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Decentralization Community Update 70

June 2013



Community Activities | Updates | Announcements/Opportunities

Dear Members,

We present the 70th Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

The highlight of this newsletter is useful resources like the Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee Report that is available in 5 volumes; resources from Samarthan and from Kerala Development Society on Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Health Care System in the State of Kerala.

In this issue we also release the English and Hindi versions of the Report on the Consultation on recommendatory role for panchayats in addressing violence against women, an event that was a follow up on a query we initiated in January this year. We look forward to your comments on the same. We are also working on an action plan for to take recommendations ahead and will share that shortly.

Lastly we would also to draw your attention to multiple vacancies and invite you to participate in the global survey on participatory local democracy by Hunger Project.

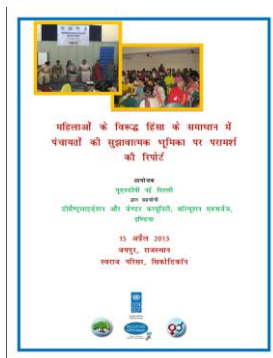
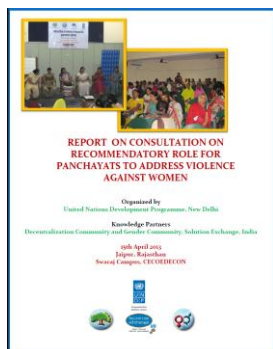
Regards,
Aditi Malhotra
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

Community Activities

Report on Consultation on Recommendatory Role for Panchayats to Address Violence Against Women: 15 April 2013; Jaipur.

**Knowledge Partners: Decentralization and Gender Solution Exchange
Supported by UNDP**

The report is available in [English](#) and [Hindi](#)



Ongoing Queries

Role of CSOs and Donors in Promoting Decentralization, from Jos Chathukulam & Joy Elamon

The query seeks experiences, case studies to redefine the role and scope of CSOs and Donors in promoting decentralization. Reply by 1st July 2013. Read the query here in [English](#) and [Hindi](#) and [JOIN!](#)

Updates

News



India wins 2013 UN Public Service Awards in 3 categories

UN Public Service Awards are given every year in recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide. Through an annual competition, the UN Public Service Awards promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service. This year India won awards in the following 3 categories:

- Category 1: Preventing and Combating Corruption in the Public Service
1st Prize: **Chief Minister's Office Mass Contact Programme (MCP)**
- Category 2: Improving the Delivery of Public Services
2nd Position: **District Administration, Dhanbad, SWAVALAMBAN**
- Category 5: Promoting Gender-Responsive Delivery of Public Services
2nd Position: **Department of Cottage and Rural Industries, GRAAMIN HAAT**

Read more [here](#)

Panchayat elections in Punjab

As many as 13,080 panchayats in Punjab will go to polls on July 3. The Punjab government in its delimitation exercise has created 81,412 wards in the state. The election commission has made arrangements for keeping two ballot boxes at every polling booth, one for the election of the sarpanch and the other for the panch. The government has also made an amendment in the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act to hold direct elections to sarpanches this time. Meanwhile the Punjab government has also announced a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh for panchayats elected unopposed.

Read more [here](#)

Karnataka urged to stop changes in Panchayat Raj Bill

The Grama Panchayat Hakkottaya Andolana has urged the state assembly that the Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2013. The bill calls for disqualification or removal of the president concerned or a member by the regional commissioner for not holding two successive meetings as proposed. Hailing these as unconstitutional and totally unacceptable, the body added that this bill clearly means to usurp the powers of the grama panchayats whose presidents and members include women representatives and representatives from marginalised communities who presently face many real challenges in performing their duties, including holding meaningful ward and grama sabhas.

Read more [here](#)

UNDP Global calls for inclusion of leaders of local governments in decision making in post-2015 framework: Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Head UNDP Democratic Governance Unit

At a recent meeting on Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLoG), Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi challenged development partners to go beyond advocating for local governments and to take more concrete actions to integrate them into decision-making processes. She also encouraged them to improve their methodologies for facilitating governance at the local level, particularly in post-conflict and fragile situations. The three-day event – where the United Nations (UNDP, UNCDF, and UN-Habitat) hosted representatives of 27 multilateral and bilateral organizations on effective multi-level governance – was

also an opportunity to assess potential entry points for integrating local governments in the Post-2015 Framework, including recognizing urban-rural linkages and synergies.
Read more [here](#)

Events

International Conference on Applied Geo-information; 16-19 December 2013; CEPT (From Anjana Vyas, Center for Environmental Planning and Technology)

CEPT University, Ahmedabad is organising an International Conference on Applied Geo-information for Society and Environment during 16-19 December, 2013. This will be followed by International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) workshop for two days on "Innovative Learning Tools 2013". For more details see, www.agse2013-cept.in

Mop-up Exercise with Women Gram Pradhan (From Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow)

Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK) carried out a Mop-up Exercise with Women Gram Pradhans. These women Gram Pradhans were those who had dropped out of the first phase of the raining so that continuity is maintained with both phases of training. The objective of the exercise was to mobilize Women Pradhan for second phase training, and ensure their participation. Under this exercise Women Pradhan individually contacted and briefed about the first phase training topics and learning. Through the exercise 100 Women Pradhan from three districts Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Sonbhadra were covered. Relatives of Women Pradhan also participated in the Mop- up session.

For further details see, <http://www.sahbhagi.org/may2013.htm>



Readings/Web links/Repositories

Mani Shankar Aiyar Committee Report on "Expert Committee on Leveraging Panchayats for Efficient Delivery of Public Goods and Services" (From TR Raghu, Bangalore)

The report was released on 24 April, 2013 on the occasion of the National Panchayat Day. The report is in 5 volumes.

