



Decentralization Community Update 95 July 2015



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Dear Members,

We are happy to share the 95th Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

With this update we bring news on: Government to revamp Twenty Point Programme; NITI Aayog likely to draw the line on poverty; Calculation of urban poor in SECC; Government to link NPR data with Aadhaar numbers; Finance Ministry to double allocations of Panchayati Raj Ministry; UGC asks universities to help panchayats ensure better governance; the Best District Panchayat Secretary' Award, Decline of Poverty and hunger in Himachal; Karnataka gram panchayats to go digital; Roll out Common Service Centres in Gram Panchayats in Odisha; Telangana turning panchayats into mini banks and insurance centers.

We also share some readings, web links and articles/reports on: Women in Kolkata Municipal Corporation Elections 2015; Is NREGS significantly reducing poverty?; Best Practices in Panchayats; Economic Conditions Snapshot, June 2015: McKinsey Global Survey results; Limits of the SECC Data; Socio-Economic Census makes case for Rural Incomes beyond Farming; From famine to food basket: how Bangladesh became a model for reducing hunger.

Some of the events that took place in the past were: Policy Round Table on Direct Benefits or Basic Income Transfers – Improving Service Delivery to the Poor; Seminar on Liberalism and Changing Conceptions of American Peoplehood in the 20th and 21st Centuries; Write-shop for participatory planning for GP development Plan; National Round-Table Meeting on Basic Sanitation in Rural India: Future Vision and Road Map for Swachh Bharat.

Readers are requested to participate in the events of their interest which are scheduled in the coming months like: Management Development Programme (MDP) at IRMA, Anand, Gujarat and Training programme on Enhancing Competence of Trainers at IIHMR Jaipur. We request members to spread the word on the vacancy announcements.

Members are also requested to share their inputs to the ongoing discussion on the New National Education Policy and Role of local governments in addressing the problems of transgenders.

The link to the online membership is now active and new members can submit their request for joining the community online through the following link <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/signup>

We thank all the members for their contribution towards this edition and hope you find this update interesting.

Regards,
Naveen Das
Resource Person
Decentralization CoP
Solution Exchange

Community Activities

Ongoing Query

- **Discussion: New National Education Policy** by Shakila Shamsu, Officer on Special Duty (NEP), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

Since the modification in the National Education Policy in 1992, several changes have taken place in the Education System of the country necessitating a revision of the existing education policy. To accommodate those changes and to meet the changing requirements with regard to quality education, innovation and research, the Government of India (GoI) has decided to develop a New National Education Policy. The aim of the policy is to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge.

For this, the MHRD-GoI, has decided to hold consultative processes across India starting from Gram/Village to National Level on the components of School Education and Higher Education, separately. The objective of the consultation process is to ensure that an inclusive, participatory and holistic approach is undertaken. It will take into consideration expert opinion, field experiences, empirical research, and stakeholder's feedback particularly from decentralized planners and people working with panchayati raj institutions.

Inputs from members of Climate Change, Decentralization, Disaster Management and Microfinance Communities of Practice of Solution Exchange, United Nations, is sought on this issue of national importance. In this query consultations will be on the [13 themes of School Education](#) and in the subsequent query we will discuss Higher Education.

Members are requested to click the thematic links that are of interest and provide inputs to the questions and issues raised.

1. [Ensuring Learning Outcomes in Elementary Education](#);
2. [Extending outreach of Secondary and Senior Secondary Education](#);
3. [Strengthening of Vocational Education](#);
4. [Reforming School Examination systems](#);
5. [Re-vamping Teacher Education for Quality Teachers](#);
6. [Accelerating Rural Literacy Women, SCs, STs and Minorities](#);
7. [Promotion of ICT Systems in School and Adult Education](#);
8. [New Knowledge pedagogies and approaches for teaching of Science, Maths and Technology](#);
9. [School standards, assessment and School management systems](#);
10. [Enabling Inclusive Education –SCs, STs, Girls, Minorities and children with special needs](#);
11. [Promotion of Languages](#);
12. [Comprehensive Education Ethics, Physical Education, Arts and Crafts, Life Skills](#);
13. [Focus on Child Health](#).

