



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Karnataka Regional Branch, Bengaluru

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Views expressed by the contributors are personal and do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch.

- Chief Editor



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A Note from the Chief Editor



T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS (Retd.)
Former Chief Secretary, Government of
Karnataka
Former Chairman, Karnataka Administrative
Reforms Commission-II
Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administra-
tion – Karnataka Regional Branch

I am happy to place before our readers the **May 2024** issue of our **Virtual Newsletter**. This is our **46th issue**, since we began this initiative.

Our **Lead Article** on **Fiscal Equilibrium** is by **Dr. Jos Chathukulam** who held the Ramakrishna Hegde Chair in Decentralization and Governance at ISEC, Bengaluru. It is a condensed version of his article in **Mainstream** weekly. Based on the **Mission Antyodaya Survey 2020**, 76 Village Panchayats (VP) in Karnataka were identified as the most deprived and vulnerable. These Panchayats lack infrastructure, basic amenities, and socio-economic development. To address these gaps, a special grant of **Rs. 50 lakh** to each identified VP is recommended, necessitating critical intervention from the **Fifth Karnataka State Finance Commission**.

In this issue, we carry a shortened version of the **3rd Prize-Winning entry** of **Ms. Anupriya Kembavimath** in the **Essay Writing Competition** jointly organized by us and **Jain University** on the theme, **“Citizen-Centric Governance in Karnataka”**.

In our **Communication Pulse** column, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** writes on **“How Media can be used Effectively in Public Policy”**.

In our **Gender Matters** column, we carry the contribution of **Ms. Riya Ekka** and **Dr. Sneha Yadav** of Jain University, Bengaluru. Titled, **Revisiting Gender**, they make out a case for **Implementing Feminist Policy Perspectives in Public Administration**.

In our section on **Branch Events**, we report on the workshop on **Cyber Security, Public Policy and Law** that was organized in collaboration with **KLE Law College**, Bengaluru earlier this month.

In our section on **Branch Members’ Writings in the Popular Media**, we carry the links to three thought-provoking articles penned by **Dr. A. Ravindra**, **Mr. Gurucharan Gollerkeri** and **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar** in the media recently, and an interview conducted by **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander**.

In a section on **Books by Branch Members**, we are delighted to report on two books written/edited by our Branch Members: (1) **Governing Urban India** by **Dr. A. Ravindra** and (2) **Governance and Development in Karnataka** by **Dr. Anil Kumar** and **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**.

We end the issue with our regular column, **Food for Thought**,

I wish to add a disclaimer here that the views expressed by the contributors in this issue of the Virtual Newsletter are personal and **do not represent the views or position of the Editorial Board or the Executive Committee of the Branch**. Do write in, with your responses, views and ideas for improvement of the Newsletter.



Fiscal Equilibrium

Advocating State Finance Commission Action in Karnataka



Jos Chathukulam

Jos Chathukulam is former Professor, Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralization and Development, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru and currently the Director of Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam, Kerala.

Editor's Note: *This is an abridged version of a longer article of the author that appeared in **Mainstream** weekly dated 11th May 2024. Emphasis is added. Footnotes and References have been removed, in keeping with the policy of this Newsletter. The link to the full article in Mainstream is given below for interested readers.*

<https://mainstreamweekly.net/article14634.html>

Introduction

The Union Government's **Mission Antyodaya** aims to eradicate poverty in India, The Ministry of Rural Development has been conducting annual surveys across all Village Panchayats (VPs) since 2017-18. These surveys monitor rural development progress and identify local level needs, assessing 29 subjects assigned to Panchayats.

Based on the **Mission Antyodaya Survey 2020**, 76 VPs in Karnataka were identified as the most deprived and vulnerable, scoring less than 21 out of 100. These Panchayats lack infrastructure,

basic amenities, and socio-economic development. To address these gaps, a special grant of Rs. 50 lakhs to each identified VP is recommended, necessitating critical intervention from the Fifth Karnataka State Finance Commission. This support is crucial for **localizing Sustainable Development Goals** and driving progress in these vulnerable areas, as well as the overall development of the state.

1. Insights from Mission Antyodaya (MA) Survey

Mission Antyodaya (MA) is a comprehensive framework introduced in the Union Budget of 2017-2018 by the Government of India, aimed at transforming lives and livelihoods in rural areas through convergence and accountability. This initiative seeks to address multi-dimensional poverty by pooling resources from 27 ministries towards the development of 50,000 VPs and one crore households. MA emphasizes the convergence of schemes and programs at the Panchayat level, with a focus on raising household incomes through a cluster approach.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) play a crucial role in this convergence, particularly within Antyodaya clusters, by strengthening agricultural and allied activities. The framework also emphasizes accountability through mechanisms such as Social Audits at the local level.

The annual MA Survey assesses the progress of VPs and identifies gaps in infrastructure and socio-economic development, serving as the basis for **Village Panchayat Development Plans (VPDP)**. Overall, MA aims to provide sustainable livelihoods to the rural poor by leveraging convergence, accountability, and measurable outcomes.

The objectives of MA are multi-faceted and geared towards uplifting rural communities through effective resource utilization, partnerships, assessment, and participatory planning. It supports participatory planning for VPDP. The findings from the MA Survey inform this process, allowing for the development of focused micro-plans aimed at sustainable livelihoods, while also improving governance and service delivery at the grassroots level.

The MA Surveys, conducted at the VP level, serve as a crucial tool for assessing rural development progress in India. Directed by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR) annually, these surveys rank VPs based on indicators such as basic infrastructure, human development, and economic activity.

