

Data for Good Exchange 2021 India

Data Matters

Enabling Data
Empowerment for
India's Most Vulnerable

LANDSCAPE STUDY, JANUARY 2021

Bloomberg



societal
PLATFORM

#D4GX

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Bloomberg

Bloomberg has partnered with Dasra to launch Data for Good Exchange in India in 2021.

Data for Good Exchange forms part of a long Bloomberg tradition of advocacy for using data science and human capital to solve problems at the core of society. Since 2014, Bloomberg has been hosting the annual Data for Good Exchange (D4GX) conference on applications of data science to problems related to the social good. This forum has enabled participants from academia, industry, government and NGOs to share insights and progress on how best to apply modern machine learning and data science methods to solve problems in the public and non-profit sectors.

Data for Good Exchange India will focus on a series of thought leadership conversations culminating in the D4GX conference. The pandemic has prompted an increased interest among Indian nonprofits, funders and the government to work towards strengthening the data ecosystem for India's development sector. There is a real need and opportunity to bring together the best of these minds from data, development and philanthropy to not only share and learn from their collective experience but also come together as a community to create and support solutions for greater impact. [Read more here](#)



Dasra is pleased to partner with Bloomberg and Societal Platform to introduce the Data for Good Exchange in India, further catalysing the efforts of civil society and philanthropists to enable a billion lives to thrive in our country.

The past year has revealed how deeply inequity remains entrenched in India's development story. The pained voices of millions of displaced migrant workers, children and abused women remained undetected, as mere pixels in the sea of data points we collect. To truly place the vulnerable at the center, the conversation around data for good needs to move beyond perfecting operational efficiencies, and towards the true empowerment of the communities we work with.

Through this partnership, and the platform we build here, Dasra hopes to focus the data conversation on an end goal that empowers vulnerable communities to demand action, and building a common vision of a data ecosystem that is in the service of data users. The Data for Good Exchange will bring together the best minds from civil society, philanthropy, government, and academia to not only share and learn from their collective experience but also to create and support solutions for greater impact.



Societal Platform Thinking is about orchestrating diverse pathways to deal with hard questions such as: How can we create a more inclusive approach to addressing societal issues as they constantly evolve? How can we give people choice and freedom to innovate? How do we build the next generation of open public goods? How do we create spaces for people, intent and technology to come together to give voice and agency to every individual?

Data for Good Exchange initiative presented us with an opportunity to look at data in the service of these hard questions. We strongly believe in the power of 'open data' and its ability to orchestrate large-scale and virtuous interactions among samaaj-sarkaar-bazaar (civil society-government-markets).

Through this partnership with Bloomberg and Dasra, we hope to reach out to a wider network of changemakers to co-create a thoughtful data narrative for India and beyond; one that reframes boundaries and constraints, involves communities, builds trust, and works in the service of society. Our endeavour would be to find support, resources and investment to build the data empowerment infrastructure for India and increase our collective ability to sense, make sense, and act to accelerate societal impact.

Our Launch Webinar in January 2021 brought together 90+ participants and featured diverse thought leaders



Neera Nundy | Dasra



Ashlesh Gosain | Bloomberg



Rizwan Koita | Koita Foundation



Sanjay Purohit | Societal Platform



Tarun Betala | Bloomberg



Anant Bhagwati | Dasra



Vandna Ramchandani | Bloomberg



David Peters | Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Vanessa D'Souza | SNEHA



Kumar Shailabh | Uplift Mutuals



Shruthi Iyer | FMCH



Mohan H L | KHPT



Meera Mehta | Centre for Water and Sanitation (CWAS)



Srikanth Viswanathan | Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy



Hiren Doshi | eGovernments Foundation



Priya Agrawal | Antarang Foundation



Aakash Sethi | Quest Alliance



Deborah Thomas | Foundation for Ecological Society

This Landscape Study looks at 10+ models that use data innovatively to address the needs of the most vulnerable in India



Future touchpoints in our year-long sprint towards Data Empowerment for the most vulnerable

Why?

Launch of the D4GX Dialogue Series and Landscape Study | January 2021

- Co-create a foundational understanding among ecosystem players
- Build shared goals to enable Data Empowerment for India's most vulnerable

How?

Building a Network of Changemakers | February - November 2021

- Amplify innovations by bringing together a strong network
- Identify key action areas for the ecosystem and the role for philanthropy

Who?

D4GX Empowerment Challenge | December 2021

- Spotlight curated innovations at the flagship D4GX India event
- Highlight catalytic investment areas and harness philanthropic capital

India's most vulnerable are missing from data-driven growth

WORRYING TRENDS



The pandemic has caused the largest global economic contraction in 80 years



India now faces major shortfalls in 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals



20% of the poorest urban and 7% of the poorest rural families use the internet



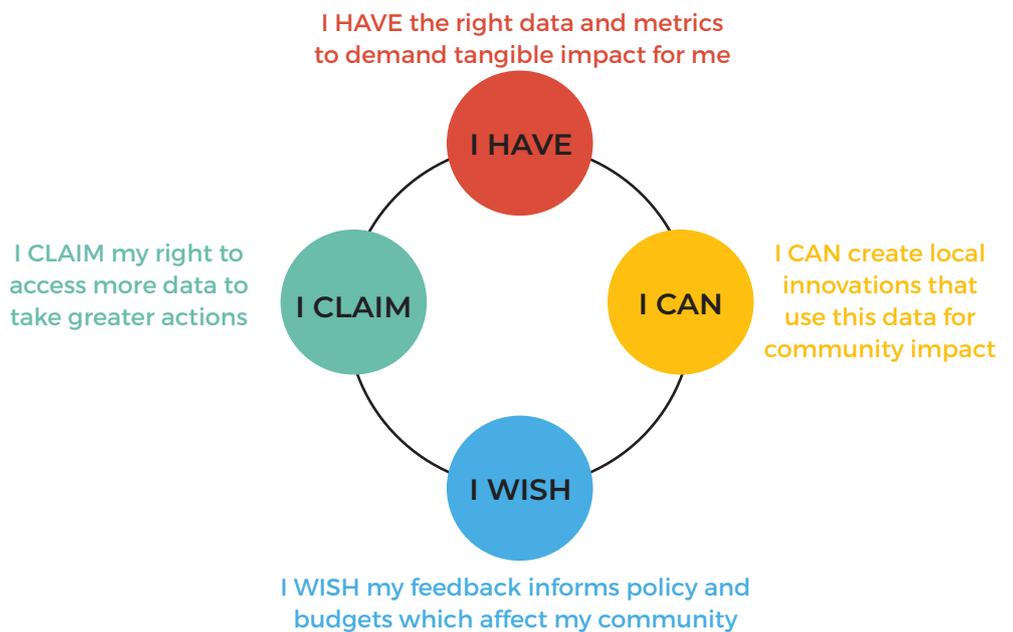
Scheduled Tribes behind on basic literacy by >10% compared to national average

