



## Decentralization Community Update 77 January 2014



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Dear Members,

We share with you the 77<sup>th</sup> Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

This newsletter shares with you news about the launch of significant policies and programmes like the National Youth Policy, the Rajasthan Good Governance Act and the completion of the Socio Economic Census etc.

Additionally significant events include the Release of the Report of MP's Financial Inclusion Model, Nagaland being the first state to release District Human Development Reports. Mahila Rajsatta Andolan's State Convention on the right to political participation.

We also request you to participate in an upcoming training workshop on the relevance and application of social policy.

Regards,  
Resource Team  
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

### Community Activities

#### [Consolidated Replies Issued](#)

**E-discussion: Relevance of Decentralization and ways to strengthen Panchayats. From Anshuman Karol, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), New Delhi. Issued on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014. Download [PDF](#)** (Size: 637KB) The e-discussion marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 73<sup>rd</sup> CAA and sought experiences, learnings and challenges of practitioners to reinvigorate and strengthen panchayats in the country.

#### [Ongoing Queries](#)

**QUERY: Using MNREGA for Building Sustainable Livelihoods. Experiences and Referrals from Ved Arya and Stutilina Pal, SRIJAN, New Delhi**

*The query seeks experiences of Members on using MNREGA to work on livelihoods through building sustainable assets. Additionally they also seek comments on "A User's Manual: Building Sustainable Livelihoods of the Poor through MGNREGA" prepared by SRIJAN and MoRD.*

**Read the query [here](#)**

**QUERY: Improving city level data management for planning. Advice and Examples from Tarun Sharma, Ecorys, New Delhi**

*The query seeks Member's inputs on type of data and indicators that are relevant to plan and monitor social development in cities. Look forward to your contributions.*

**Read the query [here](#)**

**QUERY: Creating sustainable smart villages for better governance: Experiences and Advice from Jeyaseelan N, Hand in Hand, Chennai**

*The query seeks experiences on existing model smart villages and their understanding of a framework and parameters of defining a village as SMART or model village.*

Read the query [here](#)

Please send your responses to [se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net](mailto:se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net)

## Updates

### News

#### Cabinet approves the National Youth Policy 2014

The Union Cabinet approved the National Youth Policy-2014 (NYP-2014). The vision of NYP-2014 is to empower youth to achieve their full potential, and through them enable India to find its rightful place in the community of nations. For achieving this vision, the Policy identifies five well-defined objectives and 11 priority areas and suggests policy interventions in each priority area. The priority areas are education, skill development and employment, entrepreneurship, health and healthy lifestyle, sports, promotion of social values, community engagement, participation in politics and governance, youth engagement, inclusion and social justice. Read more [here](#)

#### Government develops strategy to create social capital

The government has developed an intensive strategy to ensure social inclusion through participatory identification of the poor and universal social mobilisation. The National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) is to support implementation of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in 12 high poverty States that account for 85 per cent of the rural poor in the country. Read more [here](#)

#### Socio Economic Caste Census 2011 in Completion Stage

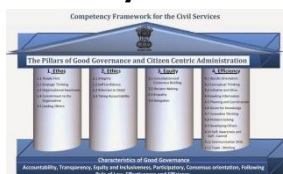


Almost two-and-a-half years after its first deadline, the Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 is finally in the completion stage with all the States including the populous one like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar wrapping up the enumeration process. The SECC is crucial since it will form the basis of several welfare and poverty alleviation schemes of the government including the public distribution system, the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana — national health insurance scheme — Indira Awaas Yojana and the ambitious Direct Benefits Transfer scheme. The survey is also expected to address the shortcomings of the 2002 BPL survey. Read more [here](#)

#### Rajasthan government to introduce Good Governance Act

Rajasthan government will introduce a new legislation for good governance, replacing the Right to Hearing Act and the Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services Act. The Good Governance Act will lay down an “innovative procedure” for promptly redressing people’s grievances. Read more [here](#)

#### The Pillars of Good Governance and Citizen Centric Administration: Final Competency Dictionary for Civil Services



DoPT had prepared [Competency Dictionary](#) for Civil Services. National Training policy (NTP) - 2012 stipulates that each Government Department / Ministry should classify all posts with a clear job description and competencies required in order to move from the current system of rule based Personnel Administration to Competency - based system of Strategic Human Resources Management. The objective of moving towards a competency based approach is to ensure that each job is performed by the person who has the required competencies for that job. Read more [here](#)

### Events

From [Democratic Governance Unit](#), UNDP, New Delhi

### **National Digital Panchayat Summit, December 6th 2013, New Delhi**

The summit was formed in a discussion-oriented format sharing the case studies around wireless network deployment and operations in India. The focus of the summit is to empower 250,000 gram panchayats by enabling them digitally. The summit also focused on making the Panchayats two-way information and content. The Summit aims to understand how panchayats can be empowered with information and content architecture created in the Web and training Panchayat people on ICT and new media tools. Read more [here](#)

### **Evaluation Report on Madhya Pradesh's financial inclusion model, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014, New Delhi**



Madhya Pradesh's financial inclusion model "Samriddhi", through which benefits of various government schemes to weaker sections are being transferred directly in their bank accounts through ultra-small banks, has been widely appreciated. The UNDP's Evaluation Report on Madhya Pradesh's financial inclusion model was released at a national workshop in New Delhi.

