

1 Executive summary

Statistics is an indispensable tool for national development, growth and planning. It has been advocated that the national statistical system in any country should get more attention if the country is to have an orderly and definite development programme (United Nations Resolution on World Statistics Day, 2010) Therefore, timely, complete, accurate and reliable statistics is critical to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong, equitable development, and is an essential ingredient for formulation of sound economic development policies.

The National Statistical Commission (NSC) headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan, undertook a thorough and in depth study of the Indian statistical system in 2000, to identify the administrative, legislative and technical measures and strategies to be deployed to upgrade the statistical system and enable it to satisfy the various statistical needs of the public and private sectors, academicians, researchers and other users. The Commission came out with a number of recommendations and stressed upon the need to have national and state level strategic statistical plans for the improvement of the national and state statistical systems. In accordance with this recommendation, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) initiated the India Statistical Strengthening Project (ISSP) with the assistance of the World Bank.

ISSP aims at strengthening the state statistical systems of the 35 States and Union Territories, by providing adequate technical and financial support to improve their statistical capacity, infrastructure for collecting and compiling and disseminating reliable official statistics for policy planning purposes particularly at the State and Sub-State levels. ISSP primarily covers 5 key areas of support to the States/UTs viz. a) improving the coordination and management of statistical activities in the States/UTs; b) human resource development; c) developing statistical infrastructure; d) investing in physical infrastructure, including IT and e) Improving Statistical Operations, especially those supporting the cause of improvement in the quality and dissemination of statistical data. However, ISSP was restructured as a central sector scheme called Support for Statistical Strengthening Project (SSSP) in 2015.

Against this background, the 16th conference of Central and State Statistical Organisations, held at Shimla on 4th and 5th December, 2008, led to the formulation of a "State Strategic Statistical Plan" which would enhance the credibility of the Indian statistical system. The formulation of the State Strategic Statistical Plans (SSSPs) represented a crucial first step in the implementation of the India Statistical Strengthening Project. The SSSP provided the state with a strategy for strengthening its statistical capacity across the entire State Statistical System (SSS). The key performance yardstick for the project was the extent to which the State and UT governments participating in the ISSP were able to meet effectively, adequately and systemically the national minimum standards in regard to the 20 key statistical activities.

The Government of Karnataka decided to participate in the ISSP and agreed to formulate the Karnataka

State Strategic Statistical Plan (KSSSP) by conveying its interest in its letter addressed to the GOI on 28.5.2008. The process of formulation of KSSSP commenced with the constitution of the project management team, under the chairmanship of the Director, Department of Economics and Statistics. The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Karnataka implemented Karnataka State Strategic Statistical Plan (KSSSP) 2010-14 through Karnataka Statistical System Development Agency (KSSDA), a society registered under the Karnataka Societies' Registration Act 1960. The aims and objectives of the Society are: a) to implement the ISSP and b) to design and implement the SSSP for strengthening the State statistical system in accordance with the National Strategic Statistical Plan (NSSP).

Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA), set out to evaluate the Karnataka State Strategic Statistical Plan (KSSSP) 2010-14 in 2016, with an objective to study to what extent the implementation of the KSSSP plan has been completed and the goals realized and also to assess the progress achieved under the 5 themes of ISSP. The evaluation study was designed to help the state government extract, from past and ongoing activities, relevant information that could subsequently be used as the basis for programmatic fine-tuning, reorientation and planning for the future of the plan.

Through the evaluation of 'KSSSP' the output, outcome and impact of the programs implemented under this plan have been studied and analysed. The evaluation study has been based on the data and information collected from Karnataka Statistical System Development Agency, State income, Industries and Prices division (SIP) Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Department, Agricultural Statistics Division (AGS) Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Department, Crop Insurance Division (CIS) Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Department, Publication Division (PTG) Division, Directorate of Economics and Statistics Department, National Informatics Centre and through pilot testing of survey tools at Mandya district. Also, formal survey was conducted across 5 districts viz. Mandya, Yadgir, Belgaum, Shimoga and Chitradurga. During the field survey with the district statistical offices, sample details and trainee details were collected, and based on the details provided respective talukas/ locations of trainees were visited. A total number of 68 trainees were surveyed as part of the evaluation study covering all the field officers/officials available at the 5 district statistical offices covering 37 talukas that participated in the training programmes conducted under the KSSSP. The plan related data received from primary and secondary sources were analysed through both quantitative and qualitative methods to derive the findings and recommendations.