However, recent critiques highlight limitations in the survey methodology, particularly in 2017 and 2018, where only a subset of parameters connected to six subjects out of 29 was evaluated. Moreover, concerns regarding the lack of association between survey questions and functional domains of VPs have been raised. Despite these limitations, MA Surveys remain essential for identifying development gaps and informing the preparation of VPDP, thereby facilitating targeted interventions for rural development.

The MA Survey underwent significant restructuring in 2019 to address previous limitations and encompass all 29 subjects transferred to VPs as per the Constitution. The number of parameters increased from 46 to 112, covering a wider range of subjects. However, three subjects received zero value, and two subjects were merged into one, while a new subject, 'Financial and Communication Infrastructure,' was introduced. Although the total score value remained at 100, the value of each param-

eter was adjusted accordingly. Consequently, comparisons between the 2018 and 2019 scores may not be straightforward. Methodological cautions are necessary for accurate comparisons, considering the changes in parameters and score values.

The MA methodology has remained unchanged since 2019, but revisions are underway to include components of the *Jal Jeevan Mission*, emphasizing drinking water. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's involvement underscores the need for a skilled workforce to support the installation of Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC). Future iterations of the MA Survey aim to incorporate these revisions for a more comprehensive assessment of rural development.

The MA survey employs two distinct questionnaires, Part A and Part B, to assess rural development aspects comprehensively. Part A primarily focuses on infrastructure availability across 29 subjects, reflecting the responsibilities of VPs in ensuring economic empowerment and social justice for rural communities. Conversely, Part B delves into services accessed by the rural poor, encompassing sectors such as health, nutrition, social security, water management, and living standards,

Identifying Karnataka's Most Deprived VPs

In the MA survey of 2020, VPs with a score value below 21 are identified in Karnataka as the "most deprived/most vulnerable" groups among the 5958 VPs. This designation, applicable to 76 VPs in Karnataka, signifies their critical need for attention due to deficiencies in infrastructure, access to basic amenities, and overall socio-economic and human development. These findings shed light on the specific chal-

allenges faced by rural communities, facilitating targeted interventions to address their needs.

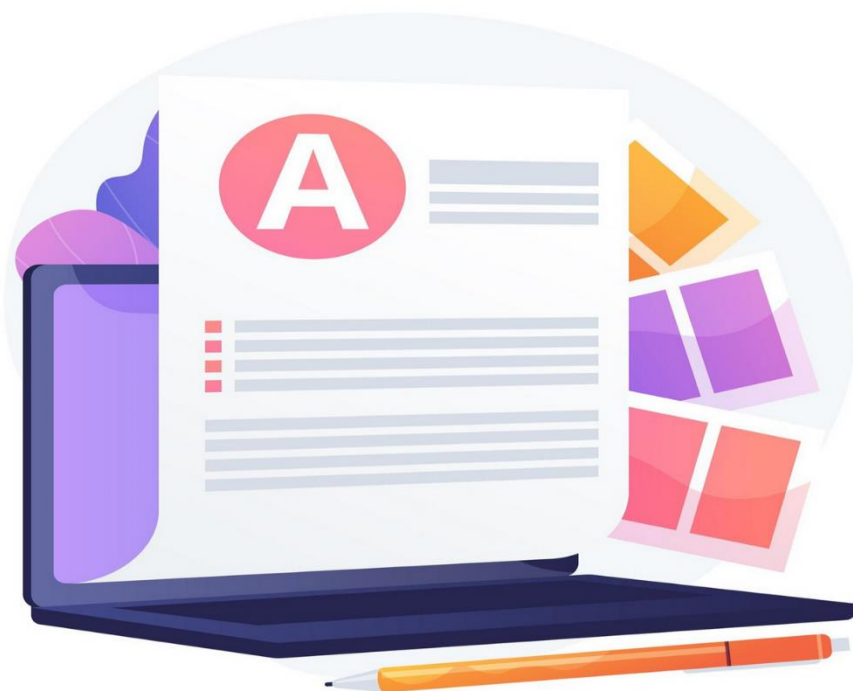
Within Karnataka, the 76 VPs identified as the “most deprived/most vulnerable” are distributed across 21 districts. These VPs are identified based on significant gaps in infrastructure, access to basic amenities, overall socio-economic development, and human development, including gender development. The Deprivation Index is formulated by evaluating performance across 29 subjects devolved to the Panchayats as per the Constitution, providing a comprehensive assessment of rural development needs.

2. Intervention from the 5th State Finance Commission, Karnataka

Addressing the deprivation of the most vulnerable VPs in Karnataka presents an opportunity to align local development

efforts with the SDGs. By targeting the underlying causes of deprivation, interventions can simultaneously contribute to a broader range of relevant SDGs. Evaluating the performance of VPs and measuring changes in the context of SDGs after one year of implementation would provide valuable insights.

To support this endeavour, a special grant of Rs. 50 lakh is suggested for each of the 76 most deprived/most vulnerable VPs. This grant, totaling Rs. 38.00 crore, aims to address specific project objectives tailored to local needs while aligning with relevant SDGs. Establishing a high-level monitoring committee at the state level would ensure effective oversight of this intervention, promoting accountability and maximizing impact.





Citizen-Centric Governance In Karnataka -

An Agenda for Reform

Third Prize-Winning Entry in IIPA-KRB and Jain University Annual Essay Competition 2023



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Introduction

Good Governance aims at providing an environment in which all citizens irrespective of class, caste and gender can develop to their full potential. In addition, Good Governance also aims at providing public services effectively, efficiently and equitably to the citizens.

The 4 pillars on which the edifice of Good Governance rests, in essence are:

- Ethos (of service to the citizen),
- Ethics (honesty, integrity and transparency),
- Equity (treating all citizens alike with empathy for the weaker sections), and
- Efficiency (speedy and effective delivery of service without harassment and using ICT increasingly).

