

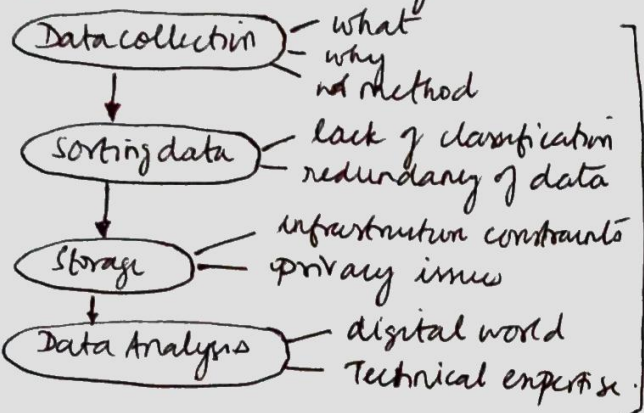
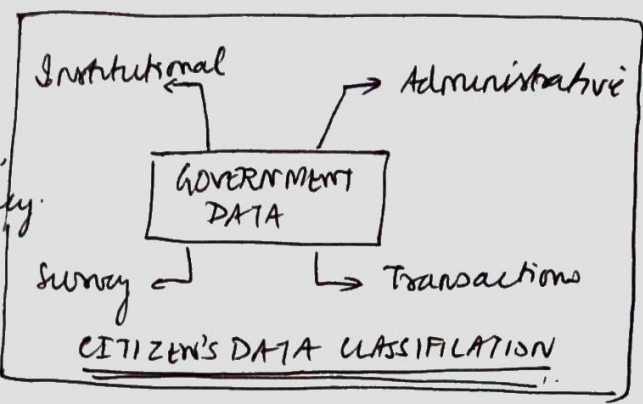
Though it takes time and effort to institutionalize data-backed decision making in government institutions, the positive effect it can have on governance to improve the level of citizens is significant. Discuss.

Data is considered to be the new oil. Large scale information explosion due to digitisation has emboldened the digital footprint of every person in the world. However, majority of these remain unsorted. Private players have successfully tapped these economies for data monetisation. Governments have thus the ability to use them for social sector, governance activities.

PERILS OF DATA GOVERNANCE

→ Economic survey of 2019 has identified that data are unsorted and widespread, which has lead to information inefficiency.

→ Marginal costs are usually high



→ lack of framework
Data decentralisation

→ All the above factors cause time delay in packing information into useful policy decisions.

DATA AS A PUBLIC GOOD

India is in the process of dynamic result based policy framing even though it has not been fully integrated. Data backed decision making has reaped benefits in numerous sectors.

1) HEALTH CARE

→ National Health Stack, collection of patient records, doctor details provides timely information in case of disease outbreaks.

→ It brings in transparency in case of TRANSTAN organ donation ⁽²⁾ databax.

→ NIKSHAY portal help tracking TB incidences and vaccination

→ PDS portal has helped delivery of nutritious grains in Argunwadi's.

2) AGRICULTURE

→ Being the mainstay of Indian economy, rainfall is major requirement. MEGHDOT app gives early warning rainfall. This help to plan farming activities.

→ GNAM portal propounds transparency and choices. Government can track trading and income for farmers, help define MSP's.

3) EDUCATION

→ DISHA portal allows inter state competitve learning outcomes measures.

→ States like Haryana use TeachersApp to track absenteeism and provide necessary training.

4) Financial sector

→ e-KUBER app, Public Credit registry by banks help tracks fraudulent activities.

→ CORE banking solution was made coupled with SWIFT in wake of PNB crisis

5) ENVIRONMENT

→ Details from Swachh Bharat Mission portal can simultaneously track toilet building activities and solid waste disposal norms

→ CWC's National water Portal keep track of dredging limit in rivers for NW-1 development, NMCH's Uniform levels in Ganga,

6) Administrative decisions

→ Coherence between ministries, normalize the policy implementation costs and inclusive budgeting.

→ e-VIDHAN, e-SAMVAD tries to track functions of ministries and their budgets - rationalization

Data can thus on its true spirit, can act as a bridge to good governance through policy targeting, transparency, accountability, evidence based initiative, targeted welfare.