BREAKPOINTS

- 1 Lack of universally acknowledged actionable metrics
- 2 Vulnerable communities are not empowered to participate
- 3 Insufficient feedback loops for enriching the commons
- 4 Siloed and inaccessible supply with singular purpose data

There is an urgent need to build a Data Empowerment narrative

TO TRULY PLACE THE MOST VULNERABLE AT THE 'FIRST MILE,' WE NEED TO ACTIVATE THE VIRTUOUS CYCLE OF DATA



Ramli, an Anganwadi Sevika is responsible for a varied range of activities in her village. However, she does **NOT HAVE** access to basic data on the government portal. She **CAN'T** access funds and resources effectively, and as a result the villagers **CAN'T CLAIM** their rights across basic government services.

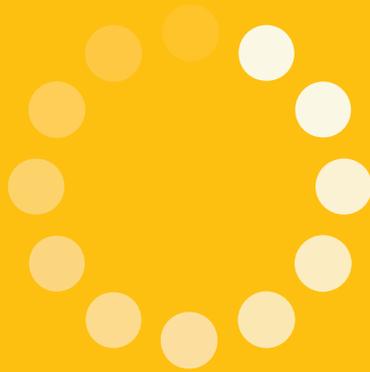


Ashok, the Secretary of Parbatia Sahi Slum Dweller Association (SDAs), **HAS** data and **CAN** use it to access budgeted infrastructure development funds. He **WISHES** to transform the slum into Adarsh Colony and help the community **CLAIM** their rights.

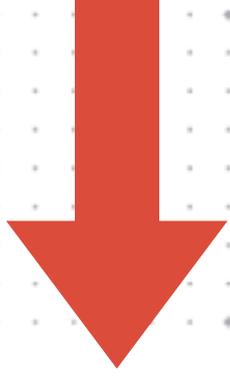
This will require collaborative action across multiple stakeholders to:



For using data in the service of society, it is important to reframe boundaries by involving communities and building trust



Why start the conversation on Data for Good?



**The pandemic has
caused the largest
global economic
contraction in
80 years**

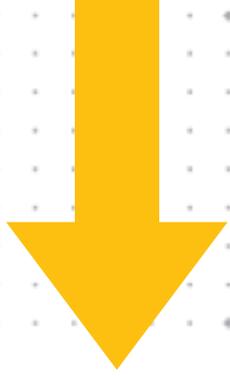
119-124 M

new global poor have been induced during 2020 with around

60%

living in South Asia¹





**The pandemic has also
amplified inequalities further
in India, straining our efforts
to create equitable growth
for the most vulnerable
communities**