### **Debriefing session on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2014 at National Judicial Academy, Bhopal**

The GOI-UNDP Access to Justice Project facilitated an exposure visit for the Directors of National Judicial Academy, and select State Judicial Academies to the National Judicial Institute (NJI), Canada located in the national capital, Ottawa. The main objective of this visit was to improve the institutional capacities of key justice service providers, particularly the judiciary, to enable them to better serve marginalized people in India. This session was to debrief the Directors, Joint Directors, Registrars and Judicial Officers of the State Judicial Academies and Judicial Training Institutions on the opportunities and best practices that could be implemented and applied in the Indian context. View full report [here](#).

## **Upcoming**

### **6<sup>th</sup> State Level Convention: Mahila Rajsatta Andolan on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014** (from Bhim Raskar, Mahila Rajsatta Andolan, Maharashtra)

Mahila Rajsatta Andolan is organising its State Convention on the theme of "I don't sell my vote" in Latur, Maharashtra. MRA is working towards strengthening role of women in Local Self Governance through education, training and Policy Advocacy. The invite can viewed [here](#)

## **Readings/Web links/Repositories**

From [Resource Team](#), UNDP, New Delhi

### **Population as a Criterion for Horizontal Devolution by the 14th Finance Commission by V Bhaskar and P S Subrahmanyam**

The last seven finance commissions have used the 1971 population as a parameter for determining the shares of states. However, the ToR of the 14th FC permits it to additionally consider demographic changes since 1971. This article argues that the incremental change does not provide adequate cause for the 14th FC to depart from the path of its predecessors. Read more [here](#)

### **Microsoft Digital Panchayat Young Fellowship**

Supported by Microsoft, Digital Panchayat Youth Fellowship (DPYF) programme is an extension to the existing Digital Panchayat programme, which allows young fellows to travel and work with a cluster of panchayats at district level. The tasks of the fellows are to make elected members digitally literate and collect content from the panchayats and put them online through the Digital Panchayat website. The programme not only allows digital fellows to train panchayat members and officials in digital literacy but also gives them exposure to how panchayats work. Read more [here](#)

### **State of Global Democracy and Democracy Index**

The State of Global Democracy 2012 report finds that while some of the most oppressive parts of the world have made significant gains in democracy in the past year, the overall pace of democratic change remained stagnant in 2012. The Democracy Index analyzes 165 independent countries and two territories to show the status of regional and worldwide democracy. The index uses five criteria: electoral process and pluralism; civil liberties; the functioning of government; political participation; and political culture. Read more [here](#)

### **Corruption Perception Index**

The Corruption Perceptions Index ranks countries and territories based on how corrupt their public sector is perceived to be. A country or territory's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 - 100, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and 100 means it is perceived as very clean. A country's rank indicates its position relative to the other countries and territories included in the index. The 2013 index includes 177 countries and territories. Read more [here](#)

**CSR-Programs and Implementation: snapshots**, Lecture Series on 'Governance Issues in Public Enterprises' (from Veronica Peris, IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi)

The presentation informs on the present CSR policies and their support in the implementation of flagship programmes particularly health, education and promoting tourism. The full presentation can be seen [here](#)

**Rural Decentralization and Local Government (RDLG) Database** (from John Coonrod, Hunger Project, Washington)

The Hunger Project has released the Rural Decentralization and Local Government (RDLG) Database, which has 1600 bibliographic entries. The database includes information of books, e-journals, audios, and websites related to local decentralization. The database can be viewed [here](#)

**Decentralization** (from Taimini BK, IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi)

This article talks about the decentralization governance and a system of co-responsibility between institutions of governance at the Central, regional and Local levels, according to the Principle of 'Subsidiarity'. Decentralization contributes to key elements of 'Good- Governance', such as increasing people's opportunities for participation in Economic, Social and Political decisions; assisting in developing people's capacities; and enhancing government responsiveness, transparency and accountability. The full article can be seen [here](#)

## **Announcements/Opportunities**

**Training Workshop: Comparative and International Social Policy Theories and Methods.**

**Lessons For Research and Practice in India**, 24- 25th March 2014, O.P. Jindal Global University (From Keerti Nakray, OP Jindal Global University)

The training workshop will bring together academics, practitioners and government officials who are working on emerging social policy issues in India and the United Kingdom. Its primary aim is to provide participants with an answer to the question 'What is Social Policy?' by providing an overview of its key theoretical and methodological approaches. In particular, the workshop aims to discuss the relevance and applicability of social policy research across the Social Science disciplines to lower middle income economies – specifically India.

For more information see [here](#) or contact [indiansocialpolicy2014@gmail.com](mailto:indiansocialpolicy2014@gmail.com)

**Expression of Interest** invited from Experts on Manual Design (from J B Rajan, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, Kerala) apply by 10 February 2014

KILA is preparing Manuals on Procurement, Office Management, Performance Audit, Asset Management, Budget, Gender Budget, Planning etc, for Local Self Governance Institutions in Kerala. For more details read [here](#)

From [Democratic Governance Unit](#), UNDP, New Delhi

Vacancy Position	Job description	Last date of application
Senior Researcher, Governance and Politics (Political Participation) under Partnership with High Level Committee on Status of Women in India	For details, click <a href="#">here</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
Senior Researcher, Governance and Politics (Public Administration), under Partnership with High Level Committee on Status of Women in India - (Open to Indian Nationals only)	For details, click <a href="#">here</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2013

For more information, see <http://www.undp.org/content/india/en/home/operations/careers/>

***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](mailto:se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in)*



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