The plan output included a review of the extent to which KSSSP has been successful in the implementation of the Collection of Statistics Act-2008 and Rules, extent to which the implementation of the KSSSP plan has been completed and the goals realized and also to assess whether action has been taken on the recommendations suggested by the Deloitte study conducted in 2013. The objective was to evaluate the financial assistance provided by the central and state government for the plan since its commencement in the year 2009-2010 and up to the year 2013-2014, process of devolution of funds,

funds utilisation, etc. While measuring the output of the plan, the implementation status was also examined mainly linked to the financial and physical targets of the plan through a review of initial and revised financial and physical targets and their impact on developing statistical infrastructure in Karnataka.

The outcome of the plan was assessed through a series of steps and each step included a set of actions. The steps refer to the period during and after the implementation of the KSSSP Plan. The objective was to go beyond the simple acquisition of knowledge about the plan but rather to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the plan. Under the outcome of the plan, 20 key statistical activities were reviewed closely to assess the current status and action taken under the 20 key statistical activities. This was followed by assessing whether a public portal for public use was provided or developed to obtain statistical data from web applications.

The plan impact was analysed through primary surveys, stakeholder consultation and secondary information to assess the level of infrastructure provided and to gauge the quality of infrastructure and training programmes conducted for staff /officers of DES and line departments. The objective of such primary surveys were to analyse the current status and quality of such statistical infrastructure created, and quality of training programmes conducted under KSSSP funds. The profile of the respondents who were part of the primary survey is discussed in section 8.1.2-Profile of respondents for the primary surveys. The indicators that were examined under the impact analysis of the plan were a) assessing the level of infrastructure (equipment) provided to the field officers for data collection; b) assessing the extent to which Induction/Refresher/Awareness trainings have been effective for staff /officers of DES and line departments and c) assessing the number of web applications developed under the plan.

Summary of findings based on the evaluation are presented below:

- ▶ The strategic goals and strategies laid out with regard to the implementation of KSSSP have been realised and implemented. Overall fund utilisation ratio of the total amount sanctioned under KSSSP was 90.53 per cent where the fund utilisation ratio for Government of Karnataka was 96.06 per cent and Government of India's ratio stood at 87.66 per cent.
- ▶ In order to improve the statistical operations especially those supporting the cause of improvement in the quality and dissemination of statistical data, a number of seminars, workshops and meetings with different heads of departments were held since inception
- ▶ KSSDA was successful in developing 7 web applications with the help of NIC, which are used by DES for the 20 key statistical activities. The application in respect of Crop Estimation Survey, Crop Area Enumeration, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Whole Sale Price Index and Index of industrial Production (IIP) were made ready for execution during 2010-11.
- ▶ Under KSSSP, a web public portal was developed and is operational for public use to obtain statistical data reports. With the aim of improving the statistical infrastructure, the creation of the web portal has helped in collecting data at the grassroots level and has enabled uploading the

data onto the centralized web portal and has made data storage, data warehousing, retrieval and analysis of data easier

- ▶ There has been significant achievements in improving the statistical infrastructure in the state. Under KSSSP, Under KSSSP, 4,828 Mini laptops/10" Net Books/ Hand held devices were planned for purchase to provide one for each Gram Panchayat for conduct of surveys by the line departments. Budget allocated for mini laptops was INR 724.2 lakhs. As per information provided by the department, 4153 mini-laptops have been purchased till date at a cost of INR 786.708 Lakhs.
- ▶ 425 Desktops have also been provided to DSO offices, Taluk office, Taluk Panchayat, Zilla Panchayath and DES including KSSDA. Laptops, Printers and projectors have also been provided to DSO, DES and KSSDA offices.
- ▶ The current status of functioning of the mini-laptops provided to the field staff was evaluated for major components such as battery, keyboard and display. Battery of the 56.28 per cent mini laptops evaluated were functioning normally with good back-up. Keyboard of the 86.85 per cent mini laptops evaluated were functioning normally with Very good/ excellent functioning. Display screen of the 87.23 per cent mini laptops evaluated were functioning normally with Very good/ excellent functioning.
- ▶ The overall functioning of the mini-laptops was evaluated for working condition and usability and it was found that 67.77 per cent mini-laptops provided to taluk offices/ SI's for use by the field staff for collection of data were found to be very good.
- ▶ 54.05 per cent respondents opined that the safety measures are in place at the taluk office for safety of the mini-laptops at their office through use of specially designed almirahs. 45.95 per cent of the respondents opined that the safety measures are not provided at their offices.
- ▶ KSSDA has been instrumental in introducing innovative training methods through conducting satellite linked training programme (SATCOM) by using audio visual training materials which has been useful in conducting mass trainings which was attended by close to 25,000 participants in a single session.
- ▶ During the period 2011-12 to 2014-15, 2,22,314 participants were trained which consisted of officers and officials of DES, line department officers, district and sub-district level officers, consultants, ZP officers, Asha & Anganwadi workers (taluk level) and statistical inspectors and enumerators
- ▶ 67.39 per cent of respondents who worked as VA's opined that the impact of the training programmes conducted was medium whereas 59.46 per cent respondents who worked as SI's opined that the impact of the training programmes conducted was high / very high. 50 per cent of respondents/ officers opined that the impact of the training programmes conducted was medium.

