Decentralization Community
Update 81
May 2014

Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 81st Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

In this update we share highlights in the form of videos and photo essays from the election campaign under the UNDP-ECI supported project where delegates from 20 countries visited different states during all the election voting phases to learn from India's unique election experience.

Besides resources and interesting events, we also share news about MP launching web portal for panchayats to ensure transparency and Ujjain experimenting with EVMS for elections to rural and urban local bodies.

Finally do spread the word on our vacancies in Decentralized planning.

Regards,
Resource Team
Decentralization CoP, Solution Exchange

Community Activities

Ongoing Queries

➢ **Rights of Migrant Labourers in Kerala and Role of Local Government. Experiences and Advice. Reply by 6th June 2014**

Kerala Development Society (KDS) is seeking inputs on study to recommend a model of an institutional mechanism with the involvement of local government and other agencies and departments for handling migrants and their problems/ issues in Kerala.
   a. How can the state government address the needs of the migrant labourers?
   b. What steps need to be taken to avoid exploitation of migrant workers (wages, working hours, facilities etc.)?

➢ **Capacity Building and Training material on Natural Resource Management for PRIs. Reply by 15th June 2014**

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is presently running a project titled "Strengthening Capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions" (PRIs) in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP). An important focus of the project is developing capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for Natural Resource Management (NRM). To develop learning material on NRM, MoPR is seeking feedback on:
   a. Who are the potential stakeholders (institutions, consultants, NGOs, thematic experts etc) to share good practices by Panchayats on NRM?
   b. What should be the content (sub-topics) and structure of resource material for capacity building and training of PRIs on the subjects of NRM?
   c. Please share links and references to the already developed resource material on the subject.

Please send your responses to se.decn.solutionexchange@un.net

Updates

News

From Resource Team

International Election Visitors Programme

In collaboration with ECI, UNDP under the International Election Visitors Programme designed to witness the General elections 2014 in India hosted 42 delegates from 20 countries. The objective of the visit was to provide an insight into the management of elections and explore areas of mutual interest for future collaboration. The visits are spread across 4 weeks and each delegation travelled to one state. The delegation from Namibian recently visited Bangalore on 16-17 April 2014.

The delegations were exposed to witness and learn from the various steps in the management of Indian elections and to adapt, where possible to their context; to learn on voter education and participation particularly on ECI's experience in SVEEP programme (Systematic Voter Education and Electoral Participation); to witness security arrangements and preparation of conducting the world's largest election – (830 million strong electorate and a poll process managed by 11 million polling staff); to understand the use of Electronic Voter Machines (EVMs) for free and fair election and to learn about ECI's policy and election code of conduct.

VIDEOS	PHOTO ESSAYS
Himachal Pradesh http://bit.ly/1iKngZG	**India Election Diary 2014** http://bit.ly/1jwozKO
West Bengal http://bit.ly/1hqYJhI	**India Election Diary 2014: Voting in the Himalayas** http://bit.ly/1nyuJBK
Uttar Pradesh **Agra:** http://bit.ly/1m4Xnol **Varanasi:** http://bit.ly/U6E4VI	**India Election Diary 2014: Voting Young** http://bit.ly/1rGcw2N
Bangalore http:// bit.ly/1l04YI5 **Transgender right to vote** http://bit.ly/SnXF1Z	**India Election Diary 2014: Lesotho, Nigeria and Malaysia Witness Massive Administrative Convergence** http://bit.ly/ROlaSr

EVMS to be used for the first time in elections of rural and urban local bodies in Ujjain
Election of urban bodies and Panchayats will be organised with the help of electronic voting machines (EVMs) for the first time. Photo electoral lists will be prepared for conduction of polls. State Election Commission will soon initiate a programme. These directives were issued by State Election Commissioner R Parshuram during a review meeting along with collectors and CEOs of Zila Panchayat

of the division on Thursday. Parshuram sought information about difficulties they face conducting polls of urban body and Panchayats from collectors of urban bodies during divisional review meeting. **Read more here:** http://bit.ly/1hqKQ31