Relevance to the State of Karnataka

Karnataka's status as an innovative pioneer makes it especially able for grasping advanced arrangements inside the Citizen-Centric Administration system. The state's IT ability can be saddled to establish user-friendly stages that encourage

consistent citizen engagement. Advanced channels can empower citizens to voice their concerns, get to data, and take part effectively in decision-making forms. This not as it were upgrades straightforwardness but too enables citizens to hold specialists responsible, cultivating a culture of shared beliefs between the state and its people.

Karnataka's dynamic respectful society and dynamic citizenry too dovetail with the standards of Citizen-Centric Administration. The state's history of grassroots developments and community-driven activities underscores the potential for collaborative administration. By including citizens in approach detailing, arranging, and observing, the state can tap into the riches of neighbourhood information, encounter, and development. This expands the adequacy of approaches but moreover supports a sense of possession and pride among citizens.

As Karnataka navigates the challenges of maintainable improvement, Citizen-Centric Administration offers a vigorous road to advance natural stewardship. By effectively including citizens in decision-making forms related to normal asset administration, contamination control, and maintainable urban arranging, the state can guarantee that improvement is biologically dependable and adjusted with the long-term well-being of its citizens.

Challenges to the Framework of Karnataka's Governance

The Urban-Rural Divide: The difference between urban and rural areas can be seen in the contrast between Bangalore and remote villages. Bangalore benefits from a strong infrastructure, IT industry and quality educational institutions. In contrast, many villages lack adequate roads, access to healthcare and

quality education. This difference can lead to migration from rural areas to cities in search of better opportunities.

Malnutrition in Rural Areas: Malnutrition rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Limited access to nutritious food, health care and clean drinking water exacerbates this problem. This highlights the uneven distribution of resources and services between urban and rural areas.

Corruption and Liability: Corruption in government and administrative bodies has been a constant problem. This weakens the effective provision of public services and the confidence of citizens in the administration. Ensuring transparency, accountability and strong anti-corruption measures are essential to meet this challenge.

Corruption in Education: Cases of bribery and corruption have been reported in the education sector, where students and parents allegedly paid bribes for favourable exam results or admission to prestigious institutions. Such practices undermine the credibility of the education system and hinder merit-based opportunities.

Agricultural Crisis: Agriculture is a vital sector in Karnataka and provides employment to a significant portion of the population. However, the suicides of farmers, lack of modern agricultural practices, lack of water and insufficient credit facilities caused difficulties in agriculture. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive agricultural reforms, improved water supply and better access to financial services for farmers.

Cotton Crop Failure: Cotton farmers in certain regions faced various factors such as unpredictable weather conditions, pest infestation and limitations of modern farming techniques. This can lead to debt and financial difficulties for farmers.

Infrastructure Load

Rapid urbanization in cities like Bangalore has put a strain on infrastructure. Common problems include traffic jams, inadequate public transportation, garbage disposal problems, and strained electrical service. The state must invest in sustainable urban planning, transport systems, waste management infrastructure and affordable housing to effectively manage urban growth.

Public Transport Challenges: Bangalore's rapid urbanization has resulted in huge demand for public transport. Inadequate infrastructure and inadequate public transport options increase traffic congestion, longer journeys and environmental pollution.

Environmental Issues: As cities and industry continue to grow, environmental problems arise. Pollution, deforestation and depletion of natural resources threaten the ecological balance of the country. Finding a balance between economic development and environmental sustainability is important to ensure a livable and healthy environment for current and future generations.

Bellandur Lake Pollution: Bellandur Lake, one of the largest lakes in Bangalore, suffered from massive pollution due to untreated sewage and industrial waste. This pollution poses a serious threat to the health of residents and highlights inadequate waste management systems.

Social Care and Inclusive Development: Despite progress, many vulnerable groups in society, such as marginalized communities and the economically disadvantaged, still face barriers to accessing quality education, health and other basic services. Ensuring that social programs effectively reach these groups requires targeted policies and implementation mechanisms.

Differences between Education and Healthcare: Although Karnataka has

recognized educational institutions and health facilities, the quality and availability of these services are not uniform across the country. Rural areas often lack well-equipped schools and health centres, which limits the opportunities of the people living there. Bridging this gap requires investment in rural infrastructure and attracting skilled professionals to underserved areas.

Water Supply: Karnataka faces challenges related to water availability and management, especially during drought. There are disputes with neighbouring countries about the distribution of river water resources, which leads to conflicts between countries. Implementing effective water management policies and practices, promoting rainwater harvesting, and investing in irrigation infrastructure are critical for sustainable water use.

Cauvery River Water Dispute: The division of Cauvery River water between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu has been a source of conflict, protests and court battles for decades. The challenge is to manage water resources equitably while meeting both the agricultural and urban needs of countries.

Job creation and Skills Development: Although employment in sectors such as IT and manufacturing has increased in Karnataka's urban areas, creating job opportunities for the state's growing population remains a challenge. Skills development initiatives that meet labour market needs are needed to combat unemployment and underemployment.

Migration and Urban Poverty: The attractiveness of urban opportunities led to migration from rural areas to cities, causing the growth of slums and informal settlements. Urban poverty, lack of housing and inadequate access to basic services are common challenges for these populations. Policies are needed to

address urban poverty, provide affordable housing, and integrate immigrants into the urban fabric.

Urban Slums: When rural people move to cities in search of livelihood, slums form due to inadequate housing options. These slums lack proper sanitation and access to essential services, perpetuating urban poverty and health risks.

Commendable Measures of Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Government, like many other governments, is focused on improving its services and communication with citizens through various initiatives. Here are some of the measures implemented:

Sakala Services

Sakala is the flagship of the Government of Karnataka, which aims to provide citizens with timely and hassle-free delivery of various government services. Under this initiative, it has been ensured that various services like issuance of certificates, licenses and permits are provided within the stipulated time. The aim of the program was to reduce corruption and ensure transparency in service delivery.