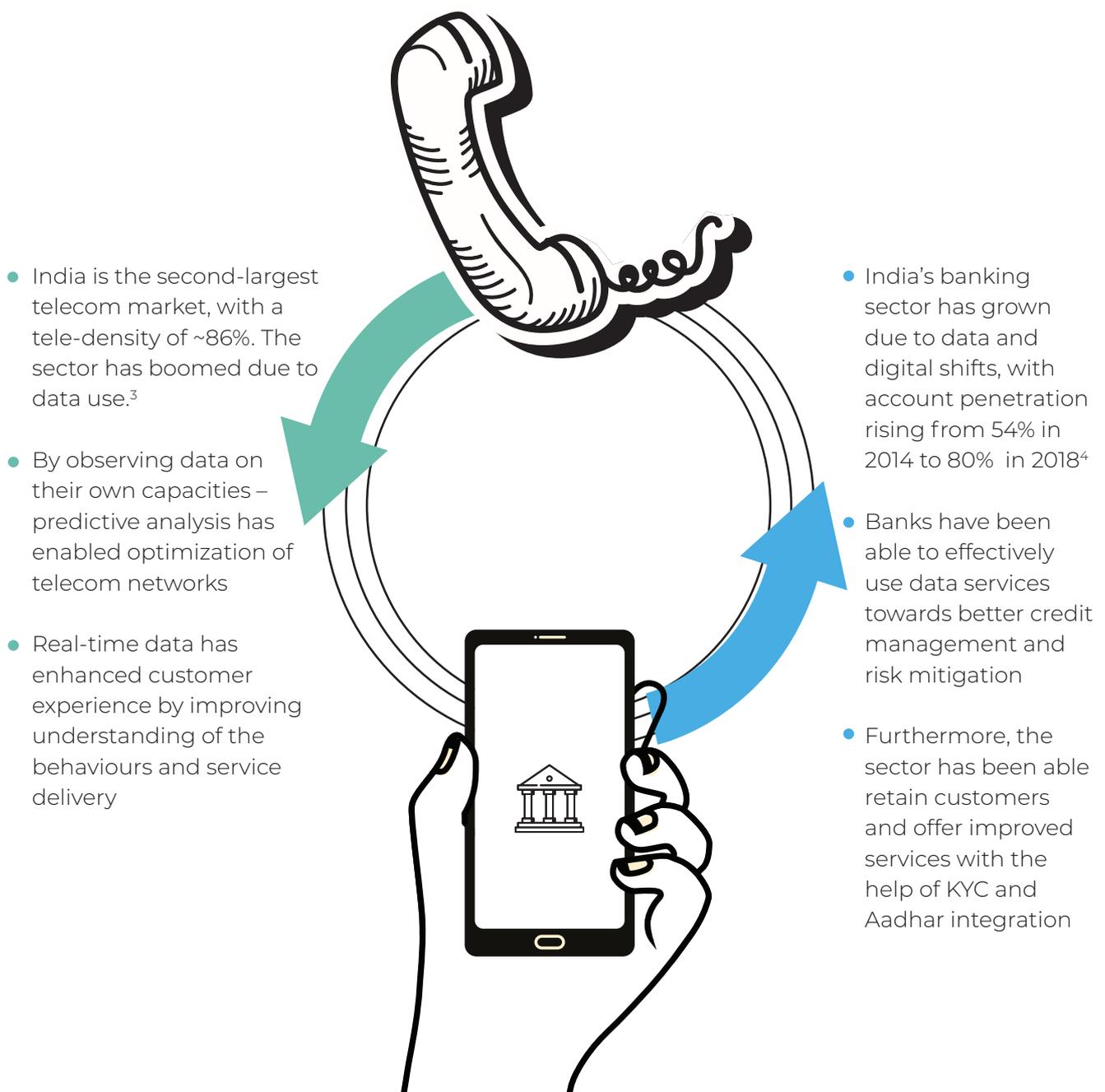
India faces major shortfalls now in

10 of the **17** **SDGs**

which include — zero hunger, good health and gender inequality²



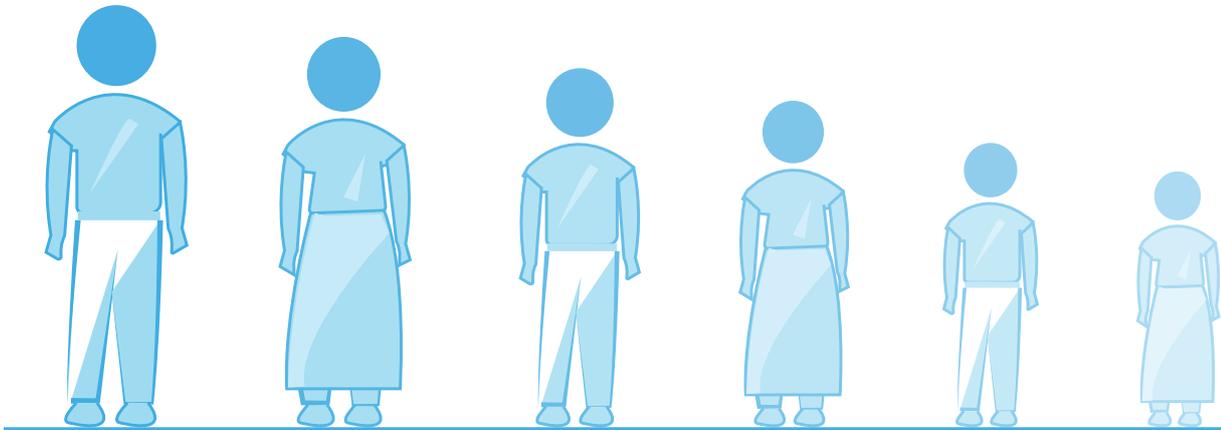
Data has often been called the **new oil**.
In the last decade, data has fostered the advancement of
backbone sectors like **Telecom** and **Banking** in India.





**What stands
in the way of
enabling Data
for Good for the
most vulnerable
in India?**

Worryingly, **India's most vulnerable** are still largely **missing** from the picture of a data-oriented growth trajectory



700M+ internet users (50% of the population)⁹



~1B+ mobile users; 70% mobile internet users¹⁰



Close to **400M** social media users¹¹



Over **1.25B** Aadhar card holders¹²

1 THE DIVIDE BETWEEN RICH/POOR AND RURAL/URBAN IS WIDE, LIMITING ACCESS⁵

7% poorest rural households use the internet vs. 27% richest rural

20% poorest urban households use the internet vs. 62% richest urban

2 INDIA'S GENDER GAP IS PRONOUNCED IN THE USE OF DATA AND TECHNOLOGY⁶

48% males between ages 15-29 can use the internet vs. 32% females

64% females are literate in India compared with 80% males

3 VULNERABLE GROUPS FACE BARRIERS TO DATA DUE TO INADEQUATE LITERACY

Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes achieved 59% & 66% literacy vs. 72% literacy nationally⁷

Drop-out rates among tribal adolescents, especially girls, is higher⁸

In the landscape report, we looked at 10+ promising models to map best practices and breakpoints impeding the empowerment of vulnerable communities through data



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY



1

LACK OF
UNIVERSALLY
ACKNOWLEDGED
ACTIONABLE
METRICS

Vulnerable individuals are most often left out of the conversation – whether it is **data access and awareness or participation** in creating localized solutions.

2

VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES
ARE NOT TRULY
EMPOWERED

An analysis of these promising models highlighted 4 **Critical Breakpoints** that are barriers to enabling Data for Good

3

INSUFFICIENT
FEEDBACK LOOPS
ENRICHING
COMMONS

While data exists, it is **siloed** and meant to **serve singular purposes** (usually those of the data owner) with few incentives to be shared widely.

4

SILOED AND
INACCESSIBLE
SUPPLY

I HAVE
the right data
and metrics to
demand tangible
impact for me

1

I CAN
create local
innovations that
use this data
for community
impact

2

I WISH
my feedback
informs policy
and budgets
which affect my
community

3

I CLAIM
my right to
access more
data to take
greater actions

4

**As we decode what
addressing these
breakpoints implies
for India's most
vulnerable, we see
a powerful **Virtuous
Cycle of Data for
Good** emerging**



**Let us step
beyond
our screens and
visit Koraput
and Dhenkanal**



Meet Ramli, a 38-year-old dedicated Anganwadi Sevika working on the frontline. See how these breakpoints affect her!

She is responsible for the functioning of the Integrated Child Development Scheme in her village, aimed at providing basic education and health and nutrition services, with a focus on early childhood development.



Teaching primary school courses



Feeding children at the Centre



Supporting primary healthcare



Monitoring growth in children <5



Doing home visits



Giving nutrition supplements



Data capturing & monitoring

It does not take much for things come to a standstill in Koraput

- For two weeks, the technician couldn't collect data from the Panchayat office.
- Ramli was not able to use the data portal herself to raise demand for the ration required.
- There was no grievance portal to help her at the district level.
- Ramli managed to make ends meet with the help of other villagers for a week. But after that, resources fell too short.
- The children were not fed for 15 days, adolescent girls and pregnant mothers missed getting Iron & Folic supplements for 10 days at the Anganwadi Centre.

Data breakpoints that affect Ramli's work every day

SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

INSUFFICIENT FEEDBACK LOOPS ENRICHING COMMONS

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT TRULY EMPOWERED



Meet Ashok Rout from Kathagada, Parbatia Sahi Slum, Dhenkanal City, Odisha

Ashok is not just another citizen; he is the **Secretary of Parbatia Sahi Slum Dweller Association (SDA)** that represents the citizens in the slum.

SDAs are an innovation of the **Jaga Mission**, a flagship program of the Government of Odisha transforming slums into livable habitats.

The Jaga Mission

The Jaga Mission is internationally acclaimed for giving land rights to slum dwellers, and Phase 2 of the Jaga Mission is focused on the economic and political empowerment of slum dwellers as much as it is about providing housing & infrastructure.

