



EDITORIAL COMMENT

A key focus area of the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR), the analytics arm of the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), is to develop data science use-case applications for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals UN Agenda 2030, in Karnataka.

In particular, to help improve the State's rank on the [NITI Aayog's SDG Index](#) national rankings. With an index score of 66, Karnataka ranks at number 6, though it has the potential to be amongst the top three states. While on many SDG targets and indicators the state is either a Front runner or an Achiever, there are some human development indicators in certain SDGs on which the state is either an aspirant or performer, with scope for significantly better scores.

This will be the thrust of the State Governments efforts in the ensuing months.

In line with this objective, the CODR has constituted five multidisciplinary teams covering SDG 1- No Poverty, SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing, SDG 4 - Quality Education, SDG 5 - Gender Equality, SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities. The CODR SDG teams will be partnering the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics Department, (PPMS), GoK in working closely with the departments of Agriculture, Women and Child Development, Food, Health and Family Welfare, School Education, and Social Welfare to generate data-based gap analyses - spatial, temporal and contextual - and intervention roadmaps. It will be the endeavour of the CODR to provide the state governments actionable insights that will help enhance the targeted Sustainable Development outcomes over the short-medium term.

In this backdrop, this issue includes an interview with Dr Chaya Deogaonkar, Additional CEO Karnataka Evaluation Authority and Chair of the Data Analytics Task Force constituted by the PPMS for the CODR.



INTERVIEW

Q) Based on the current situation (COVID-19) do you think it is time to revisit the Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee Report especially with reference to the backward areas?

The High Power Committee on Redressal of Regional Imbalances (Dr. D M Nanjundappa Committee) in its report submitted in 2002 identified 114 talukas (out of 175) in different categories of Backwardness, 39 most backward, 40 more backward and 35 backward talukas. A Special Development Plan (SDP) was recommended over a period of eight years to bring these talukas on par with State average. Now a period of eighteen years is completed.

A special status was granted to KK region under Article 371 J. Despite a significant resource transfer of more than 25000 crores under SDP the results are not promising as the North Karnataka and the Kalyan Karnataka regions still are at the bottom of human development. Further, there has been significant change in the development agenda from economic development to human development and to Sustainable Development Goals during this period. In addition, the pandemic has worst affected the high incidence poverty areas. The reverse migration has put additional stress on these fragile economies. In view of the low development outcomes and the pandemic challenges a revisit to the report is required. A stronger evidence based and outcome-oriented strategy and policy is required based on the data analysis from CODR to address these inequalities and fulfil the targets under SDG-10.

Q) In your opinion how do you think that the role of government, corporate, academia is very crucial and if so, is there any event you can share with our readers?

In a world of knowledge economy today knowledge production, dissemination, application and utilisation systems need to be integrated for attaining sustainable development goals and to also promote mass welfare. The 'Make in India' 'Start-up Ecosystem' can be sustained through reshaping roles and relationships between these knowledge stakeholders and integrating University labs and R&D units of industries. To promote the agenda of inclusive growth and human development. the new roles expect the sustainable flow of CSR initiatives of Corporate Sector, knowledge system of Academia to empower youths through global job skills to maximise the demographic dividend and the required government interventions and policy support to strengthen the ecosystem. A consortium of Government, Research institutions and Start Up enterprises in Health in Indonesia to fight with pandemic is an initiative and the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR), the analytical arm of Public Affairs Centre (PAC) in knowledge partnership of [Planning Department of Government of Karnataka](#), (IITB) and Public Affairs Centre to promote evidence-based policy are the models I would like to share with the readers.

Q) How has the data analytics provided by PAC helped the Government of Karnataka in general and your department in particular?

The pandemic related data analytics support provided by PAC is of immense value to the Government to revise and reformulate the strategies to face challenges, reduce fatalities, intensify awareness campaign and revamp health infrastructure. The analysis of death data and the findings indicating the rise in cases of death from TB and non-communicable led to the home delivery of TB/NCD medicines. The analysis of the data on Nutrition has helped to identify the districts with high incidence of stunting and wasting to redesign the nutrition intervention strategies. The analysis of data from pilot nutrition projects in [Devadurga](#) and [Chincholi](#) has provided base for advocacy of low-cost nutrition food strategy that may be replicated in other areas. In a nutshell, Karnataka is making steady progress towards evidence-based and outcome oriented development strategy and policy.



PUBLICATION REVIEW

An Opinion The migrant within India – a continuing tragedy and its spill over effects was published in The New Indian Express. The Opinion piece excerpted in brief below, was written by Sanjaya Krishnamurti, Senior Fellow, Public Affairs Centre (PAC). "There is an expression in Hindi that best characterises the migrant experience and existence – 'Na ghar ka Na ghat ka' – and to transform this to a more humane life will require a collective will. It cannot be left to philanthropists and NGOs alone to fill this gap". For more details read [here](#).



NEWS

In a meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 between the CODR Working Committee (Karnataka At a Glance (KAG)) headed by ACS, Planning Department and the [Land Use Patterns](#) - Analyse barren land (public and private) separately using Bhoomi data for evolving a policy with respect to afforestation/non-agricultural utilisation of this land by using the 52 parameters identified by the KAG. This should be done for 10 most backward talukas in terms of agriculture/horticulture productivity, forest cover etc.

Analysis related to Malnutrition – Focus on identifying the talukas that are not performing well in all these parameters so that relevant schemes could be focussed on these population groups.

Geo-tagged COVID-19 patient data in Bengaluru - Perform diffusion analysis on the remaining districts in Karnataka, as done earlier by superimposing data with slum data to determine incidence pattern.

Analysis of SDP – Develop a methodology to organise data for the 114 backward talukas which were identified in 2002. CODR needs to work with the DES team in the planning department to expedite this process and give significant parameters for these talukas which need to be focussed for development.