



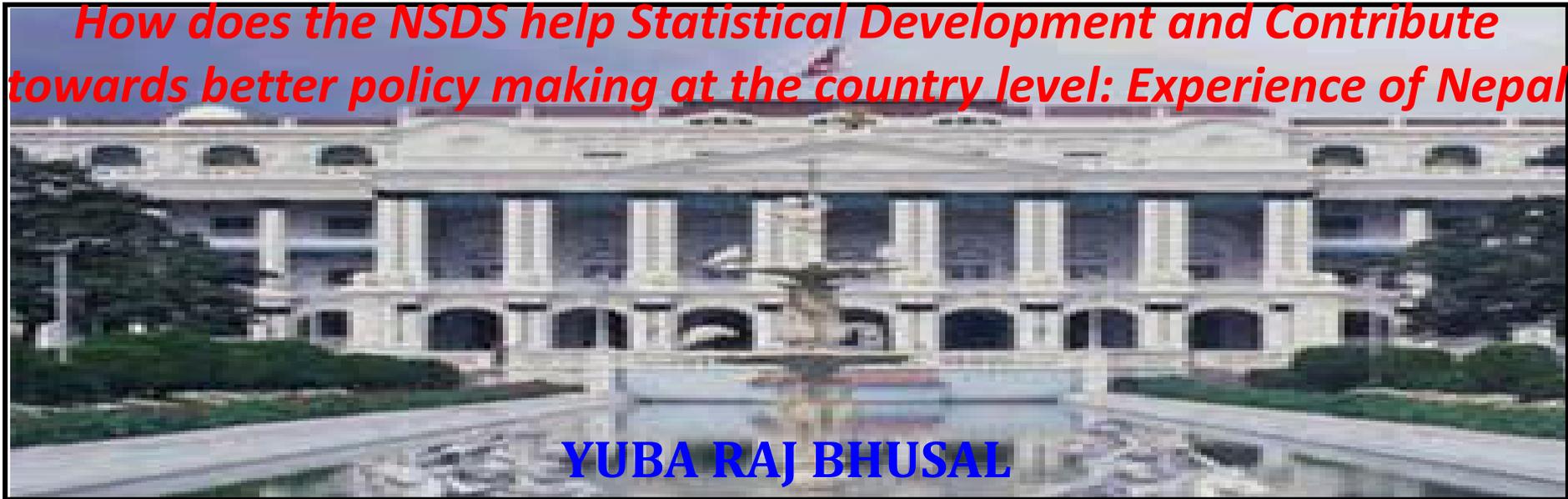
improving lives
through better statistics



2013 ANNUAL PARIS21 MEETINGS 9–11 April 2013

OECD Conference Centre, Paris

How does the NSDS help Statistical Development and Contribute towards better policy making at the country level: Experience of Nepal



YUBA RAJ BHUSAL

Member –Secretary

National Planning Commission, Nepal

April 11, 2013

Paris, France

Table of Contents

- 1. Background**
- 2. NSDS and its Importance**
- 3. Why Nepal needs NSDS**
- 4. NSDS and the Implementation Strategy**
- 5. Way Forward**

1. Background

- Supply of regular & quality information is a must for the socio-economic development of a country. It largely depends upon the statistical system of the country.
- Statistical capacity consists of different management, logistic and governance factors (*i.e. legal framework, institutional/organizational set-up, human resources, information and communication technology etc*).

- Designing of the statistical system should be nationally owned with high level of *political and administrative commitments*.
- Evidence based policy is the basic ingredient of the *responsive democracy*, which primarily focuses on *transparency and accountability*.
- Public debate should also be based on statistical information.
- Besides the policy makers, a statistical system should respond to international community and the common citizens with the accurate, reliable and timely statistics.

2. NSDS and its Importance

- a) In order to address the pertinent issues of statistics, its strategic planning is badly needed. A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) often termed as the bible of statistics needs to be designed & implemented,
- b) It helps to build a reliable statistical system to design, implement, monitor and evaluate a nation's overall socio-economic development policies and programs,
- c) It helps to coordinate and harmonize the data generated/ produced by different agencies.

d. NSDS looks into a number of issues related to a statistical system of a country such as:

- *Statistics policy and legal framework,*
- *Revamping the statistical institutions including the NSO (CBS),*
- *Resource management,*
- *Statistics production system,*
- *Quality management,*
- *ICT management,*
- *Statistics production & dissemination,*
- *Use of statistics and the concerns of the users,*
- Capacity development,
- Overall coordination mechanism for data harmonization and regulation.