What exactly does Ashok do as the Secretary of SDA?



Convene regular meetings of SDAs; discuss issues of importance, pass resolutions and discuss them with the urban local body



Assist in Needs Assessments of the slum (i.e. toilets, in-house electricity, street lights, etc.)



Receive funds in the SDA bank account for local work and undertake work in their own slum and provide livelihood



Monitor infrastructure work and pay bills as needed

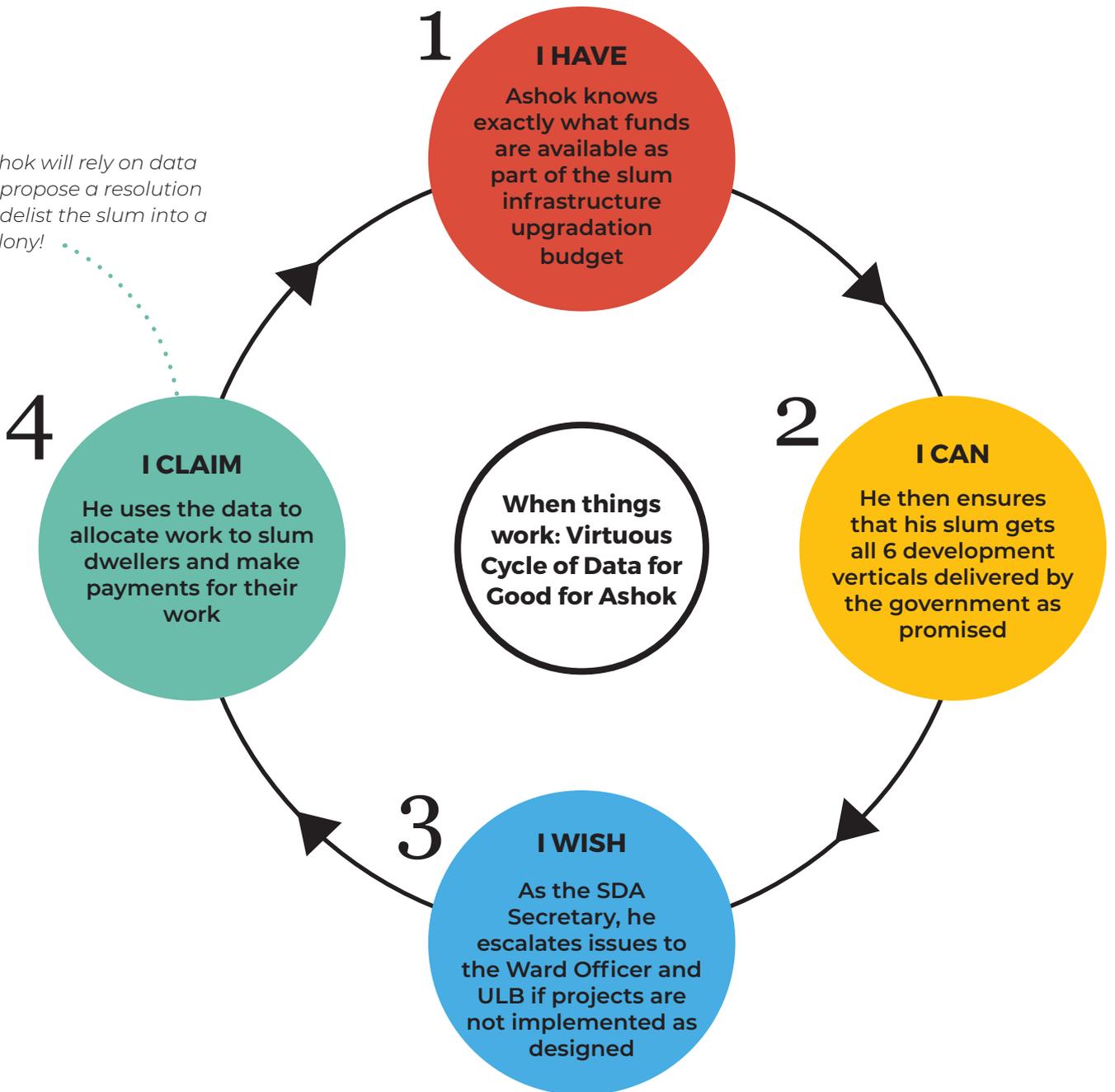


When work is completed, convene SDA to determine if slum upgradation is complete



Be part of the process that changes the slum into Adarsh Colony and SDA into Resident Welfare Association

Ashok will rely on data to propose a resolution to delist the slum into a colony!





**So how can
we empower
India's most
vulnerable
through data?**

The D4GX showcase provides insights from our deep dive of **10+ emerging solutions** using data to drive positive social change, while promoting accountability and transparency, as well as facilitating information exchange



**Urban
Transformation**

**Learning to
Livelihoods**

Health for All

As we mapped innovative models against achievements on the Virtuous Cycle, some key trends emerged.

1



With an ecosystem level gap between data supply and demand, models lack clearly measurable, universally acknowledged service metrics relevant to communities

Communities lack access to feedback loops or touchpoints that enable multi-level data interaction

65%

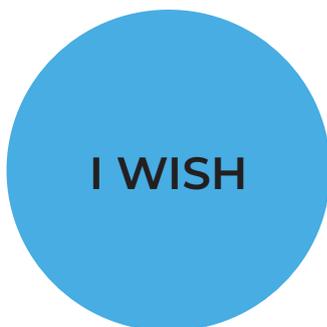
2



Many innovative models are driving demand and empowering communities so they CAN access data with initiatives like community scorecards and user-facing apps, but the landscape lacks linkages to create feedback loops and redressal systems

50%

3



Most models are focused on aspects of data supply or demand exclusively, and there is a gap around mechanisms for communities to demand new pieces of data to create further demand

35%

4



Many supply-focused models lack key **community linkages** to create a 'viral demand'

Innovative models cannot achieve their full potential because the landscape lacks in **enabling systems and administration to build better accountability** and community access to data

20%

How can we address these gaps and identify opportunity areas that will allow us to collectively build strong, sustainable virtuous cycles for data empowerment?

How do we **create platforms** for easy sharing, usage, analysis and managing of data?

I HAVE
the right data and metrics to demand tangible impact for me

How do we **ensure users have agency** to drive data for improving solutions and services?

I CAN
create local innovations that use this data for community impact

How do we **build touchpoints** to enable interaction with data across levels?