Online Services Portal

Karnataka has launched an integrated online services portal to enable citizens to access various government services and information online. This portal provides citizens with a centralized platform to request documents, make payments and track the status of applications without having to visit government offices in person.

Mobiles Apps

The Government of Karnataka has launched several mobile apps to facilitate citizen engagement and service delivery. These programs enable citizens to access official information, request services and provide feedback on various

initiatives. Apps like “*Namma Karnataka*” and “*M-Kavach*” are examples of this company.

E-Governance Initiatives

The state government has been actively working to digitize its administrative processes to make them more efficient and transparent. This includes the digitization of land registries, electronic procurement systems and various other administrative processes to reduce paperwork and improve operational efficiency.

Jan Seva Kendras

The government has established Jan Seva Kendras (Citizen Service Centres) across the state to provide a single point of contact for citizens seeking various government services. The purpose of the centres is to provide information and assistance to citizens and reduce their need to visit multiple government agencies.

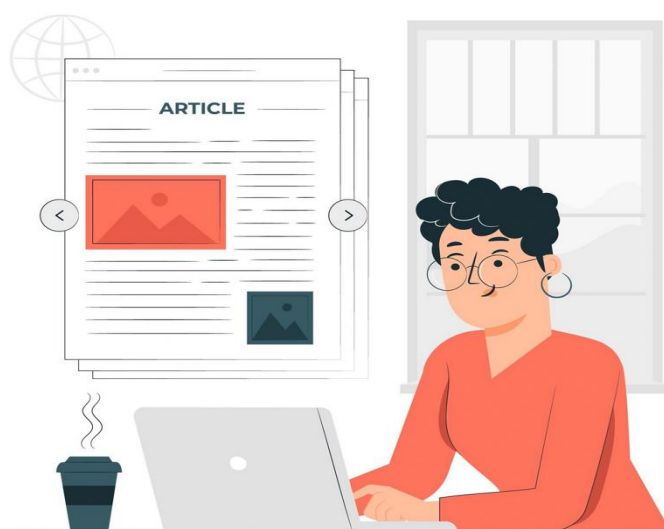
Feedback Mechanisms

The government has introduced feedback mechanisms through which citizens can submit their views, suggestions and complaints about government services and initiatives. In this way, the government can collect direct feedback from citizens and make improvements based on their feedback.

Redressal of Public Grievances

Karnataka has created mechanisms for citizens to lodge complaints against government services and administration. These complaints are addressed by the relevant authorities and the resolution status is monitored to ensure timely and effective compensation. Transparency measures: The government has worked to increase transparency through measures such as publishing budgets, expenditure information and performance reports online. This helps citizens understand how public funds are spent and increases accountability.

Capacity Building and Training: To ensure the success of citizen-centric governance, the government has invested in training programs for its employees to improve service delivery, communication and public engagement.



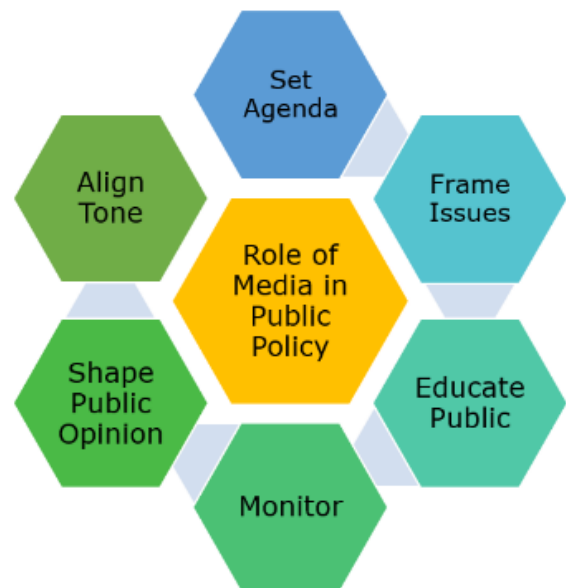


Communication Pulse

How can Media be used Effectively in Public Policy?



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Introduction

It is common knowledge that it is important to share and disseminate information to a wider audience, especially in the case of policy makers and government officers. One of the powerful “voices”/channels they can use is the media.

Role of Media in Public Policy

Media plays an important role in the space of Public Policy. Some key aspects include:

- **Setting an Agenda** to highlight specific issues and topics and bring them to the forefront of public consciousness, influencing policymakers’ priorities.
- **Framing issues** in specific ways to include language, tone and context used in news coverage to shape public perception and influence policy discussions.
- **Educating Public** by informing policy matters through news reports, documentaries and analysis.