Please also share experiences and best practices both nationally and internationally that can be adapted / replicated in the Indian context.

Member's inputs and views would help in a wider engagement and thereby contribute to a participatory policy formulation.

Read the full query [here](#)

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

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- **Role of local governments in addressing the problems of transgenders. Example**

and Experiences. From Jacob John, Kerala Development Society (KDS), New Delhi

Transgender (TG) is a person who chooses to identify himself/herself with a gender different from the one at birth (biologically). The members of the transgender community are treated differently in our society. The incidences of harassment, violence and sexual assault in public places, has led to the violation of human rights and discrimination in the field of education, employment, health-care, voting and contesting elections.

There have been efforts to bring TGs to the mainstream of development in our country. The Supreme Court of India passed a landmark judgment granting constitutional recognition to transgender as the "third gender", on 15th April 2014.

To improve the situation of transgender in our country and to bring them to the mainstream development, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has assigned a research study to Kerala Development Society (KDS), Delhi. The study will cover the profile of transgender as a third gender encompassing important socio-economic variables. To strengthen the study, we seek inputs from members of the decentralization community on the followings:

- What are the various entitlements given to transgender community by Union and State governments at different levels in sectors such as education, health, employment, food, pension and in economic activities for self-reliance?
- What are the problems faced by them in accessing the entitlements, given at present?
- What steps can the Local Self Governments (Municipality and Panchayati Raj Institutions) take to address the human rights violation of transgenders?
- Suggest capacity building programmes to improve the skills of transgenders for employment opportunities.

In addition to the above, we request Members to share national and international good practices addressing human rights violation of TGs.

Members' contribution will feed into the study and inputs will be duly acknowledged in the document.

Read the full query [here](#)

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

Updates

News

From [Resource Person](#)

Government set to revamp poverty eradication 'Twenty Point Programme'

Government is all set to revamp and rename the Twenty Point Programme-a poverty eradication initiative. At present, the Twenty Point Programme tracks progress of each state under schemes such as job creation, urban poor families, food security, number of houses constructed for economically weaker sections, electrification of villages, number of seedlings planted, roads constructed under Prime Minister's Gramin Sadak Yojana, food security and number of self-help groups promoted. These indicators will be changed and the scheme is likely to be tracked state-wise and at all-India basis.

Read more [here](#)

NITI Aayog likely to draw the line on poverty

A high-powered taskforce on poverty elimination, constituted under vice-chairman of NITI Aayog is expected to favour the need for a poverty line for comparing their impact of government programmes on the lives of lower strata of society over a period of time. However, the taskforce is likely to leave the responsibility of calculating that number open-ended.

Read more [here](#)

In SECC urban BPL calculation, room to include more 'poor'

Almost 35% of urban households live below the poverty line (BPL), according to data from the first Social Economic and Caste Census (SECC). An analysis of the numbers and methodology, shows that up to 56% of households could qualify to be included in the broader category of urban poor.

Read more [here](#)

Government chalks out Rs 951 crore budget to link NPR data with Aadhaar numbers

The Centre will begin a mammoth exercise to revisit 25 crore households across the country to seed Aadhaar numbers into the National Population Register (NPR) database and update the NPR data. The exercise is expected to finally link the NPR with Aadhaar data and will be completed by March 2016.

Read more [here](#)

Panchayati Raj's debt issues to end as Finance Ministry decides to double allocations

Reeling under debilitating budget cuts, the panchayati raj ministry has got a new lease of life. The finance ministry has decided to double its allocation and earmark an additional Rs 1,000 crore under different heads. The ministry had made a strong pitch that it be given budget to fund training programmes for panchayat level workers and build resource centres at block and district levels.

Read more [here](#)

UGC asks DAVV to help panchayats ensure better governance

University grant commission (UGC) has directed Devi Ahilya Bai University to select rural local bodies as areas of interest for academic projects and also collaborate with students and professors to improve service delivery at panchayat-level and to ensure better governance. Citing a government scheme called e-panchayat, UGC has asked the university to rope in their geography department for capacity building and hand holding of the scheme.