- ▶ Under KSSSP, initiatives were also taken to improve the physical infrastructure of DSO and DES office buildings at Hassan, Mangalore, Mysore, Bangalore, Chikmagalur and Raichur. Key activities included purchase of sites, construction of office building and renovation of existing facility.
- ▶ The performance of the 3 departments that were given financial assistance under KSSSP to develop reliable, credible and timely statistical infrastructure, data and indicators was evaluated. It was found that out of the 3 departments, Department of Factories and Boilers had the highest fund utilisation ratio of 96.87 per cent and as compared to Department of Labour and Directorate of Employment and Training was successful in developing statistical infrastructure and implemented online web applications in accordance with the goals of KSSSP.

The Karnataka State Strategic Statistical Plan is the first of its kind to be implemented in Karnataka. KSSSP aims at strengthening the state statistical systems with an objective to improve the statistical capacity, infrastructure for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable and timely official statistics. The continuance of the plan will allow the government to formulate sound economic development policies by creating a database of complete, accurate, timely and reliable statistics. Based on the evaluation the following recommendations have been made:-

- ▶ Two core elements such as maintenance and technology upgradation of the statistical infrastructure developed need to be enhanced. By developing mobile enabled applications and use of tablets for collection of data would result in user friendly, better data interpretation, presentation and reporting.
- ▶ Strengthen the online data collection system through better co-ordination, collaboration, networking and information sharing between data producers, users and providers in all the line departments of the government is recommended.
- ▶ The interim recommendations proposed by M/s Deloitte in their report dated January 2013 is critical for the success of enhancing the statistical system in the state. Therefore coverage of the plan in terms of funds released need to be increased in the next phase to implement these recommendations.
- ▶ In order to enhance the effectiveness and quality of trainings, trainees at the DSO level need to be motivated and this can be achieved by conducting certificate based trainings which will contribute towards their learning and development
- ▶ Since there was no hand holding / capacity building done before withdrawing the services of the consultants, the in-house staff and statistical personnel of the department need to be trained in effective ICT implementation by creating an open, robust and effective database.
- ▶ Enhance the visibility, usability and accessibility of the portal by implementing improvements towards content, design, functionality and performance
- ▶ Efficiency and productivity of the portal need to be increased by having monthly updates, bulletins on critical socio-economic indicators

- ▶ For better data representation, stakeholder consultations with academia, think tank, industry representatives, farm lobbies need to be conducted on a regular basis
- ▶ Web based software was to be developed for all the 20 key statistical activities but so far only 7 web applications have been developed covering 4 statistical activities. Therefore, in order to enhance the coverage of statistical activities covered, more web applications need to be developed to have reliable, credible and timely data for all the 20 key statistical activities.
- ▶ There is a need to monitor the progress of the assistance provided to the respective departments under KSSSP for developing reliable, credible and timely statistical infrastructure, data and indicators.
- ▶ The use of innovative information technologies for better collection, robust analysis and comprehensive reporting of data need to be explored further to enhance the statistical system in the state.
- ▶ The Karnataka State Strategic Statistical Plan may continue to be implemented. The Karnataka State Strategic Statistical Plan is the first of its kind to be implemented in Karnataka. KSSSP aims at strengthening the state statistical systems with an objective to improve the statistical capacity, infrastructure for collecting, compiling and disseminating reliable and timely official statistics. The continuance of the plan will allow the government to formulate sound economic development policies by creating a database of complete, accurate, timely and reliable statistics.