year, 2014-2015.

2. The Poverty Action Lab (PAL) was set up in 2003 in the Economics Department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA, as a research centre and is a international research network of eminent academicians and economists in leading Universities of the world, who assist with rigorous field testing of new projects/ initiatives aimed at reducing poverty so that cost effective and field tested interventions can be scaled up. J-PAL's mission is to reduce poverty

by ensuring that policy based on scientific evidence and research is translated into action. This is done through three main activities:-

- i. Conducting Rigorous Impact Evaluations
- ii. Policy Outreach
- iii. Capacity Building

3. J-PAL South Asia at Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) has expressed their commitment for a strategic partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu. The scope of the proposal covers three areas as follows:-

i. A policy dialogue with selected departments like School Education, Health, Social Welfare etc., where detailed evaluations can be carried out of innovative programmes which has two elements:-

- (a) Identify key policy challenges and jointly brainstorm innovative solutions that can be field-tested rigorously before a state-wide scale-up.
- (b) Identify policy innovations tested elsewhere in India and globally that could be replicated in Tamil Nadu.

ii. An engagement with the State Planning Commission to build in an evaluation component in the innovative projects window of Part-II schemes (to be restructured as the Tamil Nadu Innovation Fund) and for selected schemes taken up under State Balanced Growth Fund.

iii. Capacity building in the area of Monitoring and Evaluation in Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department and the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research.

4. The J-PAL South Asia's strategic partnership with Government of Tamil Nadu will have the following advantages:-

- (i) The State will receive policy advice from some of the best minds working in the field Development Economics, the world over.
- (ii) It would build in rigour in scheme evaluation to ensure cost effectiveness and greater efficiency in poverty alleviation initiatives.
- (iii) Raise effectiveness of Government programmes by bringing in greater rigour in design.
- (iv) Enhance capacity in Government for scheme design, monitoring and evaluation.

5. The Government after careful consideration, have decided to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, South Asia (JPASA) to institutionalize an evidence-based approach to policymaking in order to maximize the impact of its anti-poverty programmes.

The MoU will be signed between the Government of Tamil Nadu and the J-PAL South Asia at IFMR.

6. The key elements of the draft MoU are as follows:-

- (i) **Policy Dialogue:** JPSA and Government of Tamil Nadu, in close coordination with key line departments will identify the top policy priorities of Government of Tamil Nadu and conduct discussions to (i) jointly come up with innovative potential solutions that can be then field-tested rigorously before a state-wide scale-up and (ii) identify policy innovations tested else wherein India and globally that could be replicated in Tamil Nadu. Starting from the year 2014-15, this exercise shall be carried out annually.
- (ii) **Evaluation Projects:** A tentative list of areas for evaluation projects is annexed. Based on the Policy Dialogue with the departments' other projects could also be identified.
- (iii) **Capacity Building:** JPSA will assist the Government of Tamil Nadu in building internal capacity to carry out Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of ongoing or new schemes through the following activities:
 - a. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Needs Assessment:** JPSA will conduct a diagnostic/needs assessment exercise to identify existing sources of M&E information, their use in monitoring, and gaps in relation to a Results/Outcomes-based approach. The exercise will initially be undertaken with Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department and 3 selected line departments. Based on the needs assessment, a detailed proposal will be submitted with recommendations and next steps on capacity building.
 - b. **Evaluation Guidelines:** Based on the needs assessment, JPSA will provide technical assistance to Department of Evaluation and Applied Research in formulating guidelines on managing and commissioning evaluations.
 - c. **Capacity Building Workshops:** JPSA will provide hands-on training to Department of Evaluation and Applied Research, and potentially to the selected line departments, on relevant monitoring and evaluation topics. The first workshop will address expressed needs such as latest methods in evaluation and data collection as well as the selection and measurement of indicators to track outcomes.

In addition, a set of workshops customized for the needs of the Department of Evaluation and Applied Research, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department and selected line departments will be proposed, based on the needs assessment exercise. The frequency, timing, and other details of such training will be mutually agreed by Government of Tamil Nadu and JPSA, following the needs assessment.

- d. **Technical Assistance on Monitoring Systems:** JPSA will assist Government of Tamil Nadu in adopting outcome based monitoring frameworks and strengthening systems for effective monitoring and decision-making by Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Department and selected line departments.

