Decentralization Community
Update 66
February 2013

Dear Members,

We present the 66th Update on Decentralization Community of Practice which covers the range of activities that we have been undertaking; discussions that have been facilitated; upcoming opportunities for you to engage and postings shared by members.

*We take this opportunity to invite all the community members in our **exciting launch of e-activities** for the month of March as a **Run up to the 20 years of Decentralization in India**. Participate generously and share your experiences, opinions and thoughts on the last 20 years that have gone by as well as your ideas, suggestions and recommendations for the years to come. We will be writing to you regularly on this….*

Warm Regards,

Resource Team
(Swati Dogra and Aditi Malhotra)

Community Activities

1. New Team Member

We introduce the new Research Associate, Ms. Aditi Malhotra who joined in January 2013. Aditi holds a Masters in Social Work from Tata Institute of Social Sciences and has a background on Human Rights, International Law and Diplomacy. Over the past four years she has been working with a legal resource center, Partners for Law in Development (New Delhi) facilitating and strengthening capacities of various stakeholders on gender justice and CEDAW.

2. Ongoing Queries

Managing Commons under the Forest Rights Act; Experiences, Advice; from Amit Anand, UNDP India - Seeks experiences and lessons on collective management of Commons in order to aid the implementation of Forest Rights Act in the light of revised Rules and issuance of guidelines

3. Closed Queries

Partnership between SHGs and Local Government for Disaster Risk Reduction; Experiences, Advice; from P. Chandran, Swayam Shikshan Prayog **-** Seeks success stories for creating partnership with elected representatives as well as government functionaries for building community resilience

Recommending Role for Local Governments in Addressing VAW; Experiences, Advice; from Kanta Singh, UNDP India - Aims to bring out the concerns of women living in rural areas (particularly Dalit, Adivasi and elected Panchayat representatives) in the current discourse on violence against women and access to support and justice. Seeks suggestions of how local governments can be made gender friendly and responsive.

Linking Grassroots Practitioners in Knowledge Sharing Processes; Experiences, Examples; from Prema Gera, UNDP India - Seeks inputs on various innovative mechanisms and technologies that facilitate to and fro

process of knowledge sharing for grassroots practitioners. Invites suggestions on cultural, technological and linguistic shifts that need to be made in order to take knowledge sharing to the grassroots.

4. Consolidated Replies Issued

Peer learning model for Elected Representatives in local governments; Experiences, Examples, Advice;
From Nitin Paranjpae, Swaraj University and EarthCare Designs, Nashik.
For PDF version of Consolidated Reply, please click here (Size: 380 KB); Issued on 8th February 2013
Recognizes peer learning as crucial to adult learning and gives examples, tools and resources on streamlining peer learning in the capacity development process of elected representatives.

Millennium Development Goals– progress and prospects beyond 2015; Experience, Advice;
From Rahul Banerjee, Independent Consultant, Indore.
For PDF version of this Consolidated Reply, please click here (Size: 321 kb)
Seeks possibilities of the achieving MDS, challenges in the existing framework, and possibilities beyond 2015

5. Face to Face Activities

National Consultation on Peer Learning Methodology
On 7th December 2012 a consultation was organized in New Delhi on Peer Learning Methodology for Strengthening Local Governance. The event was in continuation to the Query and e-discussion held in September 2012. The consultation supported by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and United Nations Development Programme brought together elected Panchayati Raj representatives, thinkers, practitioners, trainers and government officials to discuss the relevance of peer learning to the current discourse and practices of capacity development of elected representatives in India. To view the report, click here

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🏃 Run up to the 20 years of Decentralization in India

We invite all members of the decentralization community to join activities as we approach 20th year of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment, a milestone in the history of decentralization and local governance in India. It is time to ask - What has changes since then? Where have we reached so far? Where are the gaps? Where are the opportunities? What are the success stories?

