

STILL OPEN ENDED

open data policies do not take into account the current state of data, data management practises and the capacities of public agencies

CONTEXT

National policies mandate open data and the use of data by local governments for planning and monitoring

KEY PROBLEM

- Lack of high quality data for municipal administration
- Poor capacity of Chennai's local government the Corporation of Chennai (CoC) to collect and use data for public service delivery
- Fragmented governance landscape

EVIDENCE

- **water:** Existing data is informative, but presented without metadata that is necessary for full understanding
- **sanitation:** Data on public toilets is inaccurate and cannot be used for planning and monitoring.
- **health:** Data collected on a daily and weekly basis does not go into comprehensive and proactive planning of health intervention

METHODS

- Public meetings
- Surveys
- In-depth interviews

FINDINGS

- Inadequate methodology and skills for **collection**
- Lack of **standard templates** and formats within and across departments
- **Formats** geared towards infrastructure and not services
- Reluctance to **share** data

CONCLUSIONS

- Disconnect between policy and local context. Open data policies assume existence of data and the capacity to manage it.
- In reality, the quality of data is poor and local governments are not equipped to collect and use data for governance.
- In addition, public agencies are not inclined to share data amongst each other and with the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Improve the capacity of the CoC to articulate outcomes, and align outputs and institute robust monitoring mechanisms.
- Scope for involvement of intermediaries to embed this capacity within the CoC.

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