MP launches web portal for panchayats to ensure transparency

Madhya Pradesh has launched a web portal called *Panchayat Darpan* for village panchayats to ensure greater transparency in their functioning. The aim is to bring transparency in operations of panchayats and maintain continuous audits. According to the GoMP, the portal will enable all accounts to be maintained with full details at the Panchayat level and also available in public domain for anybody to know through the website, the amount disbursed and the works undertaken by the three tiers of panchayats. This website is still under construction.
Read more here: http://bit.ly/SnJavh

eBharath 2020: A vision for future e-Governance

The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) is being implemented for several years all over the country. The NeGP has its own strengths as the first well organized plan of the government of India for both Central and state level e-governance projects. 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) of NeGP had seen their partial successes. However, many additions such as Stakeholders Needs Analysis, Project Planning and Management, Process Reforms and Reengineering could be identified, especially in the context of technology developments. There is a need for further evolution of NeGP through several key steps. Read more at http://bit.ly/1tDMzBJ

India slips in the global rankings for freedom of the press

India has slipped down the global rankings for freedom of the press, thanks to what The Annual Index of Media Freedom called "increased interference in content by media owners in the run-up to the 2014 elections". Global press freedom has fallen to its lowest level in over a decade with India ranked 78th and belonging to countries with "partially free media". India's press freedom score declined by a point to 39 "reflecting an increased interference in content by media owners in the run-up to the 2014 elections". Read more at http://bit.ly/PVVRvK

Readings/Web links/Repositories

From Resource Team

Articulating Growth in the Urban Spectrum by Partha Mukhopadhyay, Anant Maringanti

EPW article, May 31, 2014 Vol XLIX No. 22
Growth, is occurring across the urban spectrum – a reminder of the need to move away from metro-centricity. This paper highlights different aspects of this complexity where small towns are not simple Read more at: http://bit.ly/1orgjAu

GirlsEdu: Equality and Education from the Ground Up in India by Urvashi Sahni

The article is a series is a collection of posts discussing girls' education and the challenges it faces around the world. The article presents various statistics and talks about various challenges like: crime against women; domestic violence, gender disparity, girls' education and female feticides.
Read more at http://bit.ly/1rGehCf

Events

Making Local Actions Matter: Good Practices in Decentralized Planning, Implementation and Monitoring

This publication presents five good practices emerging from the Capacity Development for Decentralized Planning (CDDP) project, covering different dimensions of planning: integrating different levels of planning, including gender sub-plans, facilitating convergence, streamlining database and managing change for effectiveness. The cases represent ground-tested solutions for addressing many of the challenges that impact the implementation of flagship programmes. Read more at http://bit.ly/1m7zlcn

SUGRAMA organises women GP members convention
SUGRAMA organised a convention where 320 gram panchayat women representatives from across the State gathered to brainstorm about ways to clinch the forthcoming panchayat elections in Karnataka. The need for raising awareness about violence against women and the demand for fast-track courts for women in the State were challenges ahead of the them, said women at the convention which was organised by SUGRAMA, a federation of elected women's representatives in the State.
Read about the convention here: http://bit.ly/1kxeJ0Q
Read about SUGRAMA here: http://www.sugrama.org/

Capacity Building for Undertaking HD Analysis and Procurement of Services in 2014 (From Swaymprabha Das, UNDP, New Delhi)
As a part of the GOI-UNDP project on Human Development towards Bridging Inequalities (HDBI), capacity development and training on various aspects of human development is an important initiative at the national level. Such consultations on HD measurements and analysis are being conducted periodically under the project with active participation from the State Governments and UT Administrations. Participants to the training programme are, largely, government officials from States and UTs, and the State Governments may suggest participants from local academic institutes, research organisation, etc. The number of participants per programme is limited to 30 and trainings will be conducted at IIT Guwahati, XIMB Bhubaneswar, ATI-Mysore and YASHADA-Pune.

Announcements/Opportunities

From Resource Team

UNDP is looking for 3 State level positions for the GoI-UNDP Project Project on "Strengthening Capacities for Decentralised Planning" to be placed at the State Planning Commissions. Apply by 10 June 2014

- State Technical Officer, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- State Technical Officer, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- State Technical Officer, Raipur, Chhattisgarh

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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
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