



EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA SELF-EMPLOYMENT IMPACT EVALUATION

By Marina Clarke

Impact is generally defined any difference which can be attributed to an intervention and an impact assessment/evaluation is generally conducted to measure and prove impact of interventions.

During February 2006 Epilepsy South Africa launched an entrepreneurial development programme through the hosting of a Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Training of Trainers (TOT) seminar held in Gauteng. This programme was expanded to include not only the SIYB Programme, but also the Vuk'Uzenzele Programme and Income Generation Programme.

The National Office intends conducting an impact assessment to provide feedback to various role-players (including funders, partner organisations and Branches) and to measure impact of training interventions at both the organisational and enterprise levels.

The intention is to measure impact both quantitatively and qualitatively. This implies that, in addition to measuring the number of beneficiaries reached and changes in income levels of such beneficiaries, the assessment will also measure changes in terms of cognitive functioning (changes in knowledge levels), affective functioning (changes in attitudes) and psychomotor functioning (skills development and application). Furthermore, attention will be given to the development of independently functioning trainers, client satisfaction and business performance indicators.

In order to measure qualitatively, the assessment will focus on various aspects of implementation:

- Independent trainers: Implementation of programme designs, accreditation assessments.
- Client satisfaction: Outreach, training provision, follow-up services, value for money perception.
- Cognitive and psychomotor functioning: Completion of business plans, application of knowledge and business practices, utilization of material during and after training.
- Affective functioning: Changes in attitude (i.e. dependence versus independence).
- Business performance: Turnover, sales, assets, decrease of costs, job creation, job quality issues.

The following tools will be used during the assessment:

- SIYB monitoring and evaluation tools (activity reports, entry forms, assessment forms);
- Accreditation assessment tools (interviews, training observation, feedback from entrepreneurs);
- Case studies;
- Questionnaires;
- Short and medium term evaluations conducted previously.

This evaluation will be rolled out during the 2009/2010 financial year with final reports anticipated by April 2010.