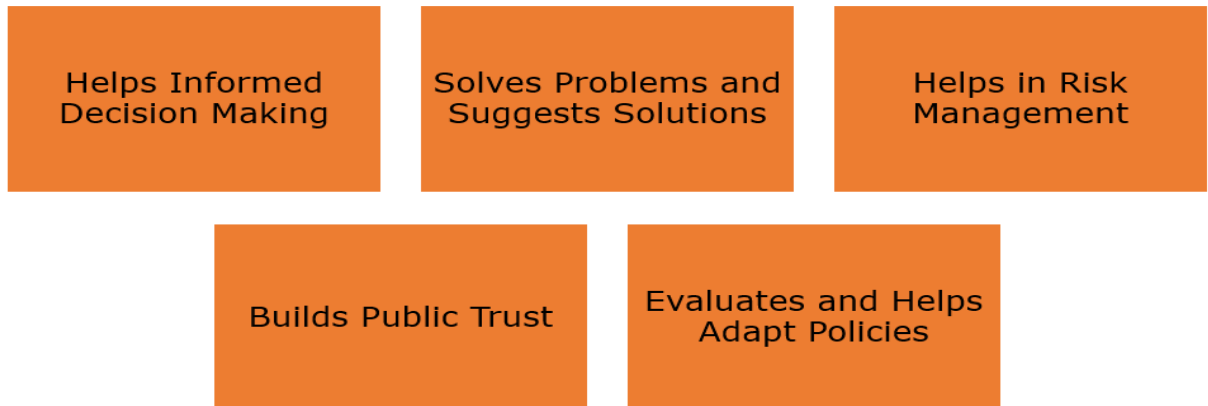
- **Monitoring and Accountability** by exposing corruption, inefficiencies and policy failures.
- **Shaping Public Opinion** by presenting different perspectives, emphasizing certain aspects and by providing platforms for experts and stakeholders.
- **Aligning the Tone** to create a sense of urgency or crisis around specific issues.

Policy Implementation

- Media attention can impact policy implementation.
- When an issue gains widespread coverage, policymakers may allocate resources, adjust regulations, or create new programmes to address it.

In summary, the media’s role in Public Policy extends beyond mere reporting—it influences the policy agenda, educates citizens, and shapes public opinion, ultimately impacting the decisions made by policymakers.

Scientific Usage



Importance of Media in Public Policy

Disseminate Information:

- Provide information on policy proposals, government actions and public debates to the general public
- Act as intermediaries between policy-makers and citizens, ensuring that people are aware of the issues at hand and understand the potential implications of policy decisions.

Set Agenda:

- Influence public agenda by highlighting certain issues over others.
- Bring attention to specific policy challenges, shaping public discourse and putting pressure on policymakers to address them using reporting and analysis.

Help Public Form Opinion:

- Shape how the public perceives the effectiveness, fairness and necessity of different policy proposals.

Advocacy and Mobilization:

- Amplify voices of advocacy groups, civil society organizations and grassroots movements.
- Provide a platform to raise awareness

on specific policy issues and mobilize public support for their causes.

Feedback and Evaluation for Policies:

- Play a role in providing feedback on the implementation and outcomes of Public Policies.
- Assess the effectiveness of policies, identify unintended consequences and advocate for necessary adjustments or reforms.

How is it used Scientifically in Everyday Life?

Using scientific rigour is important and useful. Following are some of the ways:

Aids in Informed Decision-Making:

- Helps in designing effective public policies.
- Evidence-based information helps policy makers make informed choices.

Solves Problems and Provides Suggested Solutions:

- Research provides alternate solutions.
- Predicts probable outcomes.

Helps in Risk Assessment and Prior Warning:

- Identifies risks and provides warning.

- Helps in taking preventive measures and develop effective policies.

Builds Public Trust and Reliability:

- Maintains public trust, especially when there are controversies, wrong representation of information.
- No trust can lead to poor decision making.
- Using scientific standards ensures policy decisions are based on sound information.

Evaluates and Helps Adapts Policies:

- Allows policymakers to assess policy effectiveness

Challenges and Responsibilities

Three key challenges include:

1. Evidence-based Reporting
 - a. Due to lack of appropriate knowledge citizens are not aware of reliable sources.
2. Lack of Accuracy
 - a. Misrepresenting information leads to flawed policies.
3. Lack of Balanced information
 - a. Not presenting diverse perspectives hampers decision making.

Conclusion

In short, media links scientific developments and Public Policy. Understanding the nuances of science reporting empowers individuals to engage critically and advocate for evidence-based policies.





Revisiting Gender

Implementing Feminist Policy Perspectives in Public Administration



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The consideration of **Gender in Public Administration** has evolved over time, a factor of no little importance in recent decades. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **University of Pittsburgh** have carried out extensive research into this issue, spanning 170 countries. They found that while there has been progress on women's representation overall in Public Administration, unremitting gaps still remain.

The conception of being *good enough* and moralities are often associated with whether one is a man or a woman. Women are expected to be responsible for everything in private life while men are expected to be in charge in public life. These ideas have taken a front seat, particularly in this era of modernization as women now are expected to maintain both private and public life. To be tailored to these expectations, women are unable to acquire

higher positions. **The traditional image of women as only caretakers has shifted but there remains an impression of women accommodating private chores to priority.**

The discourse surrounding gender in Public Administration has evolved, particularly with the introduction of feminist perspectives. **Feminist theories in Public Administration** seek to critically analyze the current status and role of women in public agencies, identify gender biases within the field, and propose new theoretical approaches. There are assorted feminist theories which provide diverse analysis; however the two main types of feminist theories in Public Administration are descriptive and conceptual. Incorporating feminist theories into Public Administration through policies brings an understanding of gender dynamics and promotes more inclusive and equitable governance practices. Policies informed by feminist perspectives prioritize addressing systemic barriers that hinder women's participation and advancement within Public Administration.

For instance, from a descriptive theory viewpoint, **policies can be developed to actively monitor, address gender disparities and also challenges such as accessing opportunities, equal status, uncovering systematic biases, and other barriers that hinder women's advancement.** Additionally, policies can be designed to promote a supportive organizational culture that values diversity and actively contests gender biases in decision-making processes. Conceptual feminist theories can inform policy development by challenging traditional notions of leadership and professionalism

that perpetuate gender inequalities. Policies can adopt a critical lens to reevaluate existing frameworks and redefine leadership criteria to be more inclusive of diverse leadership styles and perspectives. This might involve implementing leadership training programs that recognize and cultivate a broader range of leadership qualities beyond traditionally masculine traits. Furthermore, **policies influenced by feminist theories can prioritize intersectionality, recognizing that gender intersects with other social identities such as race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality to compound inequalities.** By adopting an intersectional approach, policies can better address the unique challenges faced by women within Public Administration and ensure that diversity and inclusion initiatives are truly equitable and inclusive.

