Ensuring Research Quality in Reporting

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Centre for Poverty Analysis
The Centre for Poverty Analysis

• The Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) is an independent, Sri Lankan think-tank promoting a better understanding of poverty-related development issues.

• CEPA aims to balance independent research with policy influence while responding to the information needs of the development sector in Sri Lanka.

• Cepa works at national, regional, programme and project levels.
Organisational Capacity Building at CEPA

- Organisationally, CEPA has a flat hierarchy with a very participatory orientation

- Research teams decide on research design and implementation aspects

- CEPA works in a way that is flexible, and encouraging

- Within the OCB
  - We looked at ‘what research quality’ meant for CEPA
  - How we could building up capacity to improve that research quality
CEPA’s Written Outputs

- Journal Articles
- Edited Volumes
- Studies
- Working Papers
- Poverty, Thematic and Policy Briefs
- Reports
- Feature Articles
- Shorter Articles to magazines, blogs etc.

*All CEPA’s outputs go out in a trilingual form*
Mechanisms to ensure quality

Internal
External
Organisational
How the mechanisms work at CEPA

Internally

- Peer reviews – deciding on the type of output
- Continuous review on content
- Monitoring
- Mentoring
- Editorial reviews, checks for plagiarism
How the mechanisms work at CEPA

External
- Peer reviews for content,
- Language and content reviews for trilingual publications
- Publication process
How the mechanisms work at CEPA

Organisationally

- A process that is supporting and encouraging
- Time spent on getting people on board and buying in
The change we have seen

• Attitudes towards putting out our research have changed
• The research quality conversation has been mainstreamed into the entire research cycle
The change we have seen

Quantity of writing from within CEPA

- Dialogue and Exchange Events
- Audio/Visual Media
- Print Media
- Research publications

Number of outputs

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<th>2010</th>
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<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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Challenges

• Ensuring outputs go out on time
• The lack of external reviewers
  - for content
  - for language translations
• The battle for time internally to monitor and mentor
Thank you