TOWARDS GREEN KARNATAKA

A Roundtable Discussion on Green Manifesto and the Way Forward, 2013

PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE
Committed to good governance

Towards Green Karnataka

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**PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTRE
BANGALORE, INDIA**

Public Affairs Centre (PAC) is a not for profit organization, established in 1994 that is dedicated to improving the quality of governance in India. The focus of PAC is primarily in areas where citizens and civil society organizations can play a proactive role in improving governance. In this regard, PAC undertakes and supports research, disseminates research findings, facilitates collective citizen action through awareness raising and capacity building activities, and provides advisory services to state and non-state agencies.

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Background

Genesis

In the past decade, India has been witnessing unprecedented growth rates and development. In the process of achieving targeted growth rates huge damage has been done to the natural and social environment. Unjust environmental governance is often seen in the widening gap between the rich and the poor. In this context, no political party in India has taken up environmental issues in a comprehensive manner in their election manifesto. Hence **Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore** has initiated a process of involving citizens, representatives from political parties, media, and other stakeholders to evolve a 'Green Agenda' that can be included in the political manifestos for the 2013 State Assembly elections in Karnataka.

Need for Citizen Green Agenda

In the context of depleting natural resources, climate variations and other unforeseen environmental disasters, it is very significant for political parties to include Green issues in their manifesto. Election manifesto of a political party is the guiding force in policy making and citizen's vote is largely based on the credibility of election manifesto. Also, once included in the manifesto, citizens can hold the political party accountable through manifesto.

This would mean greater role for the communities and therefore greater decentralisation. Political parties in India grossly neglected environmental issues in their manifesto and in order to break this jinx it is essential to put forward Citizens' Green Agenda.

Orienting political parties towards green agenda would help in making policies that would in turn protect and nurture our environmental heritage. A sound environmental policy would help in governing livelihood and developmental issues.

Introduction

In the era of market economy, environmental issues along with governance assume a significant position in the context of depleting resources and growing needs of the people. Traditionally policy makers perceived environmental issues to be outside the ambit of governance. However, in recent times new areas of conflict are emerging within the ambit of environmental governance. For instance, livelihood issues are in direct conflict with developmental projects like dams, industries, infrastructure projects and nuclear power plants. Hence, there is a need to rediscover environmental governance as a part and parcel of much broader governance. In this backdrop, Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore has taken the initiative to develop and promote green manifesto as a part of its initiative towards promoting good governance in the environmental sphere.

What is a Green Manifesto?

A manifesto is a document that contains the programmes, policies and agenda of a political party as part of its election campaign. Manifesto is one of the crucial inputs in monitoring and evaluating the governance of a party in power. It would act as a guarantee card essentially allowing people to question the party in power, if deviating from their own manifesto. In other words, manifesto acts as an informative tool in a democratic set up. A green manifesto is a manifesto that intends to address the emerging environmental issues and sets an agenda towards solving those issues at the policy level. A political party's manifesto can be called as eco-friendly manifesto as long as it addresses the issues concerning environment in a comprehensive manner.
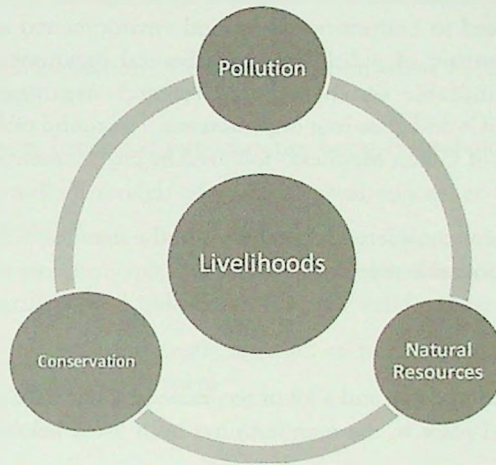
Why Green Manifesto?

Given the significance of a political party's manifesto during the democratic elections, a green manifesto would empower people to demand action from government on environmental issues. The green manifesto, in this context, would consolidate all possible environmental issues, which in turn would act as a benchmark to other manifestos in the context of

environmental issues. Further, the ever depleting resources and increasing needs of the people, pollution and other green issues have been traditionally ignored by the mainstream political parties. The need of the hour, therefore, is to push forward a people centred green manifesto and enable political parties to adopt the same.

Green Issues and Governance: Theoretical Linkages

Governance is about ensuring transparency and accountability along justice and equity to the people. For instance, currently in India any development project has to go through a careful scrutiny of environmental impact assessment (EIA). If implemented properly, EIA consisting of an evaluator study and a public hearing would naturally enhance people's participation, justice, equity, transparency and accountability leading to strengthening of democratic structures.

Pollution

Livelihoods

Conservation

Natural Resources

Also green governance would ensure sustainability in the long term and would allow greater decentralisation. As a community the responsibility of safeguarding our environmental surroundings and using resources in a sustainable manner rests on us. Thus, it is essential for the communities to take initiatives towards promoting green governance.