Incorporating feminist theories into Public Administration through policy perspectives is not only crucial for promoting gender equality but also for fostering more effective and responsive governance practices that better serve the needs of all citizens.

By challenging existing power structures and biases, these policies have the potential to create more inclusive and equitable public institutions that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

The main goal of both theories is to **promote inclusivity, equality, and diversity in Public Administration, further contributing to a thorough understanding of the complexities of gender.** Deliberating the root cause of gender disparity is essential for equal representation and establishing strategies for change and reform. In the usual course, policies through feminist theories challenge the traditional, stereotypes and biased assumptions. Moreover, they demand proactive measures to address these issues.

There is a need for implementing feminist policies in revisiting gender in Public Administration as the notion of gender has evolved over the decades. Thus, **a critical examination of these images is called for, to address the crisis faced by women and promote more inclusive and equitable practices.**





Report of Branch Event

CYBER SECURITY, PUBLIC POLICY, AND LAW

The **Karnataka Regional Branch of the IIPA**, in association with **KLE Law College, Bengaluru** organized a workshop on the theme, “**Cyber Security, Public Policy and Law**” on 7th May 2024 in the auditorium of KLE Law College. The workshop commenced with an inaugural function with a welcome and introduction by **Dr. Chaitra Prasad M.D**, Associate Professor of Political Science, KLE Law College and Coordinator of the event.

Dr. M.A. Saleem, IPS, Director-General of Police, CID, Special Units and Economic Offences, Karnataka, set the tone for the proceedings by highlighting the evolution of technology and its impact on society, emphasizing the growing threat of cybercrime.

This was followed by an address from Chief Guest **Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar IAS (Retd.)**, former Chief Secretary of Karnataka and Chairman of IIPA-KRB, who delved into the intricacies of digital arrest, victim psychology, and relevant laws.

The Inauguration concluded with a Presidential Address by **Prof. J.M. Mallikarjunaiah**, Dean Faculty of Law, KLE Technological University and Principal KLE Law College Bengaluru. A skit by students conveyed a critical message on cybercrime awareness.



Session I: Emerging Cyber Crime Threat Landscape in India and the Law

Mr. Vamsi Krishna, IPS, delivered an insightful talk on the evolving cybercrime landscape in India. He discussed the classification of cybercrime, barriers to FIR registration, and key factors contributing to cybercrime. Engaging with the audience, Mr. Krishna addressed various questions, stimulating an interactive discussion.

Session II: Cyber Security and Digital Forensics in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Mr. Venkatesh Murthy, Senior Director, Data Security Council of India elaborated on the intersection of cyber security and digital forensics against the backdrop of artificial intelligence. Through case studies, he demonstrated the application of AI in digital forensic investigations and its implications for legal proceedings.

Session III: Cyber Security and Psychology

Dr. Shailaja Shastri, renowned psychologist, delivered a lecture on the psychological dimensions of cyber security, emphasizing behavioral approaches to understanding and addressing cybercrime. She also provided guidance on coping with psychological stress related to cyber threats.



The workshop on *Cyber Security, Public Policy, and Law* provided a comprehensive exploration of contemporary issues in the field. With engaging sessions led by eminent speakers and interactive discussions, participants gained valuable insights into the challenges and solutions within the realm of cyber security. The event concluded with the distribution of certificates to attendees, recognizing their participation in the workshop. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, Secretary, IIPA, Karnataka Regional Branch. The entire event was very ably compered by **Ms. Ritika Tripathi** of II BA LLB. **Dr. M.D. Chaitra Prasad**, Associate Professor at KLE Law College coordinated the workshop.



Branch Members' Writings in the Popular Media



Bengaluru in Crisis, Farmers in Distress

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 13 May 2024

Dr. A Ravindra, IAS (Retd.)

Former Chief Secretary
Government of Karnataka

I would like to put forward the following suggestions:

- Put a complete stop to the acquisition of agricultural land and developing new layouts, residential or industrial, in the Bengaluru metropolitan region.
- To improve the urban environment and address climate change issues, identify all barren and uncultivable land in the metropolitan region and build tree parks or city forests. Promote solar energy and incentivise energy-efficient buildings. Incentivize the use of public transport and disincentivize the use of private motor vehicles. These measures are likely to reduce the heat island effect, control rises in temperatures, and reduce air pollution.
- To tackle the water crisis, ban or restrict the digging of borewells and encourage rain-water harvesting and groundwater recharge. Penalize wastage of clean treated water, increase waste water treatment facilities, and lay separate pipelines for the supply of water for non-potable uses.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/bengaluru-in-crisis-farmers-in-distress-3019513>



Oh, this Kafkaesque World between Despair and Hope!

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 28 April 2024

Gurucharan Gollerkeri, IAS (Retd.)

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Kafka's narrative is located where the experience of alienation, the power of words, and the mind's hazy wealth of imagery intersect, which is why Kafka's greatness endures. Read *The Complete Stories* and you begin to see why he remains a great chronicler of the human condition.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/oh-this-kafkaesque-world-between-despair-and-hope-2998142>

Disinterring the New International Economic Order

Revisiting the 50-year-old legacy can help reshape contemporary geopolitics.

In *Deccan Herald* dt. 11 May 2024



D. Jeevan Kumar

Hon. Professor

Karnataka State Rural Devt. & Panchayat Raj University
Gadag

The New International Economic Order (NIEO) was the most widely discussed transnational governance reform initiative of the 1970s. What made the NIEO remarkable was not so much the content of its programme as the possibility that the world might be witnessing the downfall of the centuries-long hegemony of the North. In contrast to the Thatcherite “*There Is No Alternative*” order that would soon emerge, the NIEO imagined and represented a dramatically “alternative” geopolitical future.

