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Decentralization Community Update 68 April 2013



Community Activities | Updates | Announcements/Opportunities

Dear Members,

We present the 68th Update on Decentralization Community of Practice!

We thank all the members for participating in the **e-activities** under the **Run up to the 20 years of Decentralization in India**. We are in the process of compiling together the stories and results of the survey and will be posting the same soon. Watch out for this space!

With this issue we bring together highlights of the release of the Global Human Development Report; the first ever hackathon organized by Planning Commission on the Twelfth Five year Plan and good news about the annual awards received by best performing Panchayats announced on the occasion of the Panchayat Day on 24 April 2013. In addition to the new resources, this issue announces opportunities for two awards mBillionth award in mobile technologies promoting development and the Social Entrepreneur award for 2013.

Finally, we invite you to widely share the multiple vacancy announcements!!

Regards,

Swati Dogra and Aditi Malhotra,
Resource Team

Community Activities



1. Run up to the 20 years of Decentralization in India

To commemorate 20 years of the 73rd Amendment in India, we launched 3 activities:

- Survey** to map perceptions, thoughts on the relevance and significance of decentralization in India. We received 23 responses
- Stories of Change**: Collation of Stories of elected leaders, activists engaged in making decentralization effective and a reality in India. We received video clips, stories from across the country.
- E-discussion: Relevance of decentralization in India and ways to strengthen Panchayats; e-discussion; from Anshuman Karol, PRIA, Delhi** - Provides a space for members to share experiences, successes, failures, look at opportunities and talk about the roadblocks vis-à-vis decentralization. This e-discussion was a space for Members to "say it out". Closed on 25th April 2013. Based on the responses received, we will be posting the survey results, releasing the stories of change and initiating a new e-discussion on **Role of Civil Society Organizations and Donors in strengthening Decentralization in India Experiences; Advice**.

2. Consolidated Replies Issued

Linking Grassroots Practitioners in Knowledge Sharing Processes; Experiences; Examples Strategies; from Prema Gera, UNDP, India; Issued on 11th April 2013. For PDF version of Consolidated Reply, [click here](#). The query seeks inputs on various innovative mechanisms and technologies that facilitate to and fro process of knowledge sharing for grassroots practitioners. The query invited suggestions on cultural, technological and linguistic shifts that need to be made in order to take knowledge sharing to the grassroots.

3. Events

Consultation on Recommendatory Role for Local Governments to address Violence against Women (VAW), 15 April 2013, Jaipur

The Consultation was organized to take the e-discussion on Recommendatory Role for Local Governments to address Violence against Women (VAW) initiated by the Gender and Decentralization Solution Exchange in January 2013 ahead. It brought together respondents, activists, experts, Panchayat representatives to help chart recommendations for addressing VAW through local governments. The objective was to provide a platform for Panchayat representatives to share cases where Panchayats have demonstrated a proactive role in supporting access to justice and awareness generation regarding VAW and the support the Panchayats would receive in accomplishing the same. Out of 75 participants, 30 were elected representatives from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The CSO/NGO representatives, legal and academic experts as well as local activists along with elected representatives shared their experiences and brainstormed on possible ways forward. *We will be sharing the consultation report shortly.*

Updates

News

Comptroller and Auditor General of India issues reports on MGNREGA

The Report is the second performance audit of the implementation of MGNREGA in response to a request of the Ministry of Rural Development from APRIL 2007-March 2012. The research for the report was conducted in 3848 gram panchayats in 28 states and 4 union territories. The report is available to read at: http://saiindia.gov.in/english/home/Our_Products/Audit_Report/Government_Wise/union_audit/recent_reports/union_performance/2013/Civil/Report_6/Report_6.html. Click [here](#) to read an in-depth analysis of the report