Read more [here](#)

What do Panchayats spend money on?

According to an Indiaspend analysis of panchayat budgets, every panchayat spent Rs 189 per capita on an average - between 2007-08 and 2012-13, on roads and Rs 130 per capita on community assets. Little money is being spent on water supply (Rs 73), sanitation (Rs 24) and other services like streetlights (Rs 10). Total expenditure has increased 104 per cent, from Rs 309 per capita in 2007-08 to Rs 631 per capita in 2012-13

Read more [here](#)

Himachal allots Rs.414 crore for panchayats

The Himachal Pradesh government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the Panchayati Raj institutions and has set aside a budget of Rs.414 crore for them this year. All panchayats in the state have been computerized to ensure smooth and effective execution of their day-to-day functioning, besides bringing more transparency and responsiveness to them. The computerisation has proved helpful in maintaining accounts and records.

Read more [here](#)

Poverty and hunger decline in Himachal: Report

Poverty and hunger headcount ratio in Himachal Pradesh declined sharply to 8.06 percent in 2011-12, surpassing the 2015 target of 19.36 per cent. This was revealed in the 'Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report of Himachal Pradesh' brought out by the Department of Economics and Statistics. The poverty and hunger headcount ratio in Himachal Pradesh declined from 34.6 per cent in 1993-94 to 8.06 percent in 2011-12 while the capita consumption and living standard of the households improved.

Read more [here](#)

Karnataka gram panchayats to go digital

As many as 5,807 gram panchayats in Karnataka, including block headquarters in the state will be equipped with rural Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) under the 'Digital India' - BharatNet Fibre project. The centre-state initiative is likely to be completed by the end of the year. It will focus on facilitating the delivery of e-governance, e-health, e-education, e-governance, e-banking and internet services to rural India under the Digital India programme.

Read more [here](#)

Odisha government to roll out Common Service Centres in Gram Panchayats

The State Government of Odisha has decided to roll out Common Service Centres in gram panchayats (GPs). The Common Service Centre (CSC), known as Jana Seva Kendra, started in 2006 under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) to deliver Government to citizen (G2C), business to citizen (B2C), Government to business (G2B) and business to business (B2B) services. Though the Government had set a target to set up 8,558 CSCs across the State, so far, about 2,500 CSCs are operating.

Read more [here](#)

Grama Jyoti: onus on panchayats in village-level planning

The 'Grama Jyoti' programme to be launched by Telangana government on August 15 seeks to tether plans pertaining to at least six to seven departments to the village panchayat, and hold the latter accountable for their successful implementation. As per the programme, panchayats will be empowered to decide on the plans pertaining to Health, Education, Infrastructure, Sanitation and Drinking Water, Natural Resource Management, Social Security and Poverty Alleviation, with approval by 'Grama Sabhas' (village meets) held once in three months. Functional committees will be formed at panchayat level on various subjects, which will draw plans thereof.

Read more [here](#)

Telangana to turn panchayats into mini banks, insurance centres

The Telangana government will convert about 8,650 panchayat offices in the State into mini banks and mini insurance service centres. The State, which announced a plan to turn panchayats into e-panchayats, will provide all the government-to-citizen (G2C) services over the Internet to the villagers at the Digital Telangana centres. Besides providing citizen services online, these centres would act like business correspondents, giving people access to a few banking activities.

Read more [here](#)

Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2015 Update and MDG Assessment released

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) released the report titled "Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water: 2015 Update and MDG Assessment". The report has been prepared by WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP).

Read more [here](#)

Communication campaign of the Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Project-KLGSDP (from [Shamla Edathil](#))

Panchayat and Social Welfare Minister for Kerala State released a logo of 'Thaddesamithram', newly launched communication campaign of the Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Project (KLGSDP) under the Panchayat Department. Under the project Rs.1,012 will be disbursed as grant to grama panchayats and municipalities over four years.

