Staff
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Start Date
August 24, 2015

End Date
August 27, 2015

IPA J-PAL UNZA IMPACT EVALUATION COURSE REVIEW

October 2015

Innovations for Poverty Action Zambia (IPA) partnered with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab for Africa (J-PAL) and the University of Zambia (UNZA) to hold a four day impact evaluation course from 24-27 August 2015. The course included two streams: a policymaker stream and a researcher stream. The researcher stream focused on the benefits and methods of randomisation, choosing an appropriate sample size, and common threats and pitfalls to the validity of experiments. The policymaker stream had the same core components but also focused on how to identify good evidence and use this evidence in policy making decisions.

The course took place at the UNZA VET School. The lectures were delivered by J-PAL and IPA affiliate Nava Ashraf (Harvard Business School) as well as Abraham Holland (Harvard Kennedy School), Rachna Nag Chowdhuri (IPA), Erika Keaveney (IPA), Emily Cupito (J-PAL) and Ashleigh Morrell (J-PAL). The participant group work was supported by IPA and J-PAL staff.

This review briefly analyses the feedback received from course assessments and comments with the goal of identifying the strengths of the course, as well as the areas of the course which could be improved in future trainings.

Participant Photo 26 August 2015

Participation

The course was well attended by representatives from government (Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Education, Science, Vocational Training and Early Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and Cabinet Office), UNZA academics, non-government organisations and international development organisations. Participant attendance was high and consistent throughout the course.

PARTICIPANTS BY ORGANISATION TYPE

General Feedback

Course surveys indicate that participants were more than satisfied with the course. Eighty percent of participants described quality of instruction as very good or excellent, 95 percent of participants described the course as appropriately challenging; 95 percent described the support provided on the course as good, very good or excellent; and of those who were charged for the course, 100 percent found the course appropriately priced.

General course comments were positive. Participants particularly commented on the clickers (a technology with allows participants to answer questions during a lecture and their answers are displayed on the screen) as being an innovative and

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