



**3D Program**

FOR GIRLS & WOMEN

## **Data Convergence to Empower Girls and Women**

A workshop co-hosted by

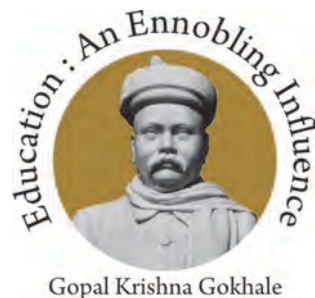
*3D Program for Girls and Women*

*International Center for Research on Women*

*Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics*

Friday, 19 January, 2018

YASHADA, Pune, India



## Workshop Proceedings

The 3D Program for Girls and Women, in partnership with ICRW Asia and the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics organized a half-day workshop on *Data Convergence to Empower Girls and Women*. The consultation was attended by 20 representatives and officials from Pune district government departments, civil society organizations and other institutions from Pune and the state of Maharashtra, as well as experts from government and NGO initiatives in India.

## Workshop Objectives

The workshop objective was to explore the development of a data convergence initiative to inform district planning; resources allocation; and joint monitoring by relevant departments, through a District Convergence Planning Committee (DCPC), which is being created through an agreement between the Zilla Parishad in Pune and the 3D Program.

Specifically, the workshop was held to:

- Explore the feasibility of collecting and analyzing household data to create a common database across departments
- Determine the capacity and resources required to create inter-departmental linkages
- Inform the development of a workplan to move us forward

## Welcome and Introductions

In introducing the 3D Program and its focus on data convergence, **Geeta Rao Gupta, Sia Nowrojee, Ravi Verma and Madhu Deshmukh** reiterated that:

- Convergent data is critical for promoting a comprehensive empowerment program for women and girls
- Program and policies must be based on sound, validated data
- Data is an essential tool for effective governance
- Collection of data must include participation of the people whose lives and realities we look to capture in the data
- Data convergence cannot just be an academic exercise; it must be driven by programmatic needs and realities
- The initiative for data convergence should leverage existing data collection mechanisms or platforms of various government departments, civil society and private sector organizations. It will not and should not collect or generate any new data.

## Opening Remarks

**Government Perspectives on Data Convergence for Girls and Women**

***Shri Vijay Deshmukh, Deputy Collector, Pune District***

- Government departments have a lot of data, but the data is not organized. Departments store data in different formats and use different software. Thus, data is not standardized or compatible.

- It is important to develop a common platform for data, one that uses an open source platform. The Government of India should have a policy for standardizing data formats (a uniform data policy) and the implementation of schemes should be based on using data.
- A common vision must be developed across all departments towards the implementation of the schemes and towards this convergence process.
- Need for uniform policy so that government and non-government agencies and individuals can be part of generating and using the data for coordination, planning and impact.



## Panel Discussion on Data Convergence in Action: Lessons from Ongoing Initiatives

*Mr. Vijay Deshmukh, Deputy Collector, Pune District:*

- The absence of denominator data in the database is a major impediment to reach eligible populations for government schemes.
- Collective databases have not been a priority within government systems.
- Initiate the use of GIS-supported data as part of the data convergence platform to plan and track initiatives and schemes.

**Common Application Software - ICDS, Bihar**

*Dr. Hemant Shah, CoP, CARE – Bihar Technical Assistance Support Program*

- Lessons learned based on an initiative by CARE and Government of Bihar: A randomized control trial was conducted to assess the impact of using mobile technology for health and ICDS initiative jointly. Information was initially collected for children from zero to two years and then extended to six years.
- Any initiative related to data management should be about making the work of concerned officials easier and more efficient, and that data should be used in their daily work to plan and track their respective activities.
- No new data should be collected but rather existing data collection platforms and mechanisms by government departments should be leveraged.

- The ICDS CAS application developed by CARE is being scaled up by the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) initially across eight states in India – including Maharashtra – based on the successful scale up in Bihar.
- Benefits of the system: Tasks of the ASHA and Anganwadi workers are easier; the work is more coordinated; denominator data is available; numerator data is generated as the services are provided; it is easier to track and provide supportive supervision; and information is used for planning processes.
- Challenges include: lack of linkages to a number of departments in addition to health and ICDS; overlaps and redundancies in some of the data and indicators; no systematic linkages with the service delivery or the program activities and related data; and lack of linkages between different platforms.