Read more at: <https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/disinterring-the-nieo-3017979>



Strengthening India’s Health System

Annapoorna Ravichander

9 May 2024

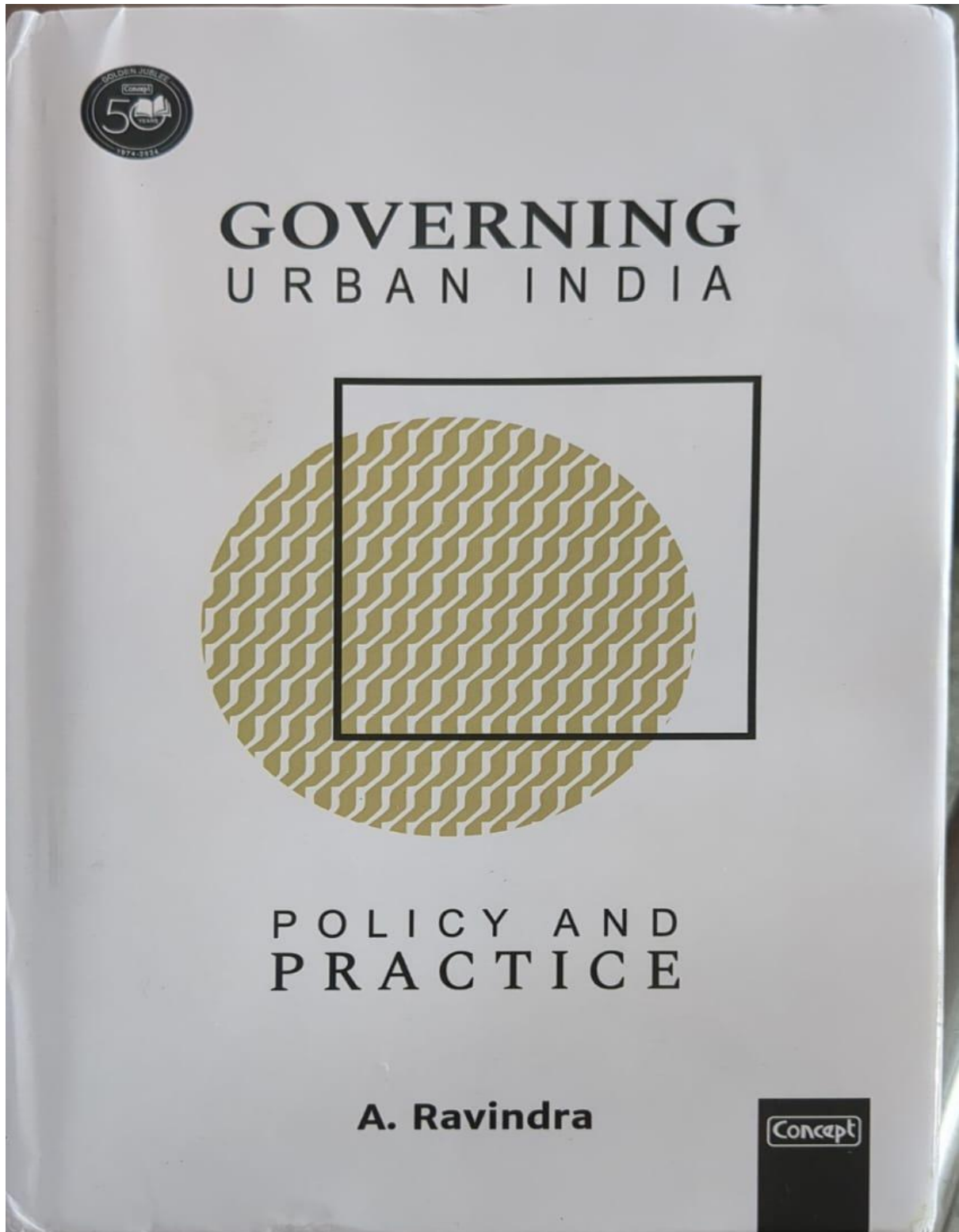
SERIES *Voices of Change in Asia* 5

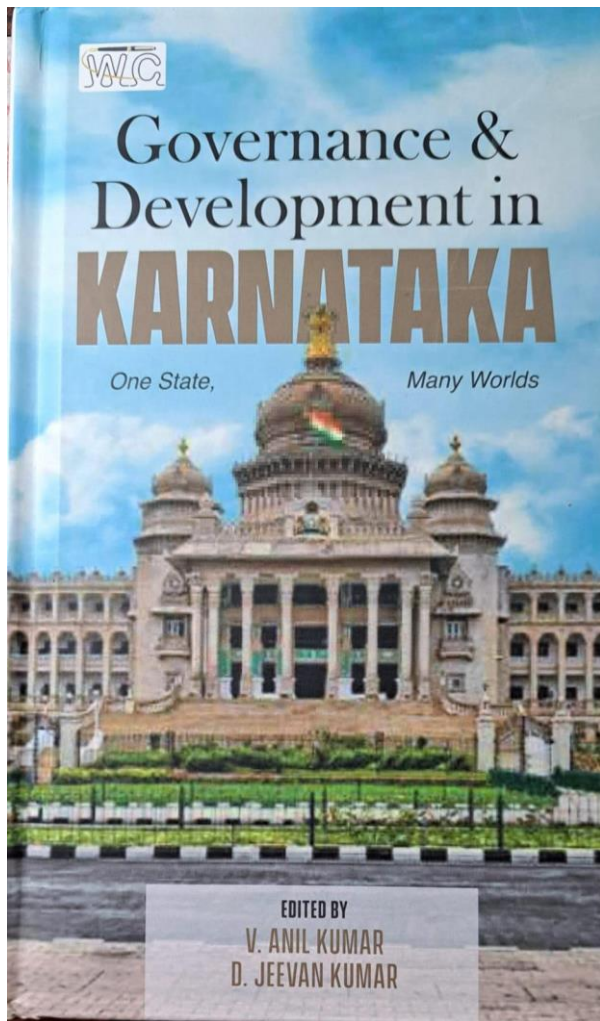
This interview series featuring changemakers across Asia, which delves into policy and change processes that are shaping the region. In this edition, **Dr. Annapoorna Ravichander** talks to **Dr. K. Sujatha Rao**, a civil servant in the Indian Government for 36 years and retired in December 2010 from the post of Union Health Secretary. Since then, she has been engaged with policy work as a member of various committees and on the Boards of several non-profit organisations. In 2017, she wrote the book ***Do We Care? India’s Health System***, published by the Oxford University Press.