Planning Commission organizes Hackathon on the Twelfth Five Year Plan

To spread awareness about the Twelfth Plan, The Planning Commission organized a Hackathon on 6-7th April, 2013. The event involved programmers from IIT's and IISCs to develop web and mobile applications to "support the initiatives outlined in the plan or educate about the focus area of the plan". The 32-hour marathon event was held in ten locations across the country and saw a total of 217 submissions from over a thousand participants. Its inaugural session was an interactive session where the Deputy Chairman, Planning Montek Singh Ahluwalia answered questions of the students and academicians. Read more <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=94555>



Regional launch of the 2013 Global Human Development Report, India International Centre

The launch of the Human Development Report in India was organized by UNDP and the International Centre for Human Development on 11th April 2013 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The launch of the report in India was accompanied by a panel discussion by Montek Singh Ahluwalia (Planning Commission, India), Ajay Chhibber (UNDP Asia and the Pacific), Prof. Peter Ronald deSouza (Indian Institute of Advanced Study), Prof. Bina

Agarwal, University of Manchester and Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Centre for Policy Dialogue in Bangladesh. Read more on the event, [here](#); See the video on Key Highlights: Regional Launch of the 2013 Human Development Report [here](#)

On the occasion of Panchayat Diwas on 24th April 2013:

Prime Minister calls for giving responsibilities and power to panchayats in real terms

The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurated the National conference to celebrate the National Panchayati Raj Day at Vigyan Bhawan. Speaking at the event, the PM said that the purpose of decentralization was that the citizens have a hand in administrative decision making at the local level. However this would only be enabled with transfer of real responsibilities and powers to elected representatives and not just in name. Read [more](#)

Annual Awards given to panchayats

On the occasion of National Panchayat Day, awards were conferred upon the best performing Panchayats under the 'Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme' (PEAIS) and 'Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar' (RGGSP) scheme. Under the Cumulative Panchayat Strengthening Index Awards (PSI) Awards 1st Prize is won by Maharashtra, while 2nd Prize is bagged by Karnataka, 3rd Prize Kerala and 4th Prize Tripura. Under the Incremental PSI Awards 1st Prize is won by Karnataka, 2nd Prize Rajasthan, 3rd Prize Maharashtra and 4th Prize is won by Odisha

See the press release <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=95004>

Upcoming events

International Conference on Trafficking of Young Women and Children, 3rd – 7th September, Melaka, Malaysia (From: Varsha Ajmera, World Youth Foundation, Malaysia)

World Youth Foundation is hosting the International Conference on Trafficking of Young Women and Children. The conference will bring together a vast array of participants including representatives from youth organizations, institutions of higher learning, civil society organizations to come together and to raise awareness formulate joint actions and improve mechanisms and build capacities to prevent and combat human trafficking among young women and children. The International Conference will be output-oriented and will focus on collective reflection rather than on presentations of individual projects. The Provisional Programme, Application Form, FAQ, Call for Participation and Payment Details can be found at www.wyf.org.my

Applications invited for India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2013 (From Radhika Kaul Batra, UNDP India)



The Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, in collaboration with the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, is inviting applications for the India Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2013. The Award identifies and celebrates visionary social entrepreneurs who have demonstrated large-scale, systems-change models and are at the stage of scaling/replicating their ideas across India and in other countries. For eligibility criteria and application process, click [here](#). The deadline for receiving applications is 31 May, 2013.

Capacity Building Program with Field Exposure in "Community Driven Development" (CDD) 15 - 27th July, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh (From Murali Thangam, UNDP, India)

The program consists of both theoretical and practical aspects of various approaches and tools for community development. The participants will also be exposed to Bala Vikasa development approaches proven to be successful in the field. The details of the course content, objectives etc. are specified in the enclosed brochure. Application form can be downloaded from www.balavikasa.org For further details, see [brochure](#)

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

Annual Budget Endowment Lecture, 30th April, Bangalore

Prof. M.S. Sriram from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore would deliver the Annual Budget Endowment Lecture on 'Banking and the Budget: Examining the Linkages' at the Institute of World Culture, Bangalore. The lecture would focus on the Banking Sector in India, their role in the current Indian economy and the agenda of inclusion while examine the provisions related to these issues in this year's annual Union Budget.