### **ChRIS, Madhya Pradesh**

*Arushi Malhotra, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog*

- ChRIS application identified various needs over different points in time for children, from pregnancy until adolescence. The first part of the program worked on converging the health department and ICDS. Data at the block level was digitalized. The data helped flag gaps where service delivery needed to be improved.
- Major challenges under ChRIS included: no real-time monitoring of the data, no validation, and no scalability due to lack of resources.
- ChRIS showed that program-level data is important; it can aid functioning of programs as well as tracking of schemes for progress and impact.
- Instead of creating another platform, linkages should be made with existing platforms like ICDS and Health.

### **Gram Panchayat Integrated Learning Base, YASHADA, Pune**

*Pradnya Dasarwar, Coordinator, PMU, Center for Research and Documentation, YASHADA*

- YASHADA conducted a pilot project on participatory planning in six talukas in Maharashtra under the mandate of the Planning Department, based on the integrated planning manual released by the Planning Commission that highlighted that planning should happen at the lowest level of local self-governance.
- The data collection templates for this initiative and information gathered from two blocks, using the templates, were used for planning and available to the people. The data collection process was participatory, integrated and de-centralized. The premise of this initiative was that the data is by the people, of the people and for the people. As schemes are implemented in the villages, there is a need to generate data and conduct planning at the Gram Panchayat level in a participatory manner to understand the impact, reach and utility of the schemes.
- The templates and process have been shared across Maharashtra under the untied funds of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Due to constraints on time, the household templates were removed from the data collection tool. In the pilot, planning took place up to the block levels in two districts (Raigad and Chadrapur districts). However, the initiative was not implemented at the district level.
- Under this initiative, data was collected at the village level by trained youth volunteers (both male and female). If village-level volunteers are trained and used for data collection, then the issue of data validation can be addressed.

- The data and plan at the end of the process in the two blocks were presented to the Mahila Sabha to get their inputs to ensure issues around livelihood and agriculture were captured. The plan was then placed in front of the Gram Sabha to be discussed with all community members.
- In the current context in Maharashtra, data travels only one way: from the village to the department upwards. It does not travel back to people and even if it does, this happens in an aggregated manner. At village level, there is no disaggregated data.
- The Sangram initiative (e-Panchayat platform) was developed by the Rural Development Department, wherein the data was keyed in at the village level by the Sangram operator at every Gram Panchayat. Data entry sheets and reports were generated and revealed entitlements to the Gram Panchayat. It was replaced by Apni Sarkar Sewa Kendra (which is yet to be activated).
- MR-SAC maps (Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre) can be used to locate village-level data on maps.

#### Lessons from Census, Maharashtra

*Mr. Santosh Payas, Deputy Director – Census Operation, Census Department*

- Different departments assign different unique ID numbers (UIDs) to people and properties for different schemes/benefits and under different census exercises. Why can't one individual, one property have one unique number?
- The census will benefit immensely from pulling data from various registers/sources. Currently, a lot of time goes into planning for the census. If data is standardized and shared, then more time can be used for actually conducting the census.
- We should focus on gathering attributes for individuals from existing data sources that are available with various departments and then add value. For example, we can use already assigned unique identification numbers (e.g. Aadhaar) for individuals and structures, rather than assigning new IDs. Mobile number data can also be used to collect individual data although there are challenges in using it as an UID.
- The National Citizenship Act of 1954 requires for a citizenship register to be prepared and assigns UIDs to individuals who register. This register can be further looked into and explored for common UID. However, the citizenship register is only being updated in some locations.



## Round table discussion: Key Issues

### What should data convergence include:

- Data sharing should be institutionalized. Data should be available to the public through social accountability exercises, websites, and independent assessments.
- There is a need for standardization of data formats across/useful to all departments with certain indicators, and thus departments/schemes addressing the needs of a common population should have a common database.
- Data collection and data convergence should be simple. Simplicity is also a reform.
- Use of MRSAC data across geographies including slums in urban areas should be looked into and validated.
- There is a need for denominator data as well as service or program data.
- The front-end of such an effort can be less complicated, the back-end is where the complications will exist. Need to consider both.

