



## EDITORIAL COMMENT



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### Why SDGs 1, 8 and 10 Matter?

Inclusive and sustained economic growth have potential impact on addressing poverty and inequality, apart from providing employment and decent work for all. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 8 and 10 are critical for maintaining social cohesion, achieving inclusiveness & long-term development and collectively address inequalities. One of the priorities, for the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) the analytical arm of the Public Affairs Centre (PAC) in partnership with the Government of Karnataka (GoK), is to examine the Special Development Plan (SDP) of the GoK. This was primarily launched to address regional imbalances in the State. The High-Powered Committee for Redress of Regional Imbalances Report headed by Dr. Nanjundappa in 2001-02 classified 114 Talukas as 'backward'. The backwardness was classified by the performance of the Talukas in the Comprehensive Composite Development Index (CCDI) which assessed the performance in agriculture, industry, socio-economic infrastructure and population. The PAC-CODR undertook the task of assessing the 176 Talukas and calculating the CCDI for 2018-19 and found that out of the 114 traditionally backward talukas, 75 continued to be backward and 39 talukas moved out from the backward category and 18 new talukas were added in the backward category. The report sent to the Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics (PPMS) Department included an analysis that also proposed fund allocation for these talukas. The report was then approved and has been sent to the department for further action. The PAC-CODR team is now testing the backwardness of the talukas using the NITI Aayog's framework of Aspirational Districts.

Addressing the problem of 'No Poverty-leave no one behind' is a universal challenge. The 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census highlighted the fact that 22% of the population in Karnataka is poor. Studying poverty is a complex task as it is a multidimensional problem. In recent times one cannot classify the poor as people who earn less than \$1.9/day as per UN standards and Rs 848/month as per the Rangarajan Committee. Poverty is more related to access, affordability, and availability of basic human necessities like food, shelter, education, health and sustainable income. The PAC-CODR team has been looking at developing a Multi-Dimensional Poverty model for all the districts in Karnataka using the Foster-Alkire model as a base. This exercise is being carried out to essentially understand the intensity and incidence of poverty in the State and identify the geographies which are deprived across the parameters of health, education and living standards.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all are integral to achieve the SDG 8. In the Indian context, the restrictive nature of economic growth leading to concentration of economic activities has resulted in urban agglomerations. Equitable growth and distribution of economic activity across the regions can be embryonic to address the challenges posed by spatial inequality resulting out of such concentrated economic activity. Moreover, economic growth alone cannot guarantee prosperity amongst the population unless issues organic to decent work such as secured jobs, respect for labour relations, access to basic services, respect for rights, inclusiveness, social harmony, social freedom and sustainability are factored in appropriately. These are critical to productive employment. With respect to Karnataka, it is also pertinent to identify circuits of growth that can provide for productive employment and enhance productivity inclusiveness. A decentralised growth model with a focus on capital, employment and income generation, and decent work for all across the State, both in the formal and informal sector, that can positively contribute to quality of life of the workers is central to the approach.



## USE OF DATA IN SDGS



**Ganesh Aravindh V. P.**

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Dealing with No Poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth and Reducing Inequalities comes as a challenge with respect to data because the data points measuring SDGs 1,8 and 10 are very outdated. So the critical part involved is putting the outdated data to good use and converting it into an appropriate format that would provide suitable insights. It is also evident that the trends that show in 2011 might be drastically different as in 2020-21. The challenge for a data team is that it has to take into consideration the data points and find ways to extrapolate them into the existing scenario and understand the incidence and intensity of poverty and inequality across the state with the data points being outdated as the data for 2011.



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For the same reason mentioned above, in order to measure poverty, the team had come up with an MPI Index which has been widely put to use by UNDP and other international sources. The methodology adopted to calculate the Index would be the Principal Component Analysis (PCA), an unsupervised ML technique which is much more rigorous and determines the real-time scenario of the indicators with respect to SDG 10. The SDG 8 team on the other hand, is working on capturing the pattern of occupation and income to understand the growth centres across Karnataka which is heavily skewed towards Bangalore. They will attempt to triangulate the findings with multiple Government data sources to propose region - specific, context-specific and sector-specific recommendations for promoting decent work and productivity inclusiveness.



## INTERVIEW



**Narendar Pani, PhD**

**Professor and Dean**

*School of Social Sciences Head,  
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**Q:** The study of SDG 1 is a complex one and reducing poverty encompasses all the aspects of health, nutrition, livelihood etc. Given the data gap to study the trends, how would you as an academician tackle secondary data on Palma ratio or Monthly per capita consumption expenditure?

**A:** *Even as we recognise the interconnection between poverty and inequality, it is important not to lose sight of their differences. It is possible for an increase in, inequality to be accompanied by a reduction in poverty. In estimating poverty there are difficulties that arise from India's reliance on consumption expenditure. Among other things, this does not distinguish between the expenditure of the poor from their earnings and their expenditure from borrowing which has an element of bondage. I would prefer a measure that is based on assets.*

**Q:** **Emphasis with respect to the SDG 8 was always on ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic growth resulting in productive employment. However, what should ideally constitute Decent Work and in the context of Karnataka, how should Decent Work for All be strategised through inclusive growth and productive employment?**

**A:** *Decent Work should include not only a socially acceptable wage, but also meaningful labour standards. It is important, especially in the Karnataka context, not to see the demand for acceptable work conditions as being separate from the living conditions of workers. The idea of labour standards in the workplace would lose much of its value if it is accompanied by inhuman living conditions outside the workplace.*

**Q:** **How well do you think that existing data sources for inequality explain inequality with reference to Karnataka? Is inequality as simple as measurement of income? How would it impact growth and poverty?**

**A:** *Inequality has to be seen as much more than income differences. This is particularly true in regions where caste discrimination remains an important factor. Gender inequality has also been vastly underestimated in India.*

# CODR Bits & Bytes

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## UPDATES

- 19 April 2021** The ACS Planning conducted a review meeting of accomplishments of CODR during 2020-'21, during which each teams presented the findings of the second set of reports on SDP and SDGs
- 26 April 2021** Submitted modified reports on SDP and SDGs, based on the feedback received during the review meeting conducted by PPMS conducted on 19th April
- 13 May 2021** A follow-up meeting was conducted by PPMS department with our Director to discuss the 'way forward' strategy on the CODR-PPMS engagement
- 27 April 2021** A Task Force meeting was conducted to discuss the "Approach Papers" of SDG 1,8,10,2,3,4&5 under the chairpersonship of Dr Chaya Degaonkar
- 15 May 2021** Delivered NeSDA reports of 400 services from the list of 811 services provided by the ARC-2 team

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