Inviting nominations for mBillionth Award to honour excellence in mobile communications in South Asia

The mBillionth Award was instituted realizing the need of creating a benchmark in best innovations of mobile applications, service delivery and mobile instrument. The awards promote mobile technologies for efficient governance, rural development and betterment of masses.

The awards honour mobile communications excellence in South Asia across 12 categories: Health, Travel and Tourism, Governance, Infrastructure, Entertainment, Business and Commerce Banking, Inclusion, Education and Learning, Culture and Heritage, Environment, News and Journalism and Women and Children. Further details can be found at <http://mbillionth.in/about-us/>

Mobiles for Social & Behavioral Change in India, May 9 – 10, 2013, UNICEF and Digital Empowerment Foundation

The Consultation 'Mobiles for Social & Behavioural Change in India' intends to map key issues in communication for development, role of mobile tools and applications in communication empowerment, learn-share-hear from best practitioners using mobile tools. As an outcome, both pre and post, it intends to bring out a white paper on usage of mobiles in India for social and behavioural change (SBC) which will also highlight key policy and implementation aspects of the same for further follow up and action.

For further details see, <http://defindia.net/unicef-india-consultation/> or Contact Ms. Ritu Srivastava

Past Events

Panchayats, rights, and survival of a girl child, 23-24th April, Constitution Club, New Delhi (From Bidyut Mohanty, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi)

The two day event was organized by Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi to celebrate its twentieth women's political empowerment day. The event was marked by lectures by scholars working on the issues of gender justice and panchayats in India along with cultural programme and participation by 500 EWRs from different parts of India.

3rd International Summit on Skill Development, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (From Kishor Kher, Kherwadi Social Welfare Association, Mumbai)

The event was organized by Yuva Parivartan and focused on "SKILL" Skilling, Inclusion, Literacy and Livelihood.

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

National Round Table on 'Two Decades of Panchayati Raj – The Search for Support', 19 April, New Delhi

As part of developing a concept document on 'Non-governmental Support System for Local Governments in India', Intercooperation organized a roundtable at Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. The roundtable was initiated as part of the SDC-LoGIn.

Global MDG Conference (GMC), 27-28 February in Bogota, Colombia

The conference brought together over 180 participants from about 40 countries, including representatives from 18 UN agencies, several governments, media, civil society and academia. The objective of the conference was to maintain the momentum for accelerating progress to 2015, while taking stock of lessons learned from efforts to achieve the MDGs and help inform the development agenda beyond 2015.

Readings/Web links/Repositories

Learning resources and audio clip on Implementation of Right to Information Act, 2005 (From Krishna Dhirendra, Independent Consultant)

The lecture was delivered on "Implementation of Right to Information Act 2005 in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department" at the Institute of Public Auditor of India on 8th April 2013. The event was held to discuss the RTI Act as an important enactment leading to empowerment of citizens, effective public accountability and transparency in decentralized public authorities. This was significant as the Indian Audit and Accounts Department supports the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in fulfilling his duties under the Constitution of India. The lecture was about the role of Comptroller and Auditor General of India in ushering in effective implementation of RTI Act and setting an example in the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD). The [lecture](#) and [audio clip](#) are available for further reading.

Online Community on Gender and Evaluation (From Rituu Nanda, Gender and Evaluation, New Delhi)

The project aims to strengthen understanding of the gendered implications of policies and programmes and to enable the formulation of more gender sensitive approaches to evaluation. The community aims at the 'doings' of evaluations as well as reflecting on the practices of evaluation and build a wider network of people interested in feminist approaches to evaluation. The community can be accessed at <http://gendereval.ning.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/EngenderingPolicyThroughEvaluation?fref=ts>

Concept papers on Local Governance and Peer Learning: Setu Abhiyan (From Veena Mahor, Setu Abhiyan)

Setu Abhiyan would like to share concept papers with the Decentralization CoP. These papers were developed for the NASSCOM Social Innovation Honours, Techawards and Millenium alliance award.