### Additional existing data sources and platforms:

- SECC (Socio Economic Caste Census) is another existing mechanism that has household data, which can be considered since it is a data set validated by officials. Currently many schemes use the SECC data to identify beneficiaries, e.g. Indira Awas Yojna. However, SECC data was collected in 2011. Updating of the data is done only for certain schemes on an annual basis.
- Instead of creating a new survey, use existing data. Examine how data is being used for Indra Awas Yojana, National Rural Livelihoods Mission, National Urban Livelihoods Mission.
- Check the possibility of leveraging MNREGA initiative.
- The use of existing platforms and eco-systems, such as the State Data Bank, need to be considered and leveraged. The vision, eco-systems and mechanisms for data collection exist but are not fully maximized.
- Validation of data can be done by linking it to Aadhar cards.

### Incorporating people's needs:

- A decentralized planning exercise for health services was conducted under NHM in three blocks, where local health needs were translated into program implementation plans (PIPs). We must focus on getting people's needs into PIP.
- A data platform must lead to benefits at the ground level. Important to focus on community-based monitoring

### Data utilization:

- Explore a convergent database as a solution to provide the denominator irrespective of the departments, as the data can be used by various departments and need not only inform one particular scheme.
- If people who are punching data see the value of the data for themselves, then it will be a good quality data and can be used for programmatic planning.
- While designing the common data platform, the need and use of data at a higher level will need to be categorically defined. All information does not need to move higher up - not

everybody needs all data! The need and use of relevant data should be defined at each level of the hierarchy i.e. what is the information required by the officials at that level to inform their plan, track progress or make their work more efficient, and the relevant information should be filtered for that level. This will increase the utilization of the data.

- Data should be based on a reflective principle - What do you want to achieve in the next six months? What negative indicators are you going to put in the system to capture the progress of one's plans? This will reduce fudging of data.

#### **Technology:**

- Satellite imaging, GPS and mobile applications should be leveraged for data convergence (example: Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre, other GIS applications of PCMC). Applications should have both offline and online options.

#### **Monitoring:**

- M&E data should feed into planning. Data should feed into operations.
- Real time monitoring should be integrated in the system.

#### **Challenges:**

- Data storage - where will the data be stored and housed?
- Data utility: Making the program and data useful to frontline workers is key.
- Data privacy: The initiative will need to consider privacy issues of the data.
- Internet connectivity and therefore data synching at the gram sabha level is a challenge.
- Data validation: Due to available data used for ranking programs/schemes/blocks, there is a danger of data being fudged for political reasons and/or allocation of resources. Incentives for fudging (or not) should be explored and addressed. Political will is required.
- Data sharing: Data visualization and sharing through dashboards at the higher levels is important. Citizens are ready to share data, but decision-makers at different levels may not. (For some initiatives, this happens at the state level, while for others, it happens at the center.)
- Infrastructure requirements: Data efforts depend on the urgency of the parent department. Identifying the right technology and systems that will support the required connectivity, speed and infrastructure need to be taken into account
- Indicators for public domain: If the portal is public, the number of indicators that can be made public will be critical for the government to review.

## Next Steps

- 3D Program's vision is to have a common data platform useful for every department working for women and girls, under the DCPC.
- The scope of the 3D Program is limited due to resources within the initiative – financial resources and human resources. 3D would like to be the catalyst to initiate conversations by bringing various actors together, provide technical assistance in designing the data convergence process, and then support the DCPC under the leadership of the CEO Zilla Parishad supported by the District Collector Pune, to implement a pilot for scaling up. For this, 3D will partner with institutions and experts such as Gokhale Institute and will also continue to seek technical and expert advise from partners such as YASHADA and other institutions in an advisory capacity.
- In order to obtain denominator data to strengthen schemes for women and girl, consider:
  - Where is such data available?
  - How can we use data currently available in Pune, through existing initiatives?
  - How can this data be used at the local level to empower girls and women?
  - At what level does data get aggregated and disaggregated?
  - How can data be validated?