The broad framework for green manifesto can be explained through the diagram below:

In the above diagram, livelihoods is at the centre, implying that a sound environmental policy would enhance the livelihoods of the people with just and equitable distribution. While livelihoods is a very broad term, in the context of green manifesto, it is defined narrowly as a backdrop to the environmental issues. Many of the environmental related issues and general degradation in environment is directly or indirectly adversely affecting the livelihoods of the poor and the marginalised. Hence, there is a urgent need to ensure that attention is drawn towards green issues in the context of livelihoods.

Roundtable – Synopsis

In this backdrop, PAC organised a Roundtable in Bangalore on 5 March 2013. The Roundtable was organised to brainstorm the critical environmental issues that needed to be brought to the attention of political parties. Several organisations were invited to participate in the roundtable which included research organisations, experts from environment sector, NGOs and grass root organisations. The round table discussions started with defining the need of Green Manifesto followed by environmental issues for the state as described below.

The following sectors were considered for inclusion in the manifesto. Few important points that arose from the roundtable are:

Water

This sector was discussed in detail and a lot of recommendations were given. The important points that need to find place in the manifesto has been listed below:

Domestic Water

* Adequacy, quality and equity issues of domestic water supply

* Introduction of water lease policy for sustainability of sources

* Targeted programmes for minimisation of water usage in water stressed areas

* Pricing policy to discourage usage of water beyond the norms of 135 lpcd in urban areas

* Massive awareness on Rooftop harvesting – incentives, soft loans etc

* Promotion of technology solutions like RO, desalination etc should be subjected to mandatory public consultation

* Institutional mechanism for strict enforcement of 'Groundwater Act 2011'

Water for Irrigation and Industries

- Promotion of light irrigated crops in water stressed areas

- Regulation of fertiliser and chemical usage

- Promotion of livestock based livelihood in water scarcity/ stressed and erratic rainfall areas

- Introduction of water footprint for industries

Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management was discussed but no strong solutions were proposed, that could be highlighted. Most of the discussion was around enforcing the existing laws strictly for better results.

- Emphasis on implementation of the SWM action plans by all the ULBs under the MSWM Rules 2000

- Options to promote livelihood opportunities using Household waste

- Incentivise decentralised models of waste disposal and other innovative options like waste to energy ventures

- Apply the polluter pays principle and ensure disposal and recycle of chemical containers by the farmers, retailers and industries who use / sell/ produce the products

- Existing research organisation/ institutes shall be put in network for proper utility of the ideas and solution given by them

Energy

- Renewable energy like solar, wind and the amendments related were deeply discussed.

- Street lighting using solar energy to be promoted big way

- Rationalising pricing policy for discouraging people from excess use of electricity

- Reducing transmission losses by community monitoring

Forests

- Controlled use of pesticide

- Afforestation with reduced **deforestation** should be emphasised (refer the green manifesto of Western Ghats to include relevant points)

Cross cutting issues

* Budget and expenditure information on environmental components should be available in the public domain

* A clear transparency frame work has to be spelt out in the manifesto – Role of District Planning committees and strengthening the DPCs to perform according to the norms

* Sustainable livelihood promotion and safeguarding should be included in the manifesto

* Effective use of Institutional resources – There are many think tanks in the country that have been doing extensive research on themes that are useful for improvement of larger society. Some of them are feeding in to policy domain but in an ad-hoc manner. Since many of these institutions are funded by the Government, clear guidelines have to be set to ensure that the research outputs/outcomes from these institutions feed the public domain at all times

Other Green Issues

* EIA being major tool for controlling urbanisation with environment shall be considered in strict and effective ways then today.

* Conservation of riverine systems.

Green Manifesto–Karnataka

The consultation of environmental issues of the state through the roundtable brought out a large number of suggestions and recommendations that were put together to form the Green Manifesto Karnataka, the manifesto was then circulated to more than 75 individuals and organisations (CSOs, Research, Academia etc.) like TERI-SRC, Arghyam, AFPRO, AME Foundation, ISEC and through e-mail for their inputs and suggestions. The final comprehensive document (Green Manifesto 6 Karnataka) was developed based on all the inputs.

Figure 1: Cover Page - Green Manifesto Karnataka (English and Kannada)

Endorsees

The Green Manifesto – Karnataka was endorsed by following organisations/individuals (in alphabetical order):

- Action for Food Production (AFPROO), Bangalore
- Agricultural Man Ecology (AME) foundation, Bangalore
- Kavita Arora, Bangalore Social Ecology
- Krishna Raj, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore
- Mythri Sarva SevaSamithi, Bangalore
- Prakash Bhat, Society for Community Participation and Empowerment (SCOPE), Dharwad
- Prof. Dilip Ahuja, School of Natural Sciences and Engineering , National Institute of Advanced Studies, IISc
- Prof. MK Ramesh, National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bangalore
- Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore
- Puttenahalli Neighbourhood Lake Improvement Trust (PNLIT), Bangalore
- Sadana Trust, Karwar
- Sharadchadra Lele, Senior Fellow and Convenor, Centre for Environment and Development, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE), Bangalore
- Support for Network and Extension Help Agency (SNEHA), Mysore
- Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM), Mysore
- TERI-SRC, Bangalore
- Vasudev M. Despande, Infosys Foundation, Bangalore
- VIKASANA Trust, Mandya
- Water Literacy Foundation, Bangalore
- Yuvaka Vikas Kendra, Bijapur