- ♦ [Local Governance and Support System](#)
- ♦ [Village Governance Fund](#)
- ♦ [Peer Learning through Networking and Sharing](#)

Blogposts: Exploring Development (From [Debraj Bhattacharya](#), Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi/Kolkata)

In our new post, Ajan Ckarabarti of St Joseph's College, Darjeeling, explores the development process and its contradictions in Sikkim. While acknowledging the impressive and speedy development of Sikkim over the last three decades he also shows certain areas of concern that Sikkim would have to overcome in the coming years. The link is below: <http://expldev.wordpress.com/>

Badhte Kadam (From Amit Kumar Shahi, Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Uttar Pradesh)

As part of their work on protection and security of rights of migrants, SSK has issued a bi-annual newsletter. The newsletter brings together highlight of their experiences in two blocks of Sitapur district and five urban locations of Ghaziabad where they have been working for the last three years. This is the first edition of their newsletter, here is wishing SSK best successes in their work and look forward to read more updates of their work.

Read the newsletter [here](#)



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

Report on Violence against Dalit Women in India: PRIA

This report seeks to highlight the insights gained PRIA's Violence Against Dalit Women project in Haryana. The report details field experiences based on a interface meetings with community members and members of local governance institutions/committees and an extensive study of 20 villages and 2 wards of Sonapat district over a period of one year. The report is available to read here:

<http://www.pria.org/publication/Violence%20Against%20Dalit%20Women%20final%20report.pdf>

Rural Voices Conference, May 3-4, UN Office, New Delhi: IRRAD and UNESCO

The objectives of the conference are to highlight the freedom of expressions in media; outline the social responsibility of media; share and learn from various alternate media models and practices; reflect on ways in which media could help transform lives in rural and less accessible areas.

Panchayati Raj Or Collector Raj?

The article reviews the vision and success of panchayats as units of self-government after 66 years of independence. Read the article [here](#)



Be Bart of the My World Survey

MY World is a global survey for citizens led by the United Nations and partners. It aims to capture people's voices, priorities and views, so that global leaders can be informed as they begin the process of defining the new development agenda for the world. MY World asks individuals which six

of sixteen possible issues they think would make the most difference to their lives. The sixteen issues have been built up from the priorities expressed by poor people in existing research and polling exercises and they cover the existing Millennium Development Goals, plus issues of sustainability, security, governance and transparency. Take the survey here <http://www.myworld2015.org/#>

Announcements/Opportunities

Head of Field Unit, Prakriye, IT for Change (From Murali Thangam, UNDP, India)

IT for Change (www.ITforChange.net) is looking for a dynamic, young leader, passionate about social justice and community-based work to head the field centre at Mysore called 'Prakriye' in Mysore, Karnataka. For further details, see http://www.itforchange.net/field_centre

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

For further details, see <http://jobs.undp.org.in/>

Job Title	Description	Last Date
Programme Analyst, Public Finance Management	Programme Analyst Public Finance Management	17-05-13
Programme Analyst, Public Administration Reforms	Programme Analyst Public Administration Reforms	17-05-13
Programme Officer and Resource Person, Decentralization Community	Programme Analyst and Resource Person Decentralisation Community	17-05-13
Individual Consultant Procurement	Individual Consultant Procurement	13-05-13
Programme Executive (Financial Inclusion), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive Financial Inclusion NRLM	10-05-13
Programme Executive (Governance and Accountability), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive Governance and Accountability NRLM	10-05-13
Programme Executive (Innovations), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive Innovations NRLM	10-05-13
Programme Executive (NTFP), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive NTFP NRLM	10-05-13
Programme Executive (Social Development), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive Social Development NRLM	10-05-13

Programme Executive (Sustainable Agriculture), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)	Programme Executive Sustainable Agriculture NRLM	10-05-13
Software Developer	Software Developer	02-05-13
Assistant Lotus Notes Developer	Assistant Lotus Notes Developer	10-05-13
Programme Analyst, Natural Resources	Programme Analyst Natural Resources	02-05-13
UN Local Security Associate, United Nations Department of Safety & Security (UNDSS)	UN Local Security Associate	02-05-13

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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