I WISH
my feedback informs policy and budgets which affect my community

How do we **strengthen systems** for better supply of data?

I CLAIM
my right to access more data to take greater actions



Data for the Vulnerable in Health

**Unmet Needs and
Barriers to Growth**

Relatively high health risk factors in vulnerable populations, leading to greater health expenditures and a life of indignity

Unstructured and siloed data collection practices resulting in **inaccessibility to patient data** and delay in treatment



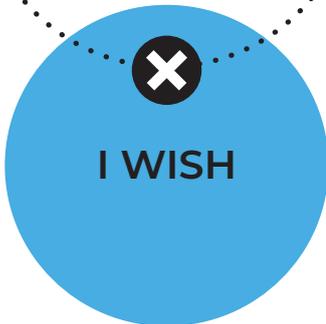
Limited focus on research, despite a large number of medical institutes

Lack of **trust on public service delivery systems**, resulting in reliance on parallel structures, thereby increasing inequalities in access to care



Inequalities in accessing health information and poor service delivery results in loss of life across preventable diseases

Limited touchpoints with health services and information for those living on the peripheries of society, delaying and denying access to care



Significant disease burden, with India ranking #1 globally for diabetes and tuberculosis, and a growing incidence of non-communicable diseases

Lack of linkages and structured growth between **health research, health systems and policy expertise**



Innovation in Focus: Johns Hopkins India Institute



Enabling policies backed by intent



Fostering a conducive infrastructure for health research

Data Breakpoints Addressed

SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

LACK OF UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACTIONABLE METRICS

The Johns Hopkins India Institute (JHI) aims to bring together the Hopkins-India community to **develop knowledge and inform practice on critical topics** for health and development, in India and the world, through research, education, strengthening policy and practice, and building human and institutional capacity. JHI's key activities include:

- **Democratizing access to information** - Deepen focus on current areas of research including infectious diseases, maternal and child health, non-communicable diseases, and health systems, while building local leaders and institutions through capacity building and collaboration
- **Expanding research in areas of health data and technology** including health surveillance and analytics, and healthcare management
- **Partnering with Indian institutions to tap into adjacent opportunities** beyond healthcare – like health entrepreneurship, education, policy research and interdisciplinary science and practice

www.giving.jhu.edu/ways-to-give/international-giving/johns-hopkins-india-institute

Innovation in Focus: Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT)



Enabling community agency and capacity to leverage data



Solutions delivered with community participation

Data Breakpoints Addressed

INSUFFICIENT
FEEDBACK
LOOPS
ENRICHING
COMMONS

VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES
ARE NOT TRULY
EMPOWERED

KHPT's interventions have been a unique combination of evidence from extensive health sector knowledge, grassroots community connects, and government engagement to inform decisions. KHPT works across different themes in health to build and empower healthy communities by:

- **Enabling policy decisions** - bridging information gap between government and the citizens via data collection, research and demonstration for designing targeted interventions
- **Leveraging data for risk management** - improving quality of care and complication management via prediction and tracking of high-risk cases across maternal and child health (MNCH), tuberculosis and HIV
- **Leveraging grassroot community connects** - establishing a scientific process for robust assessment of critical gaps in health service delivery to drive community ownership and promote health seeking behavior

www.khpt.org

Innovation in Focus: Uplift Mutuals



Data Breakpoints Addressed

INSUFFICIENT
FEEDBACK
LOOPS
ENRICHING
COMMONS

VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES
ARE NOT TRULY
EMPOWERED



Sustained execution plan for open data sharing



Creating transformational platforms to enable data use in decision making

Uplift Mutuals' Biradaree Model offers mutual insurance as a platform, for different communities to share their health risks. It invites communities, and groups of families to join mutual health risk sharing seamlessly, without having to invest upfront in the setting up and the management of mutual health microinsurance. Their core focus is to deliver on three aspects of the health system:

- **Design preventive health strategies** and develop health protection solutions by leveraging primary care data
- **Feedback data to communities** about the top diseases faced and how they can be managed collectively
- **24X7 helpline** staffed by medical doctors to guide low-income families about where can they get good quality care at rational prices

Currently, Uplift Mutuals is in the process of developing a health record system that will be available as supplementary information via their mutual health insurance app.

www.upliftmutuals.org

Upcoming Innovations: **Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action (SNEHA), Foundation for Maternal and Child Health (FMCH)**



SNEHA builds replicable, evidence-based solutions with communities, governments and public health systems to improve health outcomes of vulnerable urban women and children. They leverage the TeamCare mobile app through health workers to plan field visits and report high risk cases to supervisors, with a complementary web app that helps the central team to manage on-ground operations in real-time.

www.snehamumbai.org

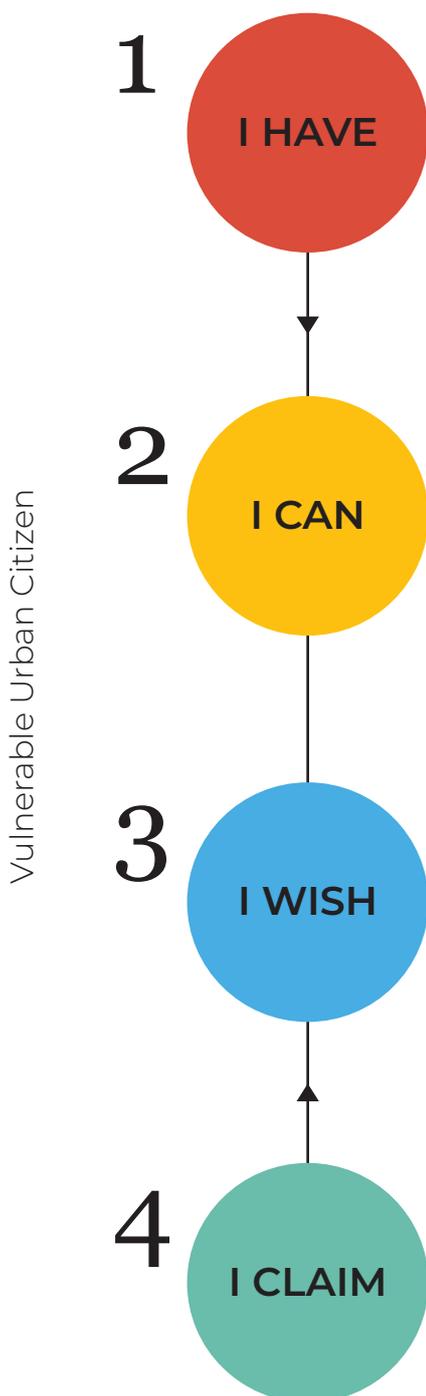


FMCH works to improve the lives of mothers and children in local communities by providing programs focused on health, nutrition, education, and sustainable skills training. They have developed the NuTree App to aid field officers track beneficiary data and offer accurate medical support, while offering real time feedback to monitor progress and identify vulnerabilities

www.fmch-india.org

The data innovations by these organizations will be further studied through the next edition of the D4GX report.