'ಪರಿಸರದ ಪಾಲಿಗೆ ಮಾನವ ಭಸ್ಮಾಸುರ'

Green manifesto for state

The Public Affairs Centre (PAC), a not-for-profit and non-partisan organisation, on Monday released green manifesto, urging political parties to formulate policies towards building a sustainable and green state. Suresh R, director, PAC, Bangalore, said the green manifesto has been developed based on the round-table consultation that were held past month. "The round-table was a meet of like-minded individuals and organisations, who brought out various environmental issues that are plaguing the state," he said. The PAC has brought out green manifesto in Tamil Nadu (in March 2011) and Puducherry (in April 2011). The manifestos were well received by political parties in those two states. "Based on this experience in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the PAC has now brought out a green manifesto for Karnataka and hopes the political parties will incorporate the issues in their respective election manifesto," Suresh said.

To promote sustainable water resources management, the green manifesto suggested that adequacy, quality and equity issues of water supply have to be addressed.

Penalize litterbugs: PAC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Public Affairs Centre (PAC), an NGO, has released a Green Manifesto that wants to set up 'mobile sanitation courts' to discipline those who litter with impunity. Keeping cities clean, promoting water resources management through recharging of bore-wells, rainwater harvesting and re-

GREEN MANIFESTO

juvenation of lakes and water bodies, enhancing agriculture, forest and bio-diversity management and other energy-efficient measures are among the issues underlined by the manifesto.

Urging political parties to ensure their manifestoes clearly reflect their green concerns, PAC has advocated the 'polluter pays' principle. "The idea of the green manifesto is to bring some environmental issues into the mainstream political debate; we engaged eminent individuals to draft

these recommendations for inclusion in manifestos. Most of the suggestions are generic and it is time political parties started thinking of development and growth along with balancing of natural resources. We will sit with parties and make them understand how many measures can be adopted," explained P Srikant, programme officer of Citizen Action Support group, which is part of PAC, on Monday.

THEIR AGENDA

- Solid waste management
- Energy efficiency
- Sustainable water resources management
- Enhancing sustainable agriculture
- Forging a green future

Justice M N Venkatachalaiah sharing a light moment with a press reporter

From left: Mr R Krishnan (Executive Director, SNEHA), Mr J Jangal (Programme Manager, PAC), Mr Pronab Dasgupta (Senior Advisor and Director, TERI), Dr Dwarakinath (Chairman, AME Foundation and Former Vice-Chancellore UAS, Bangalore), Justice Venkatachalaiah, Mr R Suresh (Director, PAC) and Mr D K Manavalan (Executive Director, AFPRO)

Justice M N Venkatachalaiah delivers the opening remarks at the press release of Green Manifesto-Karnataka

Mr Raviprakash of AFPRO during the discussion on the way forward

Mr J Jangal of PAC giving the Vote of Thanks at the press release of Green Manifesto Karnataka

Release of the Green Manifesto-Karnataka

On 15th April 2013 Justice M N Venkatachalaiah released the Green Manifesto-Karnataka at Administrative Research Institute (IAS Officers Association), Bangalore. Justice M N Venkatachalaiah (Former Chief Justice Supreme Court of India) said the Green Manifesto was a novel initiative and has created a space for debate on environmental issues among the political parties.

Dr Dwarakinath (former Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Science Bangalore) who spoke on how man was on a path of self-destruction in the want of fulfilling his greed also said that the green manifesto was something unique and has to be promoted by the political parties.

Justice M N Venkatachalaiah releasing the Green Manifesto-Karnataka

Mr Pronab Dasgupta (Senior Advisor and Director, TERI-SRC) extended his organisations backing by endorsing the Green Manifesto and by providing support through the formation of a coalition to carry the next level of action. Mr D K Manavalan (Executive Director, AFPRO) expressed the need for an improved government and community partnership to reduce the vulnerability of the common man. The release also saw many more speakers like Mr Srinivas Ravindra (Executive Director, CSD), Mr Ayyappa Masagi (The Water Literacy Foundation), R Krishnan (Executive Director, SNEHA) and Dr Krishna Raj (Associate Professor, ISEC) who commended the effort and expressed support in taking the Green Manifesto to the next level. Suresh R (Director, PAC) and Mr Raviprakash (AFPRO) spoke on the path that will be followed to sensitise the political parties about Green Issues and the Green Manifesto followed by a discussion on the way forward.