Dr Sujatha Rao discusses the challenges of working in health policy, the use of evidence in developing India’s HIV AIDS strategy, lessons learned from the **COVID-19** pandemic in India, and the ambitious **Ayushman Bharat** initiative that is helping more Indians to access affordable quality healthcare.

Link to Interview:

<https://onthinktanks.org/articles/in-conversation-with-dr-sujatha-rao-strengthening-indias-health-system/>





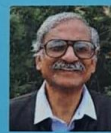
Governance and Development in Karnataka

Among all the Indian states, Karnataka stands for the hopes and aspirations; contrasts and contradictions of India. First, Karnataka is increasingly known for its status as the 'Silicon Valley of India', making the other Indian states emulate its great success in developing information technology (IT) and information technology enabled services (ITES); however, Karnataka also reflects the rest of India in terms of its growing regional, sectoral, and social inequalities and the environmental crisis. Thus, while Karnataka is emblematic of the hopes and aspirations of India's burgeoning youth and is also characteristic of India's continued developmental laggardness. The development, so far, has no doubt led to the growth of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) and the creation of an increasingly assertive middle class, the same has also been achieved leaving agriculture sector and backward regions of the state, such as Kalyana-Karnataka, far behind.

In this context, the 15 papers in this volume, presented at a national seminar, organized by the Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development (CPIGD), the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), and Indian Institute of Public Administration- Karnataka Regional Branch (IIPA-KRB), to commemorate the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the ISEC, focus on four major themes: Regional Disparities within Karnataka; the Politics of Data; Ecological and Economic Governance in Karnataka; and the Welfare and Social Justice.



Dr. V. Anil Kumar is Professor and Head of the Centre at the Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development, Institute for Social and Economic Change. His earlier books include 'Urban Governance and Local Democracy in South India', 'Federalism and Local Government in India', 'Peasantry Capitalism and State: Political Economy of Agrarian Societies', 'Sisyphian Efforts? State Policy and Child Labour in Karnataka', and 'Decentralized Governance and Planning in Karnataka, India'. He has published in *Agrarian South: The Journal of Political Economy*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, *Asian Journal of Public Policy*, *Economic & Political Weekly*, *Arthavijnana* and other Journals.



Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar taught Political Science at Bangalore University. He was a Fulbright Fellow in the USA in 2003. The books he has edited include 'The Angry Voter', 'Uniting in Responsibilities in a Culture of Rights' and 'Excellence in Administration: Prospects and Perspectives'. He is currently Hon. Professor at the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Karnataka.

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The 15 papers in this volume, presented at a national seminar organized by the **Centre for Political Institutions, Governance and Development (CPIGD)** at the **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**, and the **Karnataka Regional Branch of the Indian Institute of Public Administration**, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of ISEC, focus on four major themes: Regional Disparities within Karnataka; the Politics of Data; Ecological and Economic Governance in Karnataka; and the Welfare and Social Justice.

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The book is available on Amazon.



Basava (1131–1196 CE), also called *Basavēśvara* and *Basavaṇṇa*, was an Indian philosopher, poet, Lingayat social reformer in the Shiva-focused bhakti movement, and a Hindu Shaivite social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri dynasty. Basava was active during the rule of both dynasties but reached the peak of his influence during the rule of **King Bijjala II** in Karnataka. As the Chief Minister of his kingdom, he introduced new public institutions such as the Anubhava Mantapa (or the "hall of spiritual experience"), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in the open.

Basava also advocated the concept of "**Work is Worship**" (*Kayakave Kailasa* in Kannada). The essence of this philosophy is as follows:

1. **Equating work with spiritual practice:** Basava believed that one's occupation or work (*kayaka*) is a form of worship (*sadhanā*), equal to traditional religious practices.
2. **Rejection of idle renunciation:** He criticized the idea of renouncing worldly life and instead emphasized the importance of being engaged in productive work.
3. **Spiritualizing daily activities:** Basava encouraged people to transform their daily tasks into spiritual practices by performing them with dedication, honesty, and selflessness.
4. **Social responsibility:** He emphasized the importance of contributing to society through one's work, considering it a form of service to others.
5. **Inner purification:** Basava believed that work helps to purify the mind and soul, leading to spiritual growth and self-realization.
6. **Equality and inclusivity:** He advocated for the equal value of all work, regardless of caste or social status, promoting a sense of community and social equality.

In summary, Basava's philosophy of "**Work is Worship**" emphasizes the spiritual significance of productive work, social responsibility, and inner purification, while promoting inclusivity and equality. It is a beautiful philosophy that encourages us to find meaning and purpose in our daily work and activities. Basava's ideas have inspired people across centuries.



IIPA-KRB Virtual Newsletter

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