

Data for development

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- Official data is often called a silent infrastructure forming the evidence base for economic and social policies
- Reliable and relevant data helps economic decision making for government and business
- Helps in targeting specific groups for special attention
- Project the right picture to investors
- Enhances informed public debate. Data has a central role in forming public opinions in a competitive federal structure.

Overriding top-down approach in key indicators affecting state (GSDP, CPI etc)

- Development of data systems always Centre led in India through centrally sponsored schemes or projects.
- All data collection methods follow centrally prescribed guidelines.
- Officially accepted numbers are those published by the central agencies.
- GSDP plays a crucial role for all states.
- Used in Finance Commission devolution formula, for setting borrowing limits, inter-state comparisons etc.
- A top-down approach is followed in GDP/GSDP
- Most often national indicators are used by states in estimating sectoral GSDP
- State specific methodologies rarely adopted in sectoral GDP/GSDP
- Recent CPI revision and state level inflation rates

Role of states

- State Statistical Systems do not have a uniform structure or role
- State level data captured through national data portals (for Education, Health etc)
- Key efforts centrally funded and directed.
- States play a minimal role in designing and building national statistics.
- Efforts of state statistical agencies do not support decision making in the state

Politicization of national data

- Delay in population count
- Continued use of projected population numbers
- Impacts other macro economic indicators like GSDP
- The politicization of population census and consequences

Need to strengthen state efforts

- Kerala has well established organizational arrangements for statistics.
- High quality of manpower but the basic organizational structure outdated
- Technology and digital infrastructure already in place
- Most Government service delivery through online platforms
- Need to integrate all data collection efforts with common meta-data standards
- A role reorienting and space to address the state specificities to project state's economic and social concerns.
- Reorganize the system to adapt to the new data environment
- A history of people's participation in gathering data. The **Vivara Sanchayika** project in Kannur district a unique comprehensive panchayat ward level data collection
- Focussed efforts to integrate state statistical system support the vision 31

Thanks