A few words by Dr. Dwarakinath (Chairman AME Foundation and former Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore) at the press release

"There is a need for a vision for any prospects that benefit the common man; it may rise from a farmer or a learned man. The vision of awakening the politicians, the need to create awareness on green and environmental issues is a very good idea. There are many policies that are thought off and brought out, but a policy is useful only if it comes into action. There have been a number of researches conducted in the field of agriculture, these papers do not consider farmers as the core of research and hence prove useless to the farmers. The present situation is very bad as the planning commission decides on what a farmer has to sow, how much he has to produce etc. the administration dictates what the farmer has to do, when the administration does not know the ground realities at the farm level. This has repercussions as the farmers are not consulted on their requirements, the farmers themselves who know certain things, but need some support to practice it, this support is missing from the administration. The common man can observe the variations in climate; there has been a reduction in the number of rainy days from 47 to 35 days. This has resulted in exploitation of ground water at previously unheard depths. This has led to reduced water availability of water for trees; the rainwater does not percolate into the ground further leading to reduction in available groundwater. This is similar to the story of Basmasura who in his greed for power kept his hand on his own head and burned to death. If we do not act fast we will also share the same fate.

"PAC has started a noble initiative of addressing environmental issues through Green Manifesto and I wish that you reach till the very end of making it into a policy."

Ranking of Election Manifestos

PAC with the intention of strengthening the Green Manifesto project further analysed the election manifestos of various political parties in Karnataka under two specific objectives:

- Understand what a good election manifesto can be, and
- Study the coverage, in terms of comprehensiveness and specificity, of environmental issues in the political parties' election manifestos for the May 2013 legislative assembly in Karnataka

This was done by developing an understanding of what a good manifesto can be, upholding the aspects of equity, sustainability and development in mind. Further we developed green indicators, analysed and green rated the election manifestos of major political parties of Karnataka on how far they address environmental issues in the state.

Green Indicators

An indicator is a pointer. It can be a measurement, a number, a fact, an opinion or a perception that points at a specific condition or situation, and measures changes in that condition or situation over time.[1] Indicators are a powerful and useful tool for advocacy as well as monitoring and evaluation. It allows for summarising large amounts of information in a single figure or table, allowing for comparisons and monitor trends across regions or in the same location across time.

However indicators point to the direction of change than describe the change itself. They simplify social processes to make it accessible to the larger public. Thus indicators are insufficient to capture the full meaning of the object of study and can act as reductionist. Thus there is a need to complement it with qualitative analysis to address the shortcomings of the indicators.

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[1]CIDA (1996) Guide to Gender-Sensitive Indicators, CIDA: Hull

For purpose of our analysis of the election manifesto, we classify environment issues which are important to Karnataka in broad themes as follows. These themes are further sub-classified.

Classification of Environmental Issues

All the classification and sub-classification are based on issues which are mentioned in the party manifestos, and are by no means a comprehensive list of issues.

1. *Sustainable water resources management*

    a. Irrigation

    b. Water Quality/Adequacy/Equity

    c. Ground water

    d. Tank Systems

    e. Drinking Water

    f. Lakes

2. *Sustainable production systems*

    a. Agriculture (promoting organic agriculture, preservation of crop diversity, ban on harmful substances)

    b. Livestock

3. *Forests and biodiversity management*

    a) Forests

    b) Western Ghats

4. *Effective solid waste management*

5. *Encouraging energy efficiency*

    a) Energy Adequacy and Promoting-Incentivising Renewable Sources

    b) Monitoring & Surveillance (Loss and Theft, Institutions to solve problems, etc.)

    c) Management & Enforcement (Energy Audit)

6. *Tackling drought and other natural disasters*

7. *Land use, urbanisation and responsible industrial development*

    a) Pollution, Green Cities and Incentivise Clean Technologies

    b) Mining

   c) Ecotourism

   d) Coastal Protection

   e) Land acquisition

8. *Upholding tribal rights and their livelihoods*

9. *Environment governance*

All initiatives for a particular issue were clubbed together. For instance all initiatives related to tank systems including de-silting, existing and new projects, creation of new institutions, funding, etc. would be clubbed together. Following is an example of the same:

Land Use, Urbanisation and Responsible Industrial Development						
Pollution, Green Cities and Incentivise Clean Technologies • To make use of CNG in all public transport vehicles. • To *offer Sales Tax and VAT concession* to 2-wheeler and 3-wheeler electric vehicles within urban limits as pollution free green mobility solution.	1	0	0	1	0	2
Mining • To formulate and implement an effective and comprehensive sand *policy*.	1	1	0	0	0	2
Eco-tourism • To develop Eco-tourism.	1	0	0	0	0	1
Upholding Tribal rights and their livelihoods						
To *implement* the *Forest Rights Act 2006* within *one* year by granting cultivating rights to the notified Scheduled Tribes, Lambanis and other notified forest dwellers.	1	1	0	0	1	3

Figure 3: Example selection of Theme and Sub-theme as in Green Ranking of Election Manifesto

We have "Land Use, Urbanisation and Responsible industrial development" as a theme, and "pollution, green cities and incentivise clean technologies", "mining", "eco-tourism" as sub-themes. Now all manifesto commitments regarding "pollution, green cities and incentivise clean technologies" will be clubbed together and scored according to the degree of specificity and comprehensiveness.

Certain sentences were rephrased for operational clarity and to avoid duplication. Careful attention was paid not to lose the sense of the manifesto proposal in case of rephrasing. The unit of analysis is the one sub-theme of the environmental issue.