7. In order to facilitate better communication between the JPSA and the State Government, the Principal Secretary, Planning and Development Department is nominated as Nodal Officer on behalf of the State Government. Mr. Jasmine Shah, Assistant Director of Policy, JPSA will be the Nodal Officer for J-PAL .

8. A Steering Committee to approve the new pilot programmes and evaluation and an Advisory Committee to provide ongoing oversight and feedback are constituted with the following members:-

(a) Steering Committee:-

Chief Secretary – Chairman

Principal Secretary
Planning and Development Department – Member

Principal Secretary
Finance Department – Member

Principal Secretary – Member
Concerned Line Departments

(b) Advisory Committee:-

Principal Secretary
Planning and Development Department – Chairman

Principal Secretary
Finance Department – Member

Two representatives of the
State Government – Members
(To be nominated by name
by the Chief Secretary)

Two representatives of J-PAL – Members

9. In the Evaluation components, JPSA will bear the cost of its affiliated professors working as principal investigators on the evaluations, while the Government will bear the costs of the field research staff, training of department

staff, and the actual costs of data collection, data entry and analysis and other administrative costs. The State Government's commitment will be met within the budget allocation of the concerned departments for ongoing schemes are projects or from the Innovation Component of Part II (to be restructured as the Tamil Nadu Innovation Fund) or from the State Balanced Growth Fund available with the State Planning Commission. JPSA will meet the entire costs associated with the Capacity Building and Policy Dialogue Components with logistics support to be provided by the concerned departments. The funds to the extent of Rs.3.00 crores will be met from the relevant heads of accounts.

10. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O. No.12/DS(PW) /Finance(Public)/ 2014, dated.02.09.2014

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

S. KRISHNAN,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To

The Principal Secretary to Government,
Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
School Education Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary to Government,
Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Labour and Employment Department, Chennai-9.
The Member Secretary (i/c), State Planning Commission, Chepauk, Chennai-5.
The Director (FAC), Evaluation and Applied Research Department,
Kuralagam, Chennai-108.
Mr. John Floretta, Interim Executive Director,
J-PAL South Asia at Institute for Financial Management and Research,
24, Kothari Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

Copy to:

The Finance (Public) Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Chennai-9. (Five Copies).
The Senior Private Secretary to Chief Secretary to Government, Chennai-9.
The Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MC) Department, Chennai-9.
✓ Stock File/ Spare Copy.

//FORWARDED/ BY ORDER//


2/9/14
SECTION OFFICER.

PS
2/9/14

Annexure

Tentative list of areas for evaluation of projects

- a. Nutrition- related interventions to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) with Health Department, Social Welfare Department and ICDS,
- b. Pre-school Programme in Anganwadis to improve school-preparedness of 2-5 year old children with Social Welfare Department and ICDS,
- c. Information campaigns to increase demand for vocational training courses with Labour and Employment Department,
- d. Proven remedial education innovations to increase learning outcomes in schools with School Education Department,
- e. Targeting poverty among the ultra poor via productive assets provision and training with Rural Development Department,
- f. Reducing open defecation in rural areas and improving demand for and use of sanitation services via information campaigns and better management of sanitation facilities with Rural Development Department,
- g. Improving Block Resource Teacher (BRT)/ Cluster Resource Teacher (CRT) monitoring systems with School Education Department,
- h. Improving secondary school enrolment and retention with School Education Department,
- i. Information, Communication and Technology initiatives to connect remote classrooms with School Education Department,
- j. Improving quality of urban infrastructure and public service by information disclosure by utilities with Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
- k. Reducing open defecation in urban areas by testing different models of toilets, their maintenance and usage by retrofitting existing toilets with Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,
- l. Deworming, anaemia and other interventions in school and anganwadis to improve health and education outcomes with Health, Social Welfare, ICDS and School Education Departments,

(p.t.o.)

- m. Using community or other teaching assistants to improve learning outcomes in most challenging school environments like those around the state borders with School Education Department,
- n. Improving RTE Clause - 12 implementation by testing a centralized system to match students to private schools with the schools with the School Education Department.

**S. KRISHNAN,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

//TRUE COPY//

S. Chand
24/9/14
SECTION OFFICER.

PC
2/9/14