- a) Volume I on Policy Issues
Available here: ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Vol_1_Towards_Holistic_Panchayat_Raj_Policy_Issues.pdf (Size:2.8MB)
- b) Volume II on Sectoral Schemes
Available here: ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Vol_2_Towards_Holistic_Panchayat_Raj_Sectoral_Schemes.pdf (Size:1.8MB)
- c) Volume III on Appendices of documents submitted to the committee and records of evidence of depositions
Available here: ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Vol_3_Towards_Holistic_Panchayat_Raj_Annexes.pdf (Size: 10.24MB)
- d) Volume IV on Activity map maps for the major Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) dealt with in Volume 2
Available here: ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Vol_4_Activity_Maps_Towards_Holistic_Panchayat_Raj.pdf (Size: 960KB)
- e) Volume V Annexes of documents submitted to the committee and records of evidence given by more than 160 persons who deposed before the Committee
Available here: ftp://ftp.solutionexchange.net.in/public/decn/resource/Vol_5_Towards_Holistic_Panchayat_Raj_Appendices.pdf (14.56MB)

The Committee was formed with the following objectives:

- a) To review the existing policy and guidelines of relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes dealing with social sector/anti-poverty programmes and to give specific recommendations: i) for an appropriate role and responsibility of Panchayats at different levels based on the principle of subsidiarity, ii) for strengthening their capacity to deliver services and iii) for making them accountable to respective Gram Sabhas.
- b) To flag the constraints that may come up in operationalizing the delivery system through the PRIs and suggest ways and means of dealing with the same.
- c) To suggest ways to incentivize States to devolve three Fs i.e Funds, Functions and Functionaries to Panchayats.

First-ever global survey on participatory local democracy (From John Coonrod, The Hunger Project)

The first-ever global survey of participatory local democracy is entering its final weeks, and requests your participation. The two-part survey (statutes and perceptions), first developed at a consultation last January at Institute of Social Sciences (ISS) New Delhi, will produce a multidimensional Participatory Democracy Index. To date, more than 500 practitioners from 64 countries have taken the 15-minute survey. Results will be published in September 2013 at the opening of the UN General Assembly.

The initiative is hoping to gather data from all Indian states. It is an initiative of The Hunger Project and the UN Democracy Fund. The survey can be found at <http://localdemocracy.net>

Resources by Samrathan (by Sharmili Basu, Samrathan, Madhya Pradesh)

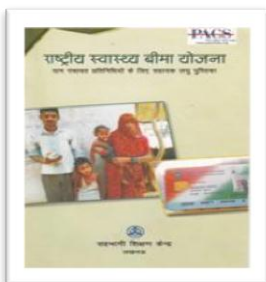
- Study to Analyze the Financial Status of Gram Panchayat in Chhatisgarh and its Current Methodology
- Migrant Register: A tool to secure rights of Migrant Worker
- A Report On Training and Mentoring Initiative between December 2011 and December 2012 for Data Managers and District Officers on 'Use of Data for Planning and Monitoring the Development Programmes' under GOI-UN Joint Convergence Programme
- Urban Update

The resources can be downloaded from [here](#)

Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Health Care System in the State of Kerala (From Jacob John, KDS, New Delhi)

Kerala Development Society (KDS) recently conducted a Study for Planning Commission of India on 'Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Health Care System in the State of Kerala'. It shows that elected representatives of PRIs in Kerala are using their powers in letter and spirit especially in the delivery of public services. In the study an assessment of the involvement of PRIs in the operation and management of a Public Health Institution is carried out using certain performance based indicators.

The study report is available at <http://planningcommission.nic.in/reports/sereport>



Information booklet on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) (From Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow)

SSK has released an information capsule on Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) for Elected Gram Panchayats representative is developed under PACS project. The booklet contains the entire implementation process of RSBY such as; about beneficiary, RSBY main characteristics, registration process, smart card issuing process, how to get benefits through RSBY smart card, and role of Gram panchayat representatives under RSBY.

For further details contact: <mailto:info@sahbhagi.org>

Pink Tide in Latin America (From Debraj Bhattacharya, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi/Kolkata)

In recent times there has been lot of interest in India regarding the left turn of Latin America. Some have argued that this is the model that the Indian parliamentary left should follow. In this context Ash Narain Roy takes an in-depth look at the phenomenon in Latin America. The link is below:

<http://expldev.wordpress.com/2013/06/12/the-pink-tide-in-latin-america-ash-narain-roy/>

Fact Finding Report: "Deaths of unnamed children: Malnutrition and Destitution among Adivasis in Kerala" (From Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP)

The report is based on a Fact Finding mission lead by Adv. Clifton D' Rozario (Advisor to Commissioners of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case: P.U.C.L. vs UoI & Ors). The report was released today at press conference held at Press club Trivandrum the report also submitted to Commissioners of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, national commission for protection of child rights and government of India.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/145486009/Final-Attappady-Report>

Announcements/Opportunities

Vacancy Announcements

[Research Assistants](#), Public Affairs Foundation (PFA), Bangalore (From Lokesh Gujjarappa, PFA)

From Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP, New Delhi

Vacancies at United Nations Development Programme

- [Programme Specialist Public Administration Reforms](#), New Delhi: Last date to apply 8th July
- [Programme Specialist Public Finance Management](#), New Delhi Last date to apply 8th July
- [Capacity Development and Documentation Officer](#), New Delhi: Last date to apply 3rd July

Requests for Proposals from Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP

- [Establish Voice-Based Legal Information Kiosks](#)
- [Training of LSA Panel Lawyers](#)
- [Training of Paralegals](#)
- [Designing Tools and Creatives for Voter Education](#)

For more information, see <http://jobs.undp.org.in/>

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

If you have items to feature in the Updates, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Decentralization Community at se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in



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