Scoring of Election Manifestos

For every broad category, there are few sub-categories which were given points. The distribution of scores was done under the following heads:

- Mention of the issue (1 Score)

- Implementation choice (policy, finance, pricing, management and enforcement, implementation and promotion, monitoring and surveillance, capacity building, applied research, etc.) (1 Score)

- Participatory in nature (1 Score)

- Funding (1 Score)

- Time frame (1 Score)

Thus points were awarded on the basis of how specific their election manifesto initiative is. You have a maximum score of 5 for each sub-thematic promise for most initiatives. For some sub-themes, some parameters like funding or participatory development may not apply. Thus the respective initiatives will have a maximum score of 3 or 4. The final ranking was a summation of all sub-themes and themes to get a score. This way of ranking was done to ensure that political parties are rewarded for acknowledging the particular issue. Also, none of the categories can be prioritised over the other category in a hierarchical fashion. There may be issues which would are inter-dependent on some other issue. For example: sustainable water management and governance will ensure drought like situations do not occur. Thus we have appreciated the inter-linkages of each to form a dynamic system.

Some Caveats

1. All the manifesto commitments were curated from various places in the official manifesto document and clubbed together. We have included those that are relevant as environment issues.

2. There are issues of infrastructure and urban development, tourism, fisheries, animal husbandries, horticulture, sanitation etc. which are manifesto commitments made by some political parties but bear no direct relevance to issues of environment. Thus they don't find any/substantial mention here.

3. There are many initiatives for tribal welfare, only those which are directly linked to the environment are considered. Initiatives for budget allocation, credit facilities, etc. are ignored.

Conclusions

The scoring shows Bharatiya Janata Party (35), Janata Dal (Secular) (27) and Indian National Congress (27) score high on coverage, comprehensiveness and specificity, of environmental issues in the political parties' election manifestos for the May 2013 legislative assembly in Karnataka.

It is worthwhile to note that BJP, JD(S) or INC talk nothing about groundwater related issues. JD(S) makes a notable omission about production systems, while only BJP talks about tackling drought in the state.

The Way Forward: Alliance for Green Karnataka

As all the above ideas need to be consolidated, PAC with Like-minded organisations is motivated to facilitate the formation of the Alliance for Green Karnataka to pursue its mandate of achieving a just and equitable society through environmental governance.

Formation of an Alliance for Greener Karnataka

The Alliance would consist of not only, like-minded actors (academia, research institutes, practitioners, individual users, non-governmental organisations, community based organisations, corporate players and foundations and trusts) who are working for creating a better future for tomorrows generation, but also pro-active members from political parties. The members of the Alliance will meet regularly and contribute to an improved and meaningful dialogue between the citizens and the government/political groups on critical issues of environment and governance.

Objectives of the Alliance

- An active State-wide network of like-minded organisations and individuals (both political and apolitical) working in coordination for the betterment of environment to advocate for environmental issues under various themes like Agriculture, Water, Energy, Forests, Waste, Climate Change etc

- Formation of a platform to discuss various environmental issues plaguing the state, at regular intervals and offer ideas and solutions to policy makers for their alleviation

- A platform for dialogue between the stakeholders, CSOs, Agencies/Organisations, political parties and the government

- Map and identify environmental issues in the State on thematic basis

- Develop policy briefs, pilot intervention to influence the policy makers at all levels

Members of the Alliance

CSOs/NGOs and other Community Organisations

CSOs/NGOs and other community organisations are important actors at various societal levels, as they promote transparency and accountability. They ensure equity, justice and sustainability of resources by enabling and empowering communities through participation. They share strong links with the communities and the governance systems and hence form an important part of our society.

Research and Academia

Science and Technology plays a vital role in modern life. There is an increasing awareness among the research community on the need of the hour i.e. tackling our dwindling resources and moving along a path of sustainable development. These groups play an important role in transferring knowledge and know-how to the communities and provide alternate mechanism to enhance their livelihoods.

Political Party Representatives

The Alliance acknowledges the fact that it cannot achieve its objectives of addressing environmental issues plaguing the state without the involvement of political parties. Hence, we believe that political parties must be included from the very beginning of the process, so as to keep them updated and involved in achieving the objectives of the Alliance.

Members from Corporate Sector

The Alliance is of the opinion that development and environment should not be treated separately as they are two faces of the same coin and is to be treaded carefully. The corporate sector has a major role in achieving the objective of sustainable development by setting models and standards achieving best possible practices. There have been cases where the corporate sector has shown great responsibility through interventions in-house and outside through Corporate Social Responsibility.

Proposed Activities of the Alliance

The main activities of the Alliance would be:

- Organise theme based events on a regular basis, where members can put forth their views and take it to the policy level thus, bridging a gap between the levels of research – implementation – policy. The events can be workshops, conferences, colloquiums, awareness programmes, unconferences, etc. at local and state level.
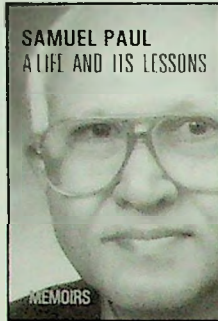
- Bring out regular policy briefs on all important themes of environment to influence the policy makers and support in policy formulation.

