



EDITORIAL COMMENT

A knowledge partnership was initiated between the Centre for Open Data Research (CODR), the data analytics arm of the Public Affairs Centre, and the Government of Karnataka aimed at the application of data science in development governance. The IIIT-B as the partner institution will provide backend technical support to the CODR.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Department of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics and Public Affairs Centre (PAC) on January 16, 2020, inter-alia envisages:

- Developing Data Analytics and AI-ML use case applications for six key departments to drive evidence-led and data-based policy formulation, programme design and resource allocation decisions.
- Enabling outcome-based impact evaluation of select sustainable development goals and help improve the state's performance.
- Fostering inclusive development with a special focus on applying data analytics to the Special Development Plan to better manage the human development challenges in North Karnataka.

The MoU will be operational for a period of 5 years (2019 to 2024).



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW



Dr Shalini Rajneesh IAS
Additional Chief Secretary
Planning Department,
Government of Karnataka

Q: *In your opinion what are the key objectives of the Government of Karnataka in using data science and data analytics in the policy making process?*

A: There are two factors that need to be considered and include:

1. Application of data science and data analytics enables evidence-based policy formulation. It advocates a more rational, rigorous and scientific analysis of development programmes and schemes in terms of inputs, activities and outputs to achieve desired outcomes
2. In view of the resource crunch and challenges that have emerged in the context of COVID-19, we can use the data analytics to prioritise our resources to secure safe life and sustainable livelihoods for the people and thus maximise the economic as well as social returns.

Q: *What are the priority areas that you would like to focus on in this knowledge partnership with PAC-CODR-IIITB?*

A: The priority areas are improving the state's performance in those SDG goals and Indicators in which we are currently ranked as aspirant or performer low ranking categories as per the NITI Aayog SDG Index-2019 and take the State from the front runner category to the Achiever category within a

short period. The focus should be on poverty reduction, food and nutrition, health, education, gender equality and decent work with concentration of efforts on deprived households in 114 backward taluks and aspirational districts of Raichur and Yadgir in the state of Karnataka.

Q: *Is there any specific Road Map that you would like to draw for this partnership? Or would you be focussing on any specific activities to improve policy making process/governance?*

A: I believe that the Road Map to be achieved from this partnership should:

1. Develop a platform for data integration covering people, land and money for better governance.
2. Build a connected Indian open data knowledge repository combined with rich cutting-edge data analytics products. Also develop a Knowledge Sharing Platform to empower the Government Departments and other stakeholders to promote the human development and Sustainable Development Goals agenda-2030.



NEWS

The Department of Planning and the CODR are working in tandem to give impetus to the wider use of data analytics. In the weekly working committee meeting of the CODR, chaired by Dr Shalini Rajneesh, ACS, Planning, the following course of action was approved:

Access to Data

- The DES will be the single point of data access to enable CODR to access data relating to relevant departments from diverse sources.
- The Director, DES was designated as the Data Officer (DO) to liaise with different departments and the field formations, obtain the relevant data and then share it with the CODR.

Data Analytics Outputs

Dr. Chaya Deogaonkar, Addl. Chief Evaluation Officer, Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Planning Dept., GoK be designated as DA Coordinator.

Mrinalini Kabbur, Senior Data Analyst, and **Dr. Deboshree Banerjee** (Econometrics), will represent PAC.

The 4-member **Task Force** comprising **DAC, DO, DA** and **Econometrician** will:

- Define the objectives of the DA, and determine the type of data required and analytics to be undertaken
- Ensure that that modelling and data analytics requirements are defined by the targeted outcome
- Help the departments to focus on meaningful outcomes and on the insights that address specific objectives

A DA Framework to Ensure Optimal Outcomes for Each Department

CODR will develop a DA framework to include the following steps:

1. Place the purpose before data
2. Empower the SPOC to evaluate potential opportunities and adopt prescriptive decision-making to explore and simulate scenarios in real-time.
3. Feed learnings back into the analytic system to influence subsequent decisions or action by incorporating machine learning and artificial intelligence.
4. Focus on integration with existing systems and technology. The key requirement is to understand how the Department will use and manage those analytics within its day-to-day operations.
5. Operationalise the Analytics to generate real value and positive development outcomes.

To operationalise this DA framework, a small team led by the Department Single Point of Contact (SPOC), will be invited to the Task Force Meetings.

A Senior officer each from three priority departments: The Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and Directorate of Women and Child Development; will be designated as the SPOC to attend the Task Force Meetings.

1. Draft Work Plan for 2020-2021:

While CODR has already commenced work, the work plan 2020-2021 will facilitate:

- Consultations with priority departments
- Finalising a DA Framework for each department
- Identify specific deliverables and outputs

2. One-day Familiarisation Workshop for the DA teams

A one-day familiarisation workshop for the relevant DA teams of select departments will be conducted in July 2020. The aim will be to ensure:

- A common understanding of the important roles and responsibilities
- Understand the standards and processes necessary to undertake serious DA.



PUBLICATION REVIEW

The Centre for Open Data Research (CODR) the analytical arm of Public Affairs Centre submitted a report titled, ***COVID - 19 Contingency Plan and a Phased Lockdown Exit Strategy: Recommendations to the Government of Karnataka.***

The report serves as guide to assist the state government to ensure evidence-based decision making. Open data available in the public domain has been used extensively to create this report. This report serves as a guide that points to broad data - based trends that may prove useful in the decision-making process.

For more details read [here](#).

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