1. Send us a short story titled "**THE STORY OF MY PANCHAYAT**"- Shoot/Compile/Write
   - A video (send us through CD or email them to se.decn.solutionexchange@gmail.com)
   - A photo essay which includes photographs with a 100 word write up
   - A story of approximately 250-300 words (click here for format)
   - You can send your entries in English or Hindi.

As a member, you may write or help us get linked to a citizen or elected representative to compile journeys of local governments across India. We will be creating a blog space to upload the above.

2. Fill a **5-question on-line survey-** http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMWC7PP to share your views, experiences, ideas, critiques, suggestions on the status and prospects of strengthening decentralization in India.

Updates from Members

Upcoming Events

From Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Haryana
National Workshop on Human Values and Ethics, 12th-14th March, 2013, DAV (PG) College, Bulandshahar, (U.P)
The workshop attempts to sensitive students, research scholars and the teaching fraternity to the importance and relevance of ethical values in human life. The workshop also aims to discuss various challenges before the agenda of inculcating human values in citizens.

From Vikas Jha, IRRAD New Delhi
Third annual conference on "Good Rural Governance and Citizen Participation" on the theme of 'Accountability at Grassroots - Experiences and Learning, 1st -2nd March, 2013
The conference invites participants to share knowledge and experiences of 'Accountability at Grassroots' and strengthen capacity of practitioners using it for improving rural governance. It will provide a platform to build partnerships among citizens, universities, research institutes, NGOs and community based organizations for research and action on accountability mechanisms at grassroots in India. It aims at drawing on the collective expertise and experience of citizens, NGOs and community based organizations to influence policies on strengthening accountability mechanisms at the grassroots.
Venue: S.M. Sehgal Auditorium, IRRAD, Plot # 34, Sector- 44, Gurgaon, Haryana

From Tushar Dash, Vasundhara, Odisha
National Consultation on Community Forest Rights under Forest Rights Act, 16th -17th March, 2013
As part of the CFR Learning and Advocacy Process, Vasundhara and Kalpariksha are organizing a two day consultation to facilitate an exchange of information and opinions amongst diverse grassroots organizations, networks and campaigns, legal experts, support NGOs, researchers and others, on issues and implementation related to Community Forest Rights. The Consultation will be held on 16-17 March 2013 at ISS, New Delhi. For those of who are interested, details are available here:
ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Consultation CFR_FRA March 2013.pdf
Contact: tushar@vasundharaorissa.org, +91 94395 42176

From The World Bank Public Information Center, India
Open Data Competition 2013
World Bank invites you to participate in an online competition and you get a chance to interact (text based online live chat) with the World Bank India Country Director as well as Open Data experts. **Three Winning entries will receive an iPAD each**. To register, log on to http://www.facebook.com/worldbankindia by using your Facebook account and click the 'LIKE' button. Download the application; use it and then participate in the on-line Quiz; LAST DATE – 3rd March 2012
For further details, contact: indiapic@worldbank.org

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Past Events

From Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi
Workshop on Transforming India into a knowledge Society on 19th February 2013, India International Center, New Delhi
Under Government of India's Common Services Centers (CSCs) CSC e-Governance Services India Limited organized a workshop on CSCs: Transforming India into a knowledge Society on February 19, 2013, India International Center, New Delhi from 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM. The aim of the programme was to understand the opportunities for delivering Educational services through CSC Network improve the ways to deliver adult and digital literacy programmes, explore the ways of extending school and higher education through CSCs in rural areas and explore new frontiers for delivering vocational education programmes through CSCs.