- Documentation and dissemination of Best Practices related to addressing green issues in Karnataka by the alliance members through the state and various media.

- Monitor and evaluate quality and effectiveness of governance related to green issues.

- Promote awareness among the citizens of Karnataka on green governance.

The members of the alliance themselves will identify important players in every theme to take a lead role in organising the roundtable and bringing out the policy briefs. This would lead to organisations/individuals who are experts in their theme to take up the issue and creates an onus of ownership among the members.

Expected Outcomes from the Alliance

- A Sate wide network of likeminded organisations and individuals with synergy and unique contribution for developing a green state

- Regular workshops and discussions on environmental issues at the State level regularly

- Policy briefs with a community perspective to aid the policy makers in achieving the principle of equity and sustainable development

- Empowering citizen voices across the state to bring out environmentally important issues.

A Life and Its Lessons: Memoirs
Samuel Paul

Samuel Paul, well-known scholar, institution-builder and social activist, tells his life story and distills the lessons of experience learnt from a wide range of institutions, both national and international, with which he was associated. In a long and distinguished career, he has been the Director of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, adviser to the United Nations, ILO and the World Bank, founder and first chairperson of Public Affairs Centre, Bangalore, author of "citizen report cards" and other pioneering tools of social accountability. His reflections on the success and sustainability of institutions offer important insights of relevance to practitioners, scholars and students alike. The story is told in a lucid style, with candour, wit and sensitivity to the great social challenges of our time.

A Green Manifesto for Environmental Governance – A people-centred tool and approach

PAC Environmental Governance Group

Environmental Governance Group (EnGG) believes that integrating the concerns of the common person in an organic fashion through 'Community-centred Governance' is the best way to address the issues arising from the impact of climate change.

In the backdrop of the legislative elections in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Public Affairs Centre initiated the process of developing a Green Manifesto for Tamil Nadu.
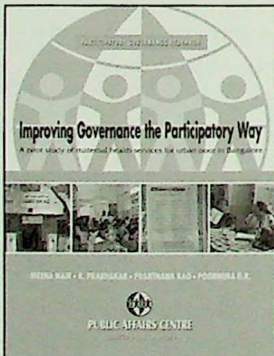
Following a chain of consultations with various stakeholders, a Green Manifesto was drafted and released simultaneously in various parts of the state, including Chennai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Salem and other districts. The process is amply described in this publication.

Improving Governance the Participatory Way
Meena Nair • K. Prabhakar • Prarthana Rao • Poornima G.R.

This publication records the implementation of a successful initiative by Public Affairs Centre (PAC), in partnership with grassroot organizations like Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR), Society for People's Action for development (SPAD), and Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) in creating an effective participatory citizen-provider engagement model which helped improve the quality of service delivery in selected Maternity Homes run by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP or Greater Bangalore Municipal Corporation).
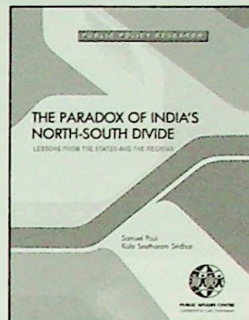
The initiative which began in the form of a study of the quality of services in these Maternity Homes by using well known Social Accountability Tools such as Citizen Report Cards (CRC), Budget Analysis and Community Score Cards (CSC), led to the formation of Maternity Home Monitoring Committees (MHMCs) in the catchment areas of three Maternity Homes. These MHMCs not only monitor services at the Maternity Homes, but also undertake awareness building activities on maternal health entitlements during their regular interactions with community members in the Maternity Home catchment areas, in cooperation with Maternity Home staff members and BBMP officials.

Phase II of the project attempts to replicate the model in more Maternity Homes and Referral Hospitals along with budget advocacy on better implementation of incentive schemes.

The Paradox of India's North-South Divide – Lessons from the States and the Regions
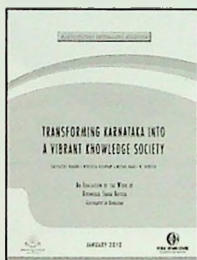
Samuel Paul, Kala Seetharam Sridhar

The gap between the southern and northern states of India has widened significantly in recent years in terms of per capita income and poverty reduction. This monograph examines the factors underlying this phenomenon and divides them into proximate and foundational factors. Analysis of the historical data for over four decades shows that the gap between the two regions was much smaller at the outset and that the North (UP) had a head start in some areas. A major finding is that though the South (TN) was somewhat better placed in terms of initial conditions for over two decades, it was only in the post-liberalization period that it could realize their potential and surge forward. While we present quantitative data on proximate and foundational factors extensively, we also present qualitative data to support findings from the quantitative data, based on intensive interviews with officials and scholars in Tamil Nadu and UP.

Transforming Karnataka into a Vibrant Knowledge Society – An evaluation of the work of Karnataka Jnana Aayoga

Satyajeet Nanda • Nivedita Kashyap • Meena Nair • Suresh R.