- e) The NSDS should be necessarily participatory but led by national authority,
- f) The statistical system therefore, focuses on the main agenda of the country to be carried out in order to make a swift socio-economic transformation.
- g) Platforms like Paris21 could be the best one for sharing cross-country experience and make a clear-cut road map to accelerate the NSDS process,
- h) Donors' commitments for technical & financial support in preparing/updating NSDS is a must.

3. Why Nepal Needs NSDS: Some Specific Issues

3.1 Monitoring the Global & Regional Development Agenda

a) Nepal to Graduate from LDC to DC by 2030:

- LDCs regarded as the most vulnerable group of nations in 1960s,
- The LDCs category established in 1973,
- Presently the LDCs are 48 (only 25 in 1973) with 12% of global population that share only 0.8% of global wealth,
- Over four decades only three (Botswana, Cape Verde & the Maldives) graduated,
- Attempts made to uplift LDCs and now the IPOA (2011),
- Graduation strategies to develop and continuously monitor.

- Meeting the Graduation criteria by Monitoring through the statistics:
 - 1971: **GNI per capita, Adult literacy rate, Share of manufacturing in GDP;**
 - 1991: **GNI per capita, Augmented physical quality of life** (*calorie, life expectancy, school enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate*), **Economic Diversification Index** (*Export concentration ratio, share of manufacturing in GDP, share of employment in industry, per capita electricity consumption*);
 - 1999: **GNI per capita, Augmented physical quality of life** (*calorie, under 5 mortality rate, school enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate*), **Economic Vulnerability Index** (*population, export concentration, share of manufacturing in GDP, instability of agricultural production, instability of export of goods and services*).

- 2002: **GNI per capita, Human Asset Index** (*calorie, under 5 mortality rate, school enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate*), **Economic Vulnerability Index** (*population, export concentration, share of manufacturing in GDP, instability of agricultural production, instability of export of goods and services*).
- 2005: **GNI per capita, Human Asset Index** (*calorie, under 5 mortality rate, school enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate*), **Economic Vulnerability Index** (*population, remoteness, export concentration, share of agric, forestry and fisheries in GDP, homelessness due to disasters, instability of agricultural production, instability of export of goods and services*).
- 2011: **GNI per capita, Human Asset Index** (*calorie, under 5 mortality rate, school enrolment ratio and adult literacy rate*), **Economic Vulnerability Index** (*population, remoteness, export concentration, share of agric, forestry and fisheries in GDP, share of population in low elevated coastal zones, victims of natural disasters, instability of agricultural production, instability of export of goods and services*).
- In 2012 Nepal's index value was **GNI per capita 1190, Human Asset Index 66 and Economic Vulnerability Index 32.**

b) Sustainable Development Goals (Rio+20):

- Social pillar
- Economic pillar and
- Environmental pillar,

c) Millennium Development Goals

- Goals and targets likely to be achieved, on track, off the track, MAF in progress.
- Post 2015 Development Framework.

d) BIMSTEC Goals:

- Poverty reduction and regional level trade facilitation, and economic cooperation.

e) SAARC Development Goals:

(See the Excel Sheet)

3.2 Monitoring the National Development Agenda

- Three Year Plan (2013-16) goals & targets:
- National Pride Projects (17) to complete:
- Poverty Reduction (from 23.8% (2013) to 18% by 2016):
- Inclusive growth/development (spatial, ethnic, sexual, economic):
- Pro-poor growth strategies:
- Gender perspectives in program budgeting:
- Environmental concerns: Environmental budget codes etc.

3.3 Coordinating the Multiple Stakeholders

- An integrated and unified statistical system is required which may be the basis for a wider consultation among government agencies.
- For instance, formation of a ***National Statistical Council*** incorporating governmental agencies, development partners, statisticians, analysts, and software developers would be appropriate.
- It may make frequent updates through consultative seminars/meetings before disseminating the data.
- ***National Statistics Council*** could be the best platform to bring the stakeholders together.

