



EDITORIAL COMMENT



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*Associate Data Scientist
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Importance of a Data Dashboard

Data visualisation is the representation of information graphically using graphs, plots, maps, charts, etc. In recent years, data visualisation tools are being used as the most effective means to communicate information to stakeholders. A dashboard is a visualisation tool that provides an interactive user interface and enables users to view data on key indicators at-a-glance. In the governance sector as well, a dashboard enables policy makers to view data with reference to key indicators, on a single platform. The NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) dashboard for India, highlights the performance of each state/Union Territories (UTS) in terms of individual goals and targets. Additionally, the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) has also developed a dashboard for its flagship project Public Affairs Index 2021. This visually represents information regarding the three broad pillars - Growth, Equity, and Sustainability - used to measure governance of a state/UTs. With data available for multiple indicators and sub-indicators, a dashboard provides an easy-to-understand view of the data, making it a preferred choice.



INTERVIEW



Shri Ravi Kumar

*Chief Secretary
Government of Karnataka*

Q: Public governance is undergoing a major change with digital governance coming into play to improve service delivery by using technology. What are your priorities in this regard?

A: *People can access services at door steps, delivery of services should be so people should interact less with public, come less to Government offices. We should provide ease of providing access to services.*

First of all, the required information should be available in public domain, make it accessible online in an easy manner. Government normally makes it difficult, for example, filling an application is often difficult, they request 3rd party to do so. We have a lot of departments, who have registered people to help and this is called assistance mode. The Government themselves find it difficult to fill the forms. Therefore, I look at simplifying the application forms. A lot of information which we ask from the public is what we already have, if data is there we should not ask for the same information again. For example, if a person has applied for ration card, his family details are there, if he applies for caste certificate, we have all his data and we should not ask for it repeatedly. An application



is an interface process between Government and the public and should be made easier & simpler. Every department keeps asking for similar applicant data from public to issue certificates. We shall use Digi locker which is a form of help & Aadhar as index. These are the baby steps that we are taking and we hope to make it bigger.

Q: In your opinion, how can data generation at source be improved by digitising process collecting data is a big challenge. Are there some activities planned to improve data collection?

A: Data which is collected offline collected it becomes difficult because one does not know what type of data is collected and interpreted. Therefore, what we are looking at is to ensure there is a process which can be used effectively. If process is system driven, then data is automatically collected. If it is not so then I have my own doubts on the validity of data and the analysis might also lead to wrong results. Often a lot of times the data fed is the view of one person and most of the data coming from the field has to be taken with a pinch of salt.

Q: Data Analysis in Government is still in its infancy, how can organisations like the Public Affairs Centre which has the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) work in tandem with the government to improve efficiency and use technology effectively?

A: There is a lot of suspicion at the field level while dealing with persons from outside the Government to give data. People equate data/information to having power. At the Government level we are very open and would like to have external agencies like Public Affairs Centre (PAC), International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) to partner with us. At the field level people are still reluctant to part with data, we need to do away with suspicion & talk to them about what we are doing to help them. Apart from this independent data has to be collected at a centralised level without going to field. This data can then be verified by external agencies so it can help us understand what is happening on field and how we change our systems, to benefit the people.

Due to lack of time and human resources, the Government is often unable to perform all these tasks.

Government has been open, to partnering with agencies, institutions but unfortunately, once we get the information, recommendations, reports, they are not taken forward. Even our own Government appointed committees which give recommendations which are very rarely acted upon unless it is of great importance. With the changing time, Government needs to react to all recommendations and act on it immediately. They are trying to improve. In the mean time we will continue to welcome partnership with institutions.



UPDATES

31 Jan 2021

Finalised the Project Specification Document (PSD) for Data Pipeline & Security architecture for CODR and sent to Dr Srinath Srinivasa of IIITB and Mr. Rajeev Chawla ACS, eGovernance for their review

01 Feb 2021

Submission of agenda for SDG-specific Virtual Conference to PPMS Department

01 Feb 2021

Conducted further discussions with Dr. Narendar Pani, the SME suggested by the Planning Department on the broad conceptual framework to be adopted for SDGs and SDP analysis

15 Feb 2021

Second set of reports on further analysis conducted for SDP, SDG 1, 8, 10, 2, 3 & 5 sent to Dr. Shalini Rajneesh (Report-2 on SDG 4 is under preparation)

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