Read more [here](#)

The Best District Panchayat Secretary' Award (from [Balamurali CV](#), Kerala)

Mr. K. Anil Kumar, Secretary of Kollam district panchayat, has won the maiden 'Best District Panchayat Secretary' award of the State government. Mr Anil Kumar gets the award for the performance registered by the Kollam district panchayat during the fiscal 2013-14. During the period the Kollam district panchayat registered the highest utilization of funds among district panchayats in the State.

Read more [here](#)

Readings/Web links/Repositories

Women in KMC Elections 2015 an article by Archana Ghosh (from [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata)

The article analyses the women candidates in the recently held Kolkata Municipal Election. It says that women's political representation in local bodies became a matter of great interest among academics and policy makers ever since the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment came into being in 1992, according to which one third seats in all ULBs were reserved for women. The article attempts to create an alternative media space for serious interventions on development issues affecting India.

Read more [here](#)

Is NREGS significantly reducing poverty? (by [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata)

MGNREGS is the most important rural development scheme that has been in operation since 2006. World Bank has said that it is the world's largest public works programme. The scheme, following from the Rural Employment Guarantee Act, is India's answer to the problem of endemic rural unemployment. With this background the article is a piece of analyses of the data of 5 poor states of north India to understand how much are the beneficiaries earning on an average per year and per month. The data have been taken from the official website.

Read more [here](#)

Best Practices in Panchayats (From [Jos Chathukulam](#), Kerala)

Social Sector Service Delivery: Good Practices Resource Book 2015 showcases good practices by States and Union Territories in ensuring better public service delivery in the country. The publication is a joint effort of NITI Aayog, Government of India and UNDP.

Read more [here](#)

From [Resource Person](#)

Economic Conditions Snapshot, June 2015: McKinsey Global Survey results

According to McKinsey's latest global economic survey, executives in emerging markets have grown less optimistic about the state of their home economies than they were in 2014 and have been more downbeat overall this year than their developed-market peers. In a snapshot of disjointed sentiments from region to region, optimism among executives in developed Asia and North America has faded over the past three months, those in India remain the most bullish, and respondents in Latin America continue to be the most downbeat about domestic economic conditions.

Read more [here](#)

Limits of the SECC Data

The article analyses limitation of recently released Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011. It points out that the SECC will turn out to be most useful only if the socio-economic component of the data is used for the specific purposes for which it was collected

Read more [here](#)

Socio-Economic Census makes case for Rural Incomes beyond Farming

The article points out that despite some limitations and drawbacks; the SECC remains an extremely valuable data source for policy makers. It says that there has been limited discussion on relevant policy questions that the SECC raises. We must evaluate whether our present policies are in sync with the status quo presented by the SECC. We need to look beyond caste data and give due attention to the socio-economic dimension of the study.

Read more [here](#)

From famine to food basket: how Bangladesh became a model for reducing hunger (by Howard LaFranchi, Monitor's Washington bureau)

Four decades ago, the newly formed and desperately poor South Asian nation of Bangladesh saw its already-high levels of extreme poverty and chronic hunger skyrocket with floods, leading to the Bangladesh famine of 1974. A recent United Nations report on global hunger highlights Bangladesh

for having cut chronic hunger by more than half since 2000. The report which finds that the number of hungry people worldwide has fallen to 795 million from 1 billion in 1990 cites Bangladesh as one of a number of bright spots in a global effort to eradicate hunger by 2030. Bangladesh is one of three success stories of the last 10 to 15 years – Ethiopia and Nepal are the other two.

Read more [here](#)

Past Events

Policy Round Table: Direct Benefits or Basic Income Transfers – Improving Service Delivery to the Poor - 2 and 3 July 2015, New Delhi

The two-day Roundtable discussion 'Direct Benefit and Basic Income Transfers' is being organized by the International Centre for Human Development (IC4HD) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme. The discussion was focussed on; Public Distribution System and Cash Transfers; State-level Experiences in Pursuing Food Security; Is a Basic Income Transfer Possible in India?; Potential for Cash Transfers in India.