Nepal has formed a ***National Statistics Council*** for policy decisions and coordination as under:

National Statistics Council (17 Members):

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| a) | VC, NPC | Chair |
| b) | Member (macro-economics) | Member |
| c) | Governor, Central Bank | Member |
| d) | Chief Secretary, GON | Member |
| e) | Secretaries 8 (Finance, Education, Local development, Industry, Agriculture, Health, Women Development, NPCCS) | Members |
| f) | Statisticians 3 nominated by GON | Members |
| g) | IT professional/developer by GON | Member |
| h) | Chief Statistics Officer, NSO | Member-Secretary |

3.4 Revamping the Statistical Institutions

- Statistics Act 1958 established ***Central Bureau of Statistics*** (CBS) as the sole agency responsible in the collection, consolidation, publication and analysis of statistics,
- CBS the core and nodal statistical organization of Nepal is responsible for enforcement of Statistical Act, operation of various types of censuses and surveys, preparation of macro-economic statistics, and development of human resources. *Population census, agriculture census, industrial census, living standards survey, and labor force surveys* are being regularly conducted by CBS in designated time intervals,
- Apart from the CBS, there are other government and semi-government organizations also involved in statistical matters. Their activities are primarily intended to meet their own need rather than designated activities.

3.5 Monitoring the Statistical Progress

- **National Statistical Council** 1988 is the coordinating and policy making body,
- Nepal possesses some basic components of statistical services, such as *legal framework, statistical system, national statistical organization, statistical council, chief statistician, statistical service group, international cooperation etc.*
- Nepal has participated in IMF-GDDS (general data dissemination system) initiative.
- Nepal initiated to create a favorable environment to International Household Survey Network.

- Work on National Data Archive (NADA) has been successfully institutionalized within CBS.
- As per the Plan the CBS, was partially restructured, manpower trained and to some extent Branch Statistics Offices (BSOs) were further strengthened.
- The Three Year Plan (2010-13) has set strategies to statistical development taking care of national and international information challenges.
- NPC and CBS are going to formulate the NSDS by 2015.

3.6 Addressing the Problems Encountered

- a) *System* related: Coordination, duplication, clearance, quality, dissemination strategies etc.
- b) *Framework* related (knowledge based): Adopting internationally agreed and recommended methodologies, concepts and classifications in order to have comparable information.
- c) *Institution* related: Issues of designation of the task, human resources management, need assessment & harmonization, use of information technology, funding in statistics etc.
- d) *Demand-supply* gap: The quality and proper use of the existing statistics. It is also taken as an alternative indicator to assess the status of the statistical management.
- e) Also, the *recommendations* of CNSP are yet to be fulfilled (i.e., establishment of designated statistical system, survey clearance system and coordination system, upgrading of CBS).

The CNSP 2005

- ***Consolidated National Statistics Plan*** of Nepal 2005 identified the most critical and essential statistics required, designated the most suitable government agency responsible for the statistics, & allocated responsibilities for timeliness & reliability of statistics.
- It also determined the sectoral data requirements for socio-economic development plan, national accounts estimation and present data delivery system.
- ***The Plan*** covers all aspects of national statistical system of Nepal and contains the issues on Statistics Act, Survey clearance system, System of designated statistics, Data dissemination strategy, Human resource management etc.

4. NSDS and the Implementation Strategy

- NSDS is a process as well as product itself. NSDS *process* follows the hierarchical mechanisms. It should be designed on country level requirement, which should be viewed from triangulation approach i.e. producers, users, providers.
- NSDS *product* strategy helps concerned beneficiaries to avoid influence of sectional interest, corruption and arbitrariness. So, it is the responsibility of all the actors of society to participate in NSDS process. No doubt, public policy domain is the big boss in this regard.

- An effective NSDS should poses basic elements of the political support, nationally owned, mainstreamed with development policies and basis of international support.
- NSDS should be designed by a set of activities followed by the review and decision from authority to vision and definitions of the strategy. The most important activities will be the Action Plans.
- A strong coordination mechanism at the central level (i.e., NSO) should be established with corresponding normative/functional linkages to local level.

- NSO (CBS) be reorganized to effectively respond to new/ changing user needs/demands,
- Statistics Unit be established/ strengthened in each data producing (government) agency,
- The statistical skills of concerned staff in data producing (government) agencies be upgraded,
- Stakeholders involvement in the production, coordination and dissemination of statistics be ensured,
- Donors support be sought as domestic financing would be limited for collecting and producing statistics.
- Action Plan badly needed prioritizing the activities.

5. Way Forward

1. Periodic review and updates of the NSDS,
2. Sustained financing from domestic and external sources,
3. Coordination among/between government/development partners & other stakeholders,
4. Capacity building and periodic refresher training to the staff involved in the statistical processes,
5. Continued global connections to localize international systems and processes, and
6. Realizing Monitoring and Evaluation as a continuous process.



I Thank You
For Your Kind Attention !