For more information, contact: cscworkshop@cscegovindia.com; Phone: 011-26532786/87 and 32928611

From Dr. E. Venkatesu, University of Hyderabad
Democratic Decentralization in India- Two Decades of Constitutional Amendments: Experiences, Issues and Challenges, 25 and 26th April 2013
With the introduction of the Constitutional amendment Acts for rural and urban local governance in India covering plain areas, schedule fifth and sixth area and Union Territories, a great deal of transformation has been taking place in terms of socio-economic profile of the elected public representatives, power dynamics, functioning of the institution, service delivery etc. It is with this background that the seminar is being organized as it seeks to understand the changing dynamics in local politics for the last two decades. To read the concept note of the event, click here.
For further details, contact Dr. E. Venkatesu at evs103@gmail.com

From Aditi Malhotra, Research Associate, UNDP India

Consultation Meeting on Participatory Local Democracy, 9 January 2013, New Delhi
As part of an international programme on Participatory Democracy, the Institute of Social Sciences organized a one-day consultation on building a global community of practice on strengthening local democracy. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. John Coonrod, The Hunger Project Washington. The objective of the consultation was to create a think tank to engage the broadest range of stakeholders in the creation of the community of practice, a shared advocacy agenda, the participatory democracy scorecard and the State of participatory Democracy Report.

One-billion Rising (OBR), held across the world, 14 February 2013
OBR is a global campaign by women, for women. The movement calls for an end to violence, and for justice and gender equality. The campaign galvanized collective action and brought together people from across the world to rise against violence against women on 14 February and spread the message of love through dancing, poetry, singing and art. For more details, see http://www.onebillionrising.org/
To view videos from various Indian cities, click Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Readings/Web links/Repositories

From Bidyut Mohanty, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
Report of a Survey on National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Panchayats
ISS conducted a survey among 400 EWRs to find out the status of NRHM and to map to what extent the panchayats are participating in the health policy. The report is available here

From Debraj Bhattacharya, Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata
New Blog, Exploring Development
Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata, has started a new initiative - a blog that hopes to explore current development practices. The idea behind this initiative is draw the attention of development practitioners towards a macro picture and to explore new questions and possibilities. The blog is also aimed at providing the general public an opportunity to understand/explore/interrogate various development issues. The blog can be accessed at http://expldev.wordpress.com/
For further details Debraj Bhattacharya at bhattacharyadebraj@yahoo.co.in

From Dr. Jacob John, NRLG & KDS, New Delhi
Launch of Network of Resource Persons on Local Government (NRLG)
With the support of Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), GoI, KDS has launched **a web enabled data base of Resource Persons on Local Government**. The data base has information disaggregated state-wise. http://www.nrlg.org NRLG will facilitate MoPR and other ministries and departments of central and state governments in using the inputs of resource persons in (a) building the capacity of elected representatives and officials of local government institutions, (b) local level planning and (c) execution of various government programmes through local government institutions.

> Database of resource persons on Local Government –
> **Log on, register and get connected!**
> http://nrlg.org/MemberRegistration.as

Accountability Initiative, Centre for Policy Research has launched its Budget Brief Series, 2013. This first batch includes 3 briefs: **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**, the country's flagship elementary education and the **Mid-Day Meal Scheme,** the world's largest school-feeding programme and the **National Rural Health Mission,** the country's flagship public health scheme. The briefs can be found here http://www.accountabilityindia.in/. Budget briefs are an annual publication that reports on the efficacy of Government of India spending on flagship social sector programmes using government -reported data. The briefs undertake basic analysis of allocation and expenditure trends and where possible, given the limitations of government data, on outputs and outcomes.

Announcements/Opportunities

From Kanta Singh, Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP
The below vacancies are under the GoI-UNDP project: 'Access to Justice for Marginalized People' (component on Legal Empowerment (LEP) and National Mission on Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms (JDLR). For those of who wish to apply, click on the position for more details:

1. **Project Coordinator**
2. **Monitoring Evaluation and Documentation Officer**
3. **Project Assistant**
4. **Project Manager Justice Delivery and Legal Reform**
5. **Project Manager Legal Empowerment**
6. **Project Officer Justice Delivery and Legal Reform**
7. **Project Officer Legal Aid and Legal Empowerment**

All positions are Delhi based and the last date to apply is 11 March 2013

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!