The Karnataka Jnana Aayoga (Karnataka Knowledge Commission) achieved the distinction of being the only state-level knowledge commission in India to complete its term of five years in 2013. This report analyses the major achievements of the KJA in this period, and attempts to identify the key reasons for successes and failures in its activities, from the viewpoints of the planners of its programmes, the implementers of these, and those who were expected o benefit from them. Insights are also offered on the unique opportunities offered by such a commission for stimulation of knowledge processes within governance institutions and their expression in public spaces of academics and common citizenry.
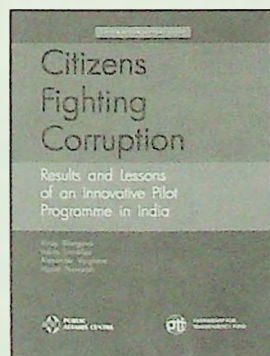
Citizens Fighting Corruption – Results and Lessons of an Innovative Pilot Programme in India
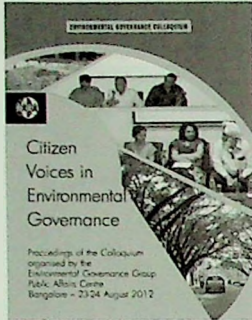
Vinay Bhargava, Indira Sandilya Alexander Varghese Harish Poovaiah (for CASG Team)

The Citizens Against Corruption (CAC) project on which this report is based is an innovative pilot project started in 2009 with support from the Department for International Development, UK through its global Governance and Transparency Fund. CAC is implemented in South Asia by a partnership of the Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore, India and the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTF) – a US-based international NGO committed to helping citizens fight corruption.

This report shows that there is hope in curbing corruption. It presents efforts and results achieved by 14 grassroots Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) spanning four diverse states in India (Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttarkhand) in helping citizens engage to produce positive results to reduce corruption and improve service delivery.

The real heroes in the stories presented in this report are the citizen volunteers and the progressive public officials who worked hard and selflessly to make a difference in the lives of real people living in remote and poor areas.
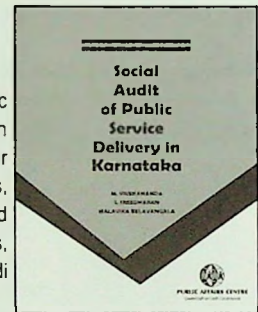
Citizen Voices in Environmental Governance – Proceedings of the Colloquium organised by the Environmental Governance Group Bangalore, 23-24 August 2012.

Bolstered by the 's experience with harvesting citizen opinion through Climate Change Score Cards in the Gulf of Mannar, and representing these to those in governance through a series of structured meetings, PAC has been encouraged to share this experience and locate it within other similar efforts in the context of this Colloquium. This brief meeting evoked a lot of interest from a wide range of actors in this sector and provided the much-needed kick-start to formalize spaces within policy formulation procedures for citizen voice and expression. More important, it created the common ground among diverse stakeholders and practitioners to take forward a few of these ideas to fruition.

Social Audit of Public Service Delivery in Karnataka

M. Vivekananda • S. Sreedharan • Malavika Belavangala

This publication offers an insight on how citizens at the receiving end view the public service delivered to them by the service providers. The social audit by using citizen report card methodology, was carried out in Karnataka by Public Affairs Center Bangalore as desired by the dept. of Planning, Programme Monitoring and Statistics, Govt. of Karnataka covering seven services, namely, Public Bus transport. food and civil supplies through public delivery system, veterinary health care, pension schemes, services of primary health center and district hospitals, govt. high schools and nemmadi Kendras.

Working Paper No. 1

India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): Has it impacted poverty?

Kala Seetharam Sridhar, A.Venugopala Reddy

The objectives of this paper are several and the authors answer questions such as whether the NREGS wages have been above their reservation wages; whether NREGA has been successful in checking rural-urban migration, and so on. Further, they estimate the reservation wages as a function of individual and labour market characteristics. This is the first study to estimate reservation wages in the Indian context and compute net benefits from NREGS jobs. This working paper makes an attempt to understand what demand–side (individual) and supply–side (programme) characteristics determine enrolment in the NREGS programme and further, determine the NREGS wages.

Some Recent PAC Publications

1. *A Report Card on Bhoomi Kiosks* (Albert Lobo, Suresh Balakrishnan), 2004.

2. *Towards User Report Cards on Irrigation Services* (Suresh Balakrishnan, Albert Lobo), 2004.

3. *BATF: A Partnership with Promise? The Fourth Annual Public Affairs Lecture* (Nandan M. Nilekani), 2004.

4. *Public Affairs Centre: A Retrospective 1994 - 2000.*

5. *Holding a Mirror to the New Lok Sabha* (Samuel Paul, M. Vivekananda), 2005.

6. *Karnataka's Citizens' Charters: A Preliminary Assessment* (Anuradha Rao), 2005.

7. *Electoral Disclosure in Karnataka: A Reality Check* (Samuel Paul, Poornima D.G., Anuradha Rao), 2005.