Read more [here](#)

Writershop for participatory planning for GP development Plan from 8-13 July at KILA, Thrissur, Kerala)

Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India organized a 5 days National Writershop workshop on Participatory Planning. The objective of the Writershop was to: Develop State Guidelines on Participatory Planning for Annual GP Development Plan and Develop Training strategy for rollout of State Action plan for Participatory Planning. It provided a good opportunity for delegates of all the states to chalk out a village development plan which is appropriate and doable in the local context. Field visits to the model GPs made it possible for the participants to have an on the spot knowledge sharing on Kerala Model of participatory planning.

Seminar on Liberalism and Changing Conceptions of American Peoplehood in the 20th and 21st Centuries on 15 July 2015 at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

Centre for Policy Research organized a seminar on 'Liberalism and Changing Conceptions of American Peoplehood in the 20th and 21st Centuries'. Prof Rogers Smith was the speaker at the event. Rogers Smith is Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professor of Political Science; Dean for Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania. He is one of the foremost Scholars of American Constitutional Law, American Political Thought and American Identity.

Upcoming Events

National Round-Table Meeting on 'Basic Sanitation in Rural India: Future Vision and Road Map for Swachh Bharat' (by [Dornadula Sundar Ram](#), Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, Tirupati)

Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), a registered research foundation at Tirupati, is going to organize a National Round-Table Meeting on 'Basic Sanitation in Rural India: Future Vision and Road Map for Swachh Bharat', on 20 August, 2015 at Hotel Bliss, Tirupati, in conjunction with the 13th Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture and conferment of the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi National Awards.

Read more [here](#)

Management Development Programme (MDP) August 2015 at IRMA, Anand, Gujarat (from [Baljeet Singh](#), Institute of Rural Management Anand -IRMA)

This MDP is designed on Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Alleviation. This programme is intended for senior/middle level development professionals and for all those who are concerned about the management of poverty alleviation and safety net programs for the poor. Professionals working on issues of food security and livelihoods can also enrich their knowledge through this program. Representative from government departments/agencies, donor agencies, corporate houses engaged in corporate social responsibility and public private partnerships, NGOs, farmer organizations,

activists, researchers and academicians stand to benefit from the program. Request the interested members to kindly join the MDP. Nomination forms are available [here](#) and brochure [here](#)

Nominations for training programme on Enhancing Competence of Trainers (from [Nutan P. Jain](#) IIHMR University, Jaipur)

IIHMR is organizing a training program on "Enhancing Competence of Trainers" from September 7, 2015 at its Jaipur campus. The program is designed primarily for those who are already trainers or responsible for managing training programs at various levels. It will enhance competence of the trainers and training managers as it will use appropriate method-mix pedagogy. Request the interested members to kindly attend / spread the word. The details of program rationale, objectives, contents, participants' profile, and fees can be obtained [here](#).

Announcements/Opportunities

From [Resource Person](#)

UNDP

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Re-advertisement - Individual Consultant -To Work on National Pool of Trainers on Gender (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	6-August-2015	New Delhi
Individual Consultant - Development of State-specific Compendium – Chhattisgarh (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	9-August-2015	Home Based
Programme Analyst (EVAW & WEE)	9-August-2015	New Delhi
Programme Assistant	9-August-2015	New Delhi
UNV Administrative and Management Associate (For Indian Nationals Only)	12-August-2015	Mumbai
Project Executive (Management Information System) Indira Awaas Yojana, GOI-UNDP Project "Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods Support" (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	13-August-2015	Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi
Technical Officer (Construction Technologies) Indira Awaas Yojana, GOI-UNDP Project "Governance and Accelerated Livelihoods Support" (Open to Indian Nationals Only)	13-August-2015	Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi

UNWOMEN

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Programme Analyst - Governance Programme	12-August-2015	New Delhi

UNOPS

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Technical Officer – Equality and Non-Discrimination: UNOPS	07-Aug-2015	New Delhi
Technical Officer – Knowledge and Learning: UNOPS	07-Aug-2015	New Delhi

UNICEF

Job Title	Deadline	Location
Nutrition Specialist	10-August-2015	Bihar

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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