**Questions for
Reflection and Actions**

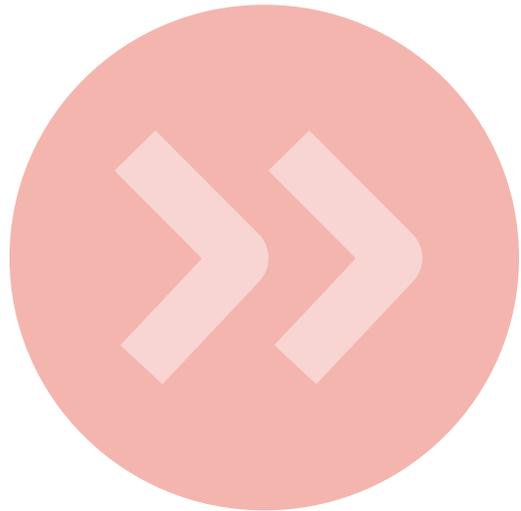


Q Can common health-research dissemination platforms democratize access to healthcare expertise and reduce the inequity in accessing affordable services, especially for preventable diseases?

Q Can community health centers serve as real-time convergence points for health assessments, data collection, health research and policy decisions?

DATA FOR THE
VULNERABLE IN HEALTH

**Critical Next Steps
for the Sector**



1 Communities should lead the work on the ground. They should be involved from the very first step of the process, such as design, mapping and data collection.

2 There is an increasing need in the sector to look at predictive models for prevention. On the ground, there is already a great openness to adopt and use technology. We have a powerful opportunity to use data across the work of frontline workers.

3 To drive solutions through data, it is important for individual beneficiaries to collect data for themselves as users and reduce dependence on public systems. The community and individual beneficiaries need to be involved in co-opting data to drive local solutions.

4 It is critical to leverage better support and trust from the government by building interaction between them and vulnerable communities. Data must be backed by good governance. Only this will allay the fear of sharing data amongst marginalized communities.

5 Stakeholders can ensure that products are truly community-centric from the very beginning. This can be enabled by using data as an incentive, not a penalty, and creating a common language around data taxonomies.



Data for the Vulnerable in Urban Areas

DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN URBAN AREAS

Unmet Needs and Barriers to Growth

No ease of living or doing business,
owing to arduous administrative
systems

**Lack of public data
platforms** that
comprehensively
represent existing
government in an easily
consumable and usable
format



I HAVE

Lack of sustainable and
equitable access to civic
facilities

Large **digital divide**
between citizens and
city administrative
systems – very few formal
systems of sourcing
data from citizens, the
ultimate beneficiaries of
public services



I CAN

Inequitable distribution of public
resources and services, leading to
poor urban spaces

Feedback loops from
citizens are currently not
included in the system,
risking solutions to be
one-sided or siloed



I WISH

Lack of publicly available data and
accountability mechanisms at the
Municipal level

Unmet need of
long-term investments
from city and state
administrations aimed
at improving the quality
of data and making it
available in a consumable
way for citizens



I CLAIM

Innovation in Focus: Center for Water and Sanitation (CWAS)



Enabling public data platforms to break out of silos



Creating access to sustainable and equitable civic facilities for the vulnerable

Data Breakpoints Addressed

SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

LACK OF UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACTIONABLE METRICS

The Center for Water and Sanitation was established in 2009 as a pioneering project for the Performance Assessment of Water and Sanitation service delivery (PAS), to create and track common metrics for this system, allowing ULBs to benchmark their performance across different geographic regions.

CWAS is enabling data empowerment in cities by:

- Supporting cities to become **open defecation free**
- Demonstrating **sustainable and equitable sanitation** solutions in small and medium cities
- Exploring **innovative financing** for investments in urban sanitation
- Building **capacities of government officials** and other stakeholders in sanitation planning and monitoring
- Developing and implementing a **Performance Assessment System** for urban water and sanitation

www.crdf.org.in/center/center-for-water-and-sanitation

Innovation in Focus: Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy



JANAAGRAHA CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP & DEMOCRACY



Bridging the digital divide between citizens and administrative services



Creating feedback loops between the vulnerable and their civic representatives

Data Breakpoints Addressed

INSUFFICIENT FEEDBACK LOOPS ENRICHING COMMONS

VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT TRULY EMPOWERED

Janaagraha's mission is to transform the quality of life in India's cities and towns by working with citizens to catalyse active citizenship in city neighbourhoods and within governments to institute reforms to city governance.

- **Open Works**, one of Janaagraha's flagship programs, aims at being a real-time platform for opening-up data on the operations and finance of a city by creating open data access, budget briefs, a live MIS platform and Ward Quality Score
- Complementing this, **MyCityMyBudget** is a unique participatory budget tool for urban centers that allows citizens to play a crucial role in shaping city budgets
- Additionally, Janaagraha is creating a **4th tier governance model in Odisha (Adarsh Colony)** where slum dwellers can participate in local decision making and monitoring