The 3D Program and ICRW, along with the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, will use the rich information from this consultation to develop next steps, in consultation with the District Collector Pune Office and the CEO Zilla Parishad's office.





**Appendix 1:**  
Meeting agenda

**3D Program for Girls and Women**  
**DATA CONVERGENCE TO EMPOWER GIRLS AND WOMEN**

*Co-hosted by:* 3D Program for Girls and Women, ICRW and  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

Friday, January 19 2018, 1:00 – 6 pm  
Room MDC 6, YASHADA, Pune

**1:00 pm**      **Registration and Lunch**

**2:00 pm**      **Welcome and introductions**

Geeta Rao Gupta, Executive Director, 3D Program for Girls and Women

- **Opening Remarks: Government perspectives on data convergence for girls and women**  
Mr. Vijay Deshmukh, Deputy Collector - Pune District
  
- **Overview of the 3D Program for Girls and Women**  
Sia Nowrojee, Program Director, 3D Program for Girls and Women
  
- **Data convergence for women and girls - overview of opportunities and gaps**  
Ravi Verma, Regional Director, ICRW, Asia Office  
Q&A

**2:45 pm**      **Data Convergence in Action: Lessons and learning**

*Moderators:* Ravi Verma, Regional Director, ICRW, Asia Office  
Madhu Deshmukh, Senior Consultant, 3D/ICRW

*Panel Discussion:*

- Mr. Vijay Deshmukh, Deputy Collector - Pune District
- Dr. Hemant Shah, Chief of Party, CARE - Bihar Technical Assistance Support Program
- Arushi Malhotra, Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), NITI Aayog
- Santosh Payas, Deputy Director – Census Operation, Census Department
- Sumedh Gurjar, Director, Center for Research and Documentation, YASHADA

**Discussion**

**4:00 pm**      **Tea**

**4: 15 pm**      **Round Table Discussion: To explore opportunities and gaps for data convergence across stakeholders and sectors for women and girls**

*Moderators:* Anjali Radkar - Associate Professor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics  
Dilip Kajale - Assistant Professor, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

**5:55 pm**      **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**

Ravi Verma, Regional Director, ICRW, Asia Office

**Appendix 2:**  
Participant list

## Data Convergence to Empower Girls and Women

Co-hosted by:

3D Program for Girls and Women, ICRW Asia, and Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

### Participant List

	Name	Affiliation	Title
1	Geeta Rao Gupta	3D Program	Executive Director
2	Madhu Deshmukh	ICRW	Senior Consultant
3	Ravi Verma	ICRW	Regional Director, ICRW ARO
4	Rekha Mehra	3D Program	Senior Consultant
5	Sapna Kedia	ICRW	Senior Research Associate
6	Shweta Bankar	ICRW	Technical Specialist
7	Sia Nowrojee	3D Program	Program Director
8	Anjali Radkar	Gokhale Institute	Associate Professor
9	Dilip Kajale	Gokhale Institute	Faculty
10	Vijay Deshmukh	Pune District	Deputy Collector
11	Hemant Shah	CARE	Chief of Party, Bihar Technical Support Program (BTSU)
12	Arushi Malhotra	DMTO, NITI Aayog	Consultant
13	Santosh Payas	Department of Census Maharashtra	Census Deputy Director
14	Pradnya Dasarwar	YASHADA	Coordinator, PMU
15	Shirish Waghmare	Samyak, Pune	Project Coordinator
16	Preet Manjusha	Samyak, Pune	Project Coordinator
17	Manasi Phadke	Gokhale Institute	Visiting Faculty
18	Deepali Sudhindra	SATHI	Researcher
19	Vinod Shinde	SATHI	Programme Officer
20	Paarth Savace	Syvylyze Analytics	Consultant
21	Anand Pawar	SAMYAK Pune	Executive Director
22	Vrushali Mohite	MAVIM, Pune	MIS officer
23	Meghana Jog	Leadership for Equity	Product manager
24	Kiran Indalkar	Collectorate, Pune	ADDO, Pune
25	Preeti Telkhade	DSO	DSO, Pune