



STOP, LOOK D & LISTEN

Insights on culturally-responsive research & evaluations from indigenous communities & evaluators in Asia Pacific

#AsianEvaluationWeek23



Uru Warige Wannia Aththo Leader of the Vedda community, Sri Lanka





Indexing & promoting Indigenous approaches in service of equity-centered evaluation

Establish a web-based directory of indigenous evaluators

Facilitate the development of local indigenous evaluation protocols and agreements, to support evaluation responsiveness

Curate the voices of more indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous evaluators

Provide seed funding for collaborative projects

Encourage peer to peer (P2P) collaborations among indigenous vopes and vope subgroups globally Knowledge base for Indigenous evaluation is strengthened

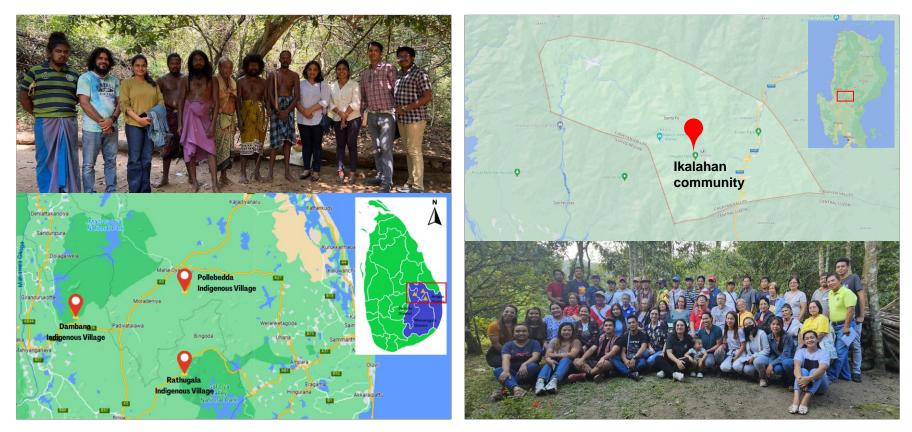
Culturally responsive Indigenous evaluation practice spreads

Development of local Indigenous evaluation protocols increases

Collaboration and knowledge sharing among Indigenous evaluators grows

Global national evaluation systems and policies increasingly recognize and support Indigenous evaluation practices Concepts, theories and practices of Indigenous evaluators and knowledge holders are curated and disseminated for a global audience of Indigenous peoples, evaluation funders and decisionmakers, to strengthen demand for culturally responsive Indigenous evaluation practices.





Fieldwork Locations: Sri Lanka & Philippines



Study Methodology









STOP parasitic / parachute science

"Do no harm" principle
Decolonize evaluation / research methodologies



D LOOK at the indigenous community

respect the rights, knowledge, cultural traditions and norms of the indigenous community

Shed stereotypes, acknowledge the diversity of the communities



LISTEN to the voices of the indigenous community

Involve the indigenous community members throughout the evaluation process & the evaluation team



Questions by indigenous community members to evaluators and researchers

- 1. What is the study all **about** & its **purpose**?
- 2. From this study, **how does it benefit the indigenous community**?
- 3. How long will this study be conducted for?
- 4. What kind of data collection methods will be used for this study?
- 5. Through collecting this data, **will it harm our culture**? **Especially, once the report is published**?











STOP, LOOK 2 & LISTEN



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FIONA CRAM

Co-lead EvalIndigenous



https://youtu.be/9DRH63YIw_c?si=U_s1hiUzENz1SwIz

Key events

- APEA/SLEVA webinar: Launch of the toolkit for indigenous evaluation in asia pacific
 - https://bit.ly/SLEVA2023OCT
 - Wednesday, 18th October 2023
 - 6:30 pm IST







REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!





Got questions? Email apea.coordinator@gmail.com

OUR PARTNERS









Community owns MERL (Monitoring, Evaluation,

Research and Learning)

Community of Practice on strengthening community ownership in evaluation

BACKGROUND

The Asia Pacific Regional Evaluation Strategy, led by the Asia Pacific Evaluation Association (APEA), is the outcome of a series of collaborative efforts that began with the Eval4Action regional consultation held in the Asia Pacific on 25 June 2020. This strategy has been developed through an inclusive and participatory process, engaging various stakeholders such as VOPEs, parliamentarians, public officials, evaluators, and development partners. Together, they have defined key themes and actionable steps aimed at promoting greater use of evaluation to advance national development goals and the SDGs throughout the Asia Pacific Region.

One of the primary focal points of this strategy is the strengthening of community ownership in the evaluation, with particular emphasis on marginalized population groups. Empowering these communities and citizens through evaluation reduces their reliance on external experts and fosters the sustainability of interventions by securing their commitment to evaluation findings.

Authentic ownership emerges when people actively participate in designing projects, monitoring progress, evaluating outcomes, and analyzing results. Therefore, it is crucial for evaluation professionals to transition from being distant experts to becoming attentive listeners, allowing the power to shift toward the community. To support this transformation, the 'Community owns MERL' —a community of practice (CoP) dedicated to strengthening community ownership in evaluation—has been established.



WHO WE ARE

Profile of members - Community owns MERL

- those directly engaged with communities / who work hands-on in the field
- those who engage more on an intellectual / academic level

✓ those who engage at the strategic leve



To be thriving,

To be thriving, influential group committed to advancing community ownership & involvement of people with lived experience within the design, delivery of programmes/systems & MERL activities

INTERESTED TO JOIN THE COP?

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Learn more on how we are strengthening community ownership in evaluation in Asia Pacific:



bit.ly/APEA-CoP



Community of Practice (CoP) on strengthening community ownership in evaluation

bit.ly/CoPbrochure

