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## Handbook on Impact Evaluation (World Bank Training Series)

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**Hussain A. Samad, Shahidur R. Khandker, Gayatri B. Koolwal : Handbook on Impact Evaluation (World Bank Training Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Handbook on Impact Evaluation (World Bank Training Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Accessible, but Technical Manual on Impact EvaluationsBy W. PryorThis is a very intense technical manual that -finally- captures in one place the tools that are most commonly applied for impact evaluations. There are some healthy discussions about how monitoring, evaluation, and impact evaluations relate to each other. I personally don't feel that the differences were explored sufficiently, but the book really excels at its core mission of describing the scientific foundation for impact evaluations and the proven analytical tools that have evolved to effect a competent evaluation. There are welcome forays into the math involved, however

the book teases more than explores some fundamental equations used in real-world examples scattered throughout the book. Each chapter is well referenced, and there is a high quality introduction (again, more of a well referenced teaser) to Stata. This has become a favorite reference book for me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good for program evaluators  
By customer I have a passion for impact evaluation studies and this book is good if you want both theory and hands on. The stata commands are really helpful. Wish could have more books with practical examples  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very technical guide but worthwhile if you want this ...  
By Customer A very technical guide but worthwhile if you want this level of detail. However, it is available for free download on the World Bank website in the Open Knowledge Repository.

Public programs are designed to reach certain goals and beneficiaries. Methods to understand whether such programs actually work, as well as the level and nature of impacts on intended beneficiaries, are main themes of this book. Has the Grameen Bank, for example, succeeded in lowering consumption poverty among the rural poor in Bangladesh? Can conditional cash transfer programs in Mexico and Latin America improve health and schooling outcomes for poor women and children? Does a new road actually raise welfare in a remote area in Tanzania, or is it a 'highway to nowhere'? This book reviews quantitative methods and models of impact evaluation. It begins by reviewing the basic issues pertaining to an evaluation of an intervention to reach certain targets and goals. It then focuses on the experimental design of an impact evaluation, highlighting its strengths and shortcomings, followed by discussions on various non-experimental methods. The authors also cover methods to shed light on the nature and mechanisms by which different participants are benefiting from the program. For researchers interested in learning how to use these models with statistical software, the book also provides STATA exercises in the context of evaluating major microcredit programs in Bangladesh, such as the Grameen Bank. The framework presented in this book can be very useful for strengthening local capacity in impact evaluation among technicians and policymakers in charge of formulating, implementing, and evaluating programs to alleviate poverty and underdevelopment.