8. *Spirituality & Universality: The Fifth Annual Public Affairs Lecture* (Sri Sri Ravi Shankar), 2005.

9. *Benchmarking India's Public Services: A comparison across the states* (Samuel Paul, Suresh Balakrishnan, K. Gopakumar, Sita Sekhar, M. Vivekananda), 2005.

10. *Setting a Benchmark: Citizen Report Card on Public Services in Bhubaneswar* (Public Affairs Centre, Centre for Youth and Social Development), 2005.

11. *Are They Being Served? Citizen Report Card on Public Services for the Poor in Peri-Urban Areas of Bangalore* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, Venugopala Reddy), 2005.

12. *Holding the State to Account: Lessons of Bangalore's Citizen Report Cards* (Samuel Paul), 2006.

13. *Deepening Democracy: A Decade of Electoral Interventions by Civil Society Groups 1996-2006* (Public Affairs Centre), 2006.

14. *Benchmarking Bangalore's Public Services: What the Third Citizen Report Card Reveals* (Sita Sekhar, Manisha Shah), 2006.

15. *Citizenship and Good Governance: The Sixth Annual Public Affairs Lecture* (Sheila Dikshit), 2006.

16. *Public Services in Hubli-Dharwad: A Citizen Report Card* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, Venugopala Reddy), 2007.

17. *Greater Bangalore Governance Options* (S. Krishna Kumar), 2007.

18. *Assessment of Citizen Centres in Tamil Nadu* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, A. Venugopala Reddy, K. Prabhakar), 2007.

19. *Public Services in Hubli-Dharwad: The Second Citizen Report Card* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, K. Prabhakar, Prarthana Rao), 2008.

20. *Decentralised Service Delivery in Panchayats: A Pilot Citizens' Audit* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, A. Venugopala Reddy), 2008.

21. *Public Services Provided by Gram Panchayats in Chattisgarh: A Citizen Report Card* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, K. Prabhakar), 2008.

22. *Study of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Initiatives on Universalisation of Elementary Education in Karnataka with Special Reference to Concerns of Gender and Equity* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, K. Prabhakar, Prarthana Rao), 2009.

23. *Services of Gram Panchayats in Koraput, Orissa: A Citizen Report Card* (Sita Sekhar, Meena Nair, K. Prabhakar, Prarthana Rao), 2009.

24. *A Mirror to the Police: A Bottom-Up Assessment of the Karnataka Police* (Meena Nair, K. Prabhakar, Prarthana Rao), 2010.

25. *Towards a Vibrant Knowledge Society: A Stakeholder Audit of the Karnataka Jnana Aayoga* (Shweta Gaur, Nivedita Kashyap, Meena Nair, R. Suresh), 2011.

26. *A Life and Its Lessons: Memoirs* (Samuel Paul), 2012.

27. *Citizen Monitoring and Audit of PMGSY Roads: Pilot Phase II* (Public Affairs Centre), 2012.

28. *Improving Governance the Participatory Way: A pilot study of maternal health services for urban poor in Bangalore* (Meena Nair, K Prabhakar, Prarthana Rao, Poornima G. R.), 2012.

29. *Case Studies from the Social Audit of Public Service Delivery in Karnataka* (M. Vivekananda, S. Sreedharan, Malavika Belavangala), 2012.

30. *Changing the Urban Face of Karnataka: Evidence from three urban development programmes* (Kala S Sridhar, Venugopala Reddy, Pavan Srinath), 2012.

31. *Citizen Voices in Environmental Governance*-Proceedings of the Colloquium organised by the Environmental Governance Group Bangalore – 23-24 August 2012.

32. *Social Audit of Public Service Delivery in Karnataka* (M. Vivekananda, Dr. S. Sreedharan, Malavika Belavangala), 2012.

33. *Transforming Karnataka into a Vibrant Knowledge Society* (Satyajeet Nanda, Nivedita Kashyap, Meena Nair, R. Suresh), 2013.

34. *A Green Manifesto for Environmental Governance – A people-centred tool and approach* (PAC Environmental Governance Group), 2013.

35. *India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS): Has it impacted poverty?* (A working paper by Kala Seetharam Sridhar, A.Venugopala Reddy), 2013.

36. *The Paradox of India's North-South Divide – Lessons from the States and the Regions* (Samuel Paul, Kala Seetharam Sridhar), 2013.

PAC Books by other Publishers

1. *Holding the State to Account: Citizen Monitoring in Action* (Samuel Paul), Books for Change: 2002.

2. *Who Benefits from India's Public Services?* (Samuel Paul, Suresh Balakrishnan, K. Gopakumar, Sita Sekhar, M. Vivekananda), Academic Foundation: 2006.

3. *State of Urban Services in India's Cities* (Kala Seetharam Sridhar, A. Venugopala Reddy), Oxford University Press India: 2010.

4. *State of Our Cities: Evidence from Karnataka* (Samuel Paul, Kala Seetharam Sridhar, A. Venugopala Reddy, Pavan Srinath), Oxford University Press India: 2012.