www.janaagraha.org

Innovation in Focus: eGovernments Foundation



Data Breakpoints Addressed

SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

LACK OF UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACTIONABLE METRICS



Boosting municipal accountability through shared metrics



Creating ease of living and doing business for the vulnerable

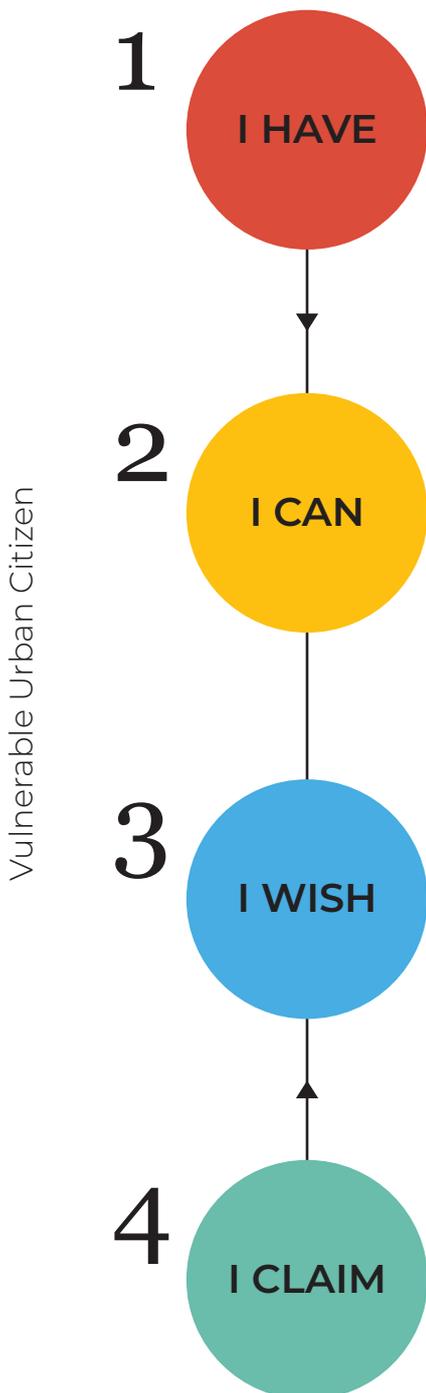
eGovernments Foundation aims to enable urban transformation through multiple initiatives across the demand and supply spectrum of the data empowerment framework.

- **DIGIT is a publicly available digital good that facilitates citizen-centric governance.** It is a set of Open APIs, services, and reference implementations, setup as a public good, to allow government entities, businesses, start-ups, and civil society to use a unique digital infrastructure and build solutions for urban India at a large scale.
- **Municipal services are transformed** by connecting governments, citizens and entrepreneurs to create empowering solutions. The Foundation provides a set of open standards, specifications and documentation to create a level playing field and enable ecosystem players to innovate on the digital stack.
- Through these, **Samaaj** (society), **Sarkar** (government), and **Bazaar** (markets) are catalyzed to identify enabling policies, deploy local solutions, and build capacities.

www.egov.org.in

DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN URBAN AREAS

Questions for Reflection and Actions

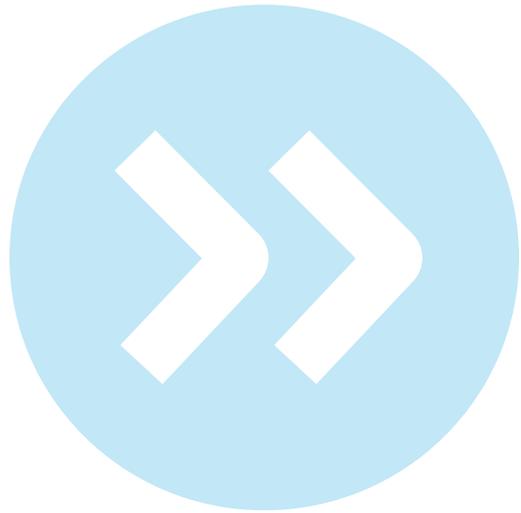


Q Can platforms aimed at improving public systems also enable citizen feedback and showcase successful models which improve services for the most vulnerable, thereby creating proof of concept for uptake at scale?

Q Can digital and physical platforms enable community interface with elected representatives, fostering a deeper sense of community ownership through demand-led solutions?

Q Can civil society enable linkages between public financial data, service level information, and deliver comprehensive information to citizens? CWAS and Janaagraha recently signed an MoU to foster such linkages for 1,900 ULBs with PAS through the cityfinance.in platform by MoHUA

DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE
IN URBAN AREAS



**Critical Next Steps
for the Sector**

- 1** Data should be used as a means to a goal. Therefore, it is critical to empower local communities with data by using participatory design, necessary feedback loops and using the local language.
- 2** Instead of force-fitting solutions that work in one context, we need to use dynamic 'playbooks' that help create customized and local solutions. One way of addressing data-related challenges can be by solving for democracy at the grassroots level. Solutions aren't that linear!
- 3** The power for taking local decisions should be based at at the city level. The local here doesn't have to be restricted to wards or municipalities only. Data should be made available across cities in a time sensitive way.
- 4** Given the quantum of the problem at hand, it is important to prioritize. We need to combine hyperlocal spatial data and platforms of citizen participation. These two processes are in isolation right now.
- 5** By ensuring that data actually comes from the citizens, the exercise of data collection will itself reveal inherent problems to the political class.

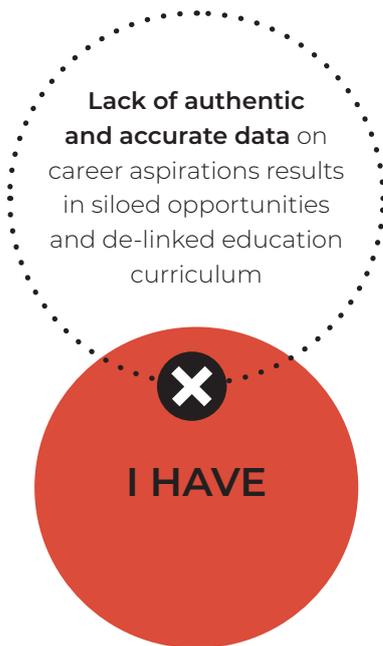


Data for the Vulnerable in Learning to Livelihood

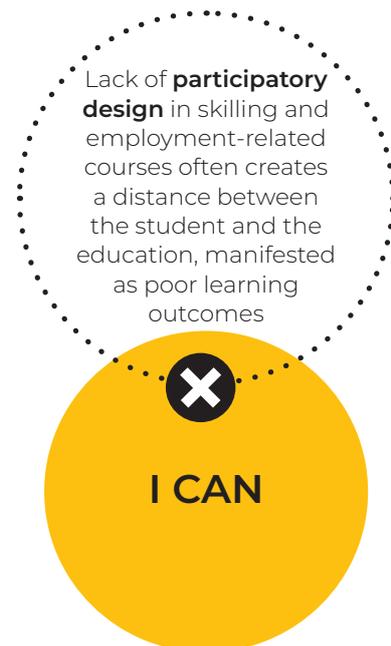
DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN LEARNING TO LIVELIHOOD

Unmet Needs and Barriers to Growth

130 million students dropped out of a formal education system due to lack of a career aspiration, guidance and development plans



Deficiency of employability skills in youth results in the continuation of the cycle of poverty



Entrepreneurs lack direct access to markets or open platforms to create efficiencies in supply value chains; financial services do not always address the need for flexible working capital



