## EDITORIAL COMMENT

In the recent months, the knowledge partnership between the **Government of Karnataka** and the **Public Affairs Centre (PAC)**, anchored by the Department of Planning, and the **Centre for Open Data Research(CODR)** respectively, has been extending useful data analytics support in the state's COVID 19 response. A snippet of the second report generated by the CODR is included in the publication section.

As emphasised by the Chief Secretary in the interview that we carry in this issue, the CODR initiative is driven by the imperative that we must recognise and understand the patterns of exclusion if the state's development strategy has to reach out to those left behind. It is a knowledge-based response to the urgent need to modernise the governance system at the subnational levels, and enhance the capacity to govern, as a reform priority in the ensuing years. To do this, evidence led and data-based development praxis must constitute the central principle and must be mainstreamed as a policy priority on a government-wide basis.

There is much work to be done on the production and use of public data, by state governments, to promote effective, efficient and transparent public policies. In the stakeholder interview that we carry in this issue, the Chief Secretary, as the Head of the Civil Service in Karnataka, succinctly articulates his vision of the governance reforms that must be evidence based and data analytics-driven, and must constitute the foremost reform priorities for the future.

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW

**Vijay Bhaskar T M**

*Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka*

**Q:** *Could you share what the key objectives of the need for integration of data relating to land and Asset resources, human resources, and financial resources are?*

**A:** The basic objectives of the project to develop a platform to integrate data relating to land and assets, human resources and financial resources are to:

- Understand the existing patterns of ownership and distribution of resources and to identify the 'patterns of exclusion' and the causes that are responsible for leaving some people/groups/regions behind in the development agenda.
- Help the government to develop focused interventions and integrated strategies for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- Promote optimal allocation and sustainable utilisation of resources and equitable distribution of the gains of development as envisioned in the SDG agenda 2030.

**Q:** *In your experience, can the use of data analytics improve the development of most backward regions in Karnataka? If so, what needs to be emphasised?*

**A:** The HPCRRI (Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee) analysed the spread of development process and the exclusion pattern was identified in 114 talukas in different categories of backwardness. Despite the fact that under the Special Development Plan additional resources are flowing to these talukas, these talukas

are not growing in a significant way. These talukas fall in different divisions and agro-climatic zones. It is therefore necessary to come out with region-specific approach for these backward talukas. The analysis of Census data, Agriculture Census data, 6th Economic Census data, Labour Department and Data Encryption Standard (DES) data etc. will help identify the specific geographical and sectoral areas of interventions such as agriculture, animal husbandry, agro-processing and small industries, education, skill development, health, sanitation etc. The Government can focus effort and funding geographical areas and sectors. The Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data analytics will also help to identify the skills and livelihood requirements and come out with a household level focused strategy for sustainable development and livelihoods in these talukas.

**Q:** *Karnataka is one of the most progressive States. In what ways does partnering with non-profit organisations like PAC help advance development? Is there a road map that you have in mind for such collaborations and partnerships?*

**A:** ˙ SDG-2030 is a challenging agenda that demands pooling of talents and resources by engaging with different stakeholders. Karnataka is well ahead in this regard. A knowledge partnership is built with PAC and IIIT-B through the Centre for Open Data Research. A partnership is being established with UNDP by establishing Sustainable Development Goals Coordination Centre (SDGCC). A CSR platform is being developed to mobilise resources through engaging with the corporate sector. This will help in supporting women's empowerment and transformative programs in education, health and water and sanitation projects etc. The Government also seeks help from NGOs in capacity building and awareness programmes. Specific partnerships are being established with Research institutions and organisations like IISC, ISRO, CSTEP, ISEC, etc. for industry and innovations. Thus, the agenda is 'ellara sahabhgitvadalli ellara abhvruddhi' (partner with all for development of all).

## NEWS

In a meeting held on May 29, 2020 between the Department of Planning, Program Monitoring and Statistics, Government of Karnataka and the CODR team the following action points were finalised:

CODR Team will undertake data analysis for:

**1)     E-Janma - Research questions**

a.     Determine Taluka-wise death rates. (computed as number of deaths per 1000).
b.     Concentration analysis to determine diseases contributing to highest mortality.
c.     Spatial analysis to determine the diseases contributing to highest mortality districtwise.

**2)     Malnutrition – Research questions**

a.     What are the pockets of concentration of malnutrition?  How do they stack up against the WHO and NITI Aayog standards? The malnutrition status should include stunting, wasting and underweight. The research question should also study the interrelation between malnutrition, caste, education, income, occupation, land size etc.

**3)     COVID grievance redress – Research questions**

a.     How to improve the efficiency of grievance redress across the state and what are agencies that are lagging behind in redress of grievances?

The annual work plan of the CODR was also finalised and approved.

The DES team will provide village/taluka-wise data on births, deaths and reported cause of deaths.

# CODR Bits & Bytes

## PUBLICATION REVIEW

A report titled, *'COVID–19 Contingency Plan and a Phased Lockdown Exit Strategy – Second Report: Recommendations to the Government of Karnataka',* was presented to the state government in May 2020. This report provides data analysis-based predictions for the period after the lockdown 2.0 ending on May 3, 2020 and has been prepared on the basis of data available till April, 29, 2020, in the public domain.

First principles circumscribed the data analytics based strategy presented to the government: the containment of the number of active cases, minimising the spread and preventing community transmission, focusing on the containment zones and the red zone districts; and the focus on the disadvantaged and vulnerable socio- economic groups, whose livelihoods are mostly in the informal sector and are based on daily wages. Therefore, a phased commencement of economic activity, was recommended.

*For more details read* **here.**

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