

**Abstracts of papers presented in the National Conference on Official Statistics on 1 February 2015 at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics**

***A Perspective on the Challenges Confronting the Official Statistical Systems in Developing Countries***

R. Radhakrishna  
Madras Institute of Development Studies

The paper discusses the recent challenges to National Statistical Systems in emerging economies arising from the shift from planned to liberalized economy as well as greater integration of developing countries with the globalized world. The data requirements for the macroeconomic management have been changing over time. Emerging priorities of the official statistical systems such as environmental statistics, gender statistics, etc., call for newer methods of data collection and dissemination. Some of the official statistical systems in developing countries are constrained by shortage of data statisticians.

***Sectors' Specification in Inter-industry Economics Frameworks Based Studies - Secondary Data Problems and How to Overcome Them***

V.V.N. Somayajulu  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

Sectors' specification in Inter-industry economics frameworks based macro economy-wide studies depends on classification of sectors in the economy, viz. Industrial classification and / or Commodity classification, also termed the latter one as Trade classification. Basic unit of industrial classification is the establishment or a firm or a farm, which is a production unit, at the most disaggregate level; while the basic unit of Commodity classification or of Trade classification is the commodities traded at the most disaggregate level. Hence they are distinct groups of two forms of classifications and there is no need of one to one correspondence between the two classifications as the basic units of the two classifications are different in the sense that for the first one is industrial establishment and for the other is commodity traded. Choice of either of the two classifications depends on the purposes of the study; but either of the two is essential for sectors' specification in Inter-industry economics frameworks based economics studies; and will be chosen to be relevant for the purpose of study. All countries need and possess establishment of industries or economic sectors for domestic production, and for their trade to earn export exchanges and to

minimize imports cost. Besides aggregation, so needed, disaggregation of sectors' specification is also the most desirable for identification of sub-sectors, thus for sectors' specifications.

***A Note on Data Gaps in Transport in India***

S. Sriraman  
University of Mumbai

This note highlights problems related to data in the context of the transport sector in India. While data availability is a major problem and equally important issues are the one relating to data gaps - in terms of either incomplete or no continuity in the data which is normally available. Our focus is on the data issues relating to ports, roads, road transport, civil aviation and urban transport.

***Limitations of Official Statistics and Data Gaps in Transport Sector, Remedial Measures to Bridge the Data Gaps for use in Transport Modes Planning and Perspective Planning for Development of India / States***

V.V.N. Somayajulu  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

In this paper, the author intends to treat the Inter-modal Transport Outputs as elements in Row Vectors and their inputs as Column Vectors. Both row and column vectors are split distinctly for each mode of transport and then incorporated into Inter-sectoral Input-Output Model, thus to deduce the best Inter-modal Transport Planning for Perspective Development of India.

***Some Data-Gaps Felt in a Socio-Economic Study of Goods Vehicle Owners-Operators in Road Transportation***

Dhanashree L. Bhujbal  
University of Pune

This paper highlights some data-availability issues pertaining to Road Transport Sector, particularly Goods Vehicle Owners-Operators in India, based on primary data collected from 100 goods carriage owners for the author's M.Phil. It is titled, "A Study of The Socio-Economic Problems Faced by Heavy and Light-Motor Vehicle Owners (Goods' Carriers) in Pimpari-Chinchwad" submitted to S.P. University of Pune.

***Some Remarks and Suggestions on Frequently Faced Data Gaps***

Pradip Apte

Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

Economic policy research involves testing various types of theories and plausible hypotheses. As the economic conditions evolve, there emerges a need of generating appropriate level data (some of them eventually become stylized facts) on a regular and comparable basis. It is well known that the present official system of data generation and estimation process evolved out of the planning and administrative needs as they emerged from time to time. The resultant system of large scale nationwide data generation and estimation that emerged out of these 'ever evolving conditions' and responsive efforts are certainly commendable.

Indian economy has grown and transformed itself from a traditional stagnant agrarian economy into highly diversified newly industrialized economy. Many sectors have undergone radical transformations and many entirely new sectors have emerged at historically unparalleled pace. Development efforts and policy administration now face different kinds of information needs. Evidently not all of these could be addressed by the extant system of information.

We offer here some of the requirements and data gaps that have been faced by various stakeholders in policy formulation, implementation and evaluation process. This note is an effort to enlist few of these prominent gaps and also occasionally some suggestions for redeeming the same.

***Problems and Limitations for Data-Pooling, Collection, Methodological and Policy Issues for Research in Indian Pharmaceutical Industry***

J. Manohar Rao

University of Hyderabad

Different aspects of data and methodological problems and limitations involved in pooling up of data sources from both government and private sources are highlighted. It appears that data from private sources focus more on exaggerated export data, and under-estimate the capacity utilization data. Most of the pricing data is focused to show that pricing policy of the government is erroneous. Pricing being a contentious issue, there needs to take standardization techniques to reflect the existing reality in market which is difficult. Same is true about data pertaining to R&D, technology transfer costs, contractual data and the exact cost of introducing a new drug discovery. Further it is also important to understand the data relating to me-too drug innovations and biosimilars. There needs to be a comprehensive perspective of the researcher with welfare implications to be measured. Pharmaceutical industry being a very sensitive sector dealing with human life, involving regulation all over the world, simple microeconomic principles may not yield appropriate results.