Educational institutions lack awareness, skills, technology and resources to prepare youth for future employment



Innovation in Focus: Antarang



Data Breakpoints Addressed

INSUFFICIENT
FEEDBACK
LOOPS
ENRICHING
COMMONS

VULNERABLE
COMMUNITIES
ARE NOT TRULY
EMPOWERED



Enabling community agency and capability to leverage data



Solutions delivered with community participation

Antarang is working towards setting up a career exploration and development platform that proposes to bring together youth ability and aspirations, skilling availability and industry demand together in a consumable format, that enables youth and employers make informed career/ recruitment decisions. The key tenets of this platform are:

- Creating an accurate data bank about youth aspirations and skills with the ultimate aim of influencing relevant employment creation
- Ensuring data integrity by safeguarding individual data and using it only in an anonymised form for research and advocacy
- Open-source Career Ready App - which provides core employability skills to youth and further links them to Education, Employment or Training (EET) opportunities in accordance with their interest

<https://antarangfoundation.org/>

Innovation in Focus: Quest Alliance



Data Breakpoints Addressed

SILOED AND INACCESSIBLE SUPPLY

LACK OF UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED ACTIONABLE METRICS



Conducive infrastructure for equitable education



Informed decision making by policy experts and education systems, backed by evolved research

Quest Alliance aims to transform learning ecosystems through education technology, capacity building, and collaboration between educators, civil society and government. The organization builds 21st century skills for learners and facilitators, and helps youth create purpose for themselves

- **Open-source online platform for development** - a medium for youth to effectively develop core employability skills, create career pathways and access employment opportunities
- **Built repository of data** - that can be used to track, report and enable decisions making across impact chain
- **Designing online tools and strategies** - to enable and empower educators and students with 21st century skills

www.questalliance.net

Innovation in Focus: Foundation for Ecological Society



Enabling community agency and capability to leverage data



Solutions delivered with community participation

Data Breakpoints Addressed

INSUFFICIENT
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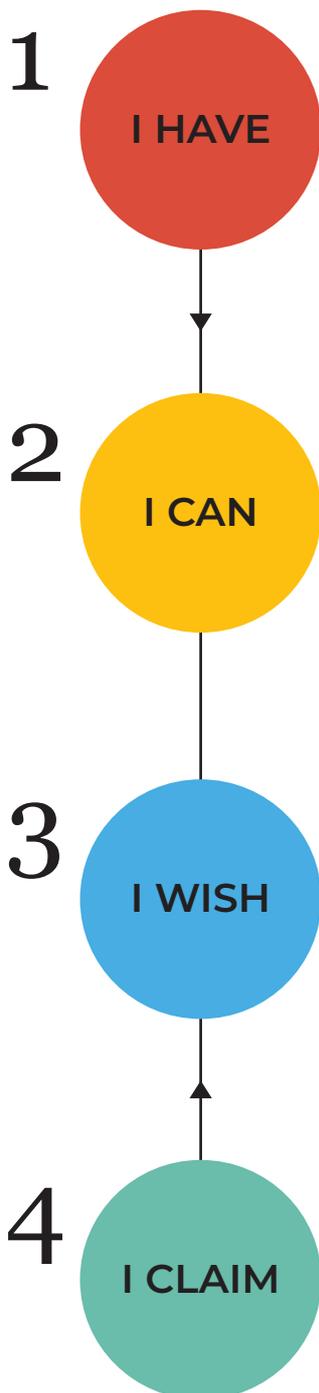
FES has initiated the India Observatory (IO) program that brings together 1800+ disparate government and open datasets, crowd-sourced data to create locally relevant decision support tools on Natural Resource Management (NRM), commons (pastures & forests), and entitlements. This program protects community livelihoods by:

- Supporting communities to take **decisions on managing their natural resources**
- **Channel public investment** (e.g. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, MGNREGS) into locally suited water recharge structures
- Use **digital technology and databases to identify eligible beneficiaries automatically** and work with administration to deliver the entitlements pro-actively
- To **ensure data accuracy**, teams closely work with communities to vet data through ground truthing

www.fes.org.in

Questions for Reflection and Actions

Vulnerable Adolescents and Entrepreneurs



Q Can research by industry and corporate employers drive the vision for an empowered workforce that thrives with dignity and purpose?

Q Can civil society help in defining key performance indicators within the education system, which are mandated by regulatory action for reporting and review?

Q How can reliable and dynamic data be made accessible to all stakeholders including youth, employers and school systems, for the school-to-work transition?

Q Can localized data on education metrics be pushed via public mediums to drive municipal and district-level accountability?

DATA FOR THE VULNERABLE IN LEARNING TO LIVELIHOOD



Critical Next Steps for the Sector

1

Given the dynamic and evolving needs of vulnerable adolescents and youth, we need to keep them at the center, engaging them from the beginning and asking them what they need. It is important to simplify data narratives and create hope and aspiration in their minds.

2

Ensuring relevance, accessibility and transparency in data are key drivers. It is important to build accessible dissemination channels and standardize metrics that help see progress.

3

Building trust by ensuring safety and consent is an important prerequisite. Also, instead of being at the forefront – stakeholders need to realize that communities can take ownership only after they are reassured about pertinent concerns.

4

Providing a seamless and collaborative flow of data that helps create interoperability across stakeholder action is necessary. We need to create agile data ecosystems that help deliver actionable solutions.

5

People in the communities have ideas to transform their localities. We need to supplement their decision making, and use of data and tools. The focus needs to be on the means, rather than the ends.

Closing Notes

- To drive local solutions, communities need to co-opt data, be empowered and remain engaged
- Stakeholders should create an enabling data ecosystem, built on agility, trust and accountability

Health for All

- Focus on predictive models for prevention is key. We have a powerful opportunity to use data, involving frontline workers.
- Individual beneficiaries should collect data for themselves as users and reduce dependence on public systems.
- It is critical to build interaction between government and vulnerable communities. Data must be backed by good governance.

Urban Transformation

- One way of addressing data-related challenges can be by solving for democracy at the grassroots level.
- The power for taking local decisions should be based at the city level. Data should be made available across cities in a time sensitive way.
- Hyperlocal spatial data and platforms of citizen participation should be combined.

Learning to Livelihoods

- Building trust by ensuring safety and consent is an important prerequisite. Communities have ideas to transform their localities.
- Given the dynamic needs of vulnerable adolescents, data narratives should be simplified, creating hope and aspiration in their minds.
- Accessible dissemination channels and standardized metrics that help track progress should be enabled.

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