***Data Gaps in Population and Public Health***

Anjali Radkar  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

Fundamental prerequisite for empirical socio-economic research is the data availability. One needs requisite empirical data for testing the hypotheses set up earlier to draw the conclusions. Accordingly, information and data available from different sources are not sufficient for studying different facets of population and health in different sub-sections of population. This paper attempts to identify the gaps in existing population and health data from different data sources.

***Data Gaps in the Studies of Cost of Illness Analysis of Dementia***

Debasis Patnaik,  
Department of Economics, BITS Pilani, KK Birla Goa Campus  
Sanath Shetty,  
Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering BITS Pilani, KK Birla Goa Campus

Dementia is a mental illness that is difficult to account for in terms of opportunity cost foregone or Cost-of-illness (COI). The principal aim is to measure the economic burden of illness to society. This study mainly aims at analyzing the data gaps in the cost of illness analysis of Dementia. For this purpose, correlation between the cost of healthcare and the per capita GDP of a country is analyzed as to provide a first level methodological way to show how data collection exercises can be attended to.

***A Note on Data Gaps Felt in Construction of Capital Coefficients Matrix***

Raghunath K. Koti  
Consultant, Mumbai

Data gaps are the gaps between the data required and data available. In this paper, a brief description of the Leontief model, ideal data requirements for the capital coefficients matrix, past efforts made for construction of matrices, data gaps and suggestions, use of project reports, importance of capital matrix and the task of construction of this matrix are presented.

***Serious Data Gaps about the Earnings and Employment of Labour Engaged in On-Own Account Activities for Sustaining Livelihood in India***

K.M. Parchure  
ARTHA, Pune

In recent years, a large number of eminent economists, researchers and committees of experts of Government of India pointed out the urgent need of recognizing special cell in the existing statistical organizations such as CSO, NSS, EUS, EC (Economic Census), and ISSP (India Statistical Strengthening Project) for collecting the updated data of persons engaged in informal sector. Out of the total employed persons in India, viz. 47.2 crores, 94 per cent belong to the informal sector, i.e., 44.1 crores. To quote National Commission for Unorganised Sector, "there are a number of gaps in the statistics on enterprises & employment in informal sector in India." The committee recommends that a separate unit should be created within NSO for collection and organization of data regarding the earnings and conditions of the persons belonging to the informal sector.

***No Official Statistics, for Construction of Incremental Capital Coefficients Matrices of Fixed Capital, Working Capital, Replacement Capital; and No Data on Service Life and Expected Service Life of Fixed Capital Goods, with and/or without Reconditioning for Maintenance of Existing Capacities and for Additional New Capacities in Sectors of India / States/ UTs for Their Growth, and Development***

V.V.N. Somayajulu  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

The paper spells out the major issues and sources of data gaps so that official statistics are needed for construction of Incremental Capital Coefficients of Fixed Capital, Working Capital, Replacement Capital that should be available; but not available. Also no data were/are available on service life of fixed capital goods, with and/or without reconditioning for maintenance of existing capacities; together required for additional capacities in all sectors of India / States; thus for balanced growth of sectors of India/ States. Those flow end capital co-efficient matrices are essential basic tools of analysis for growth and development of India/States. Those capital coefficients in a matrix form of the sectors should correspond to flow input coefficients matrix of the same listed sectors of economies of States/ UTs and of India. If obtained so, the requisite capital and flow coefficients of the all sectors can be made use of, in dynamic input-output models for growth and development of States/ UTs and of India.

***Data Requirement for the Study of 'Environmental Impacts'***

Pradeep Apte and Medhavinee Watve  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

The 'Sustainable development' is the development of mankind along with the consideration of the environment which aims at intergenerational wellbeing. Environment affects our day to day activities, while our activities also affect it. Activities which affect environment adversely should be controlled or avoided. Only those economic activities should be encouraged which would minimize the adverse impacts on environment and which would lead towards cleaner environment. Such useful economic activities can be designed based on proper statistical data. Thus, it is important to have extensive and consolidated data on environment and its impact on the country.

***Two Vulnerable Groups: Data Gaps for Their Socio-Economic Study***

N. Benjamin  
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics

A study was made of two vulnerable groups, viz., Sansis and Nuts, in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) recently. They are among the lowest of the social classes. They live outside the social fabric and are considered criminals. Additionally, Nuts are believed to be involved in illicit distillation.

They live in their own colonies which have been established on land given to them by the government. There is fear among the residents of the city that members of these groups will rob them given a chance so much so that the residents avoid taking the roads in the vicinity of these colonies at night. Official data regarding them is almost absent. Census reports do contain some information about them but it is more or less at the state level. They are evasive of both official and non-official persons. When someone visits them, they fear that the ulterior motive is to find out their illegal activities and thereby entangle them in legal processes.

There are government schemes for their welfare. But Sansis and Nuts are not in a position to take their advantage. Many of them do not like to disclose their exact place of residence for fear of being called for questioning by the police. With poverty and illiteracy common among them, they are reluctant to meet an outsider. Their problems are further aggravated because birth control is almost unknown to them.

Members of these two groups essentially live in a world of their own.