Approaching to Users with Statistical Products: An Experience of Decentralized Dissemination of Economic Census Results

Action Area X. (SA1)
Engaging users and investing in statistics

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Central Bureau of Statistics
1. Introduction:

- Producing statistics for evidence-based development an important component of the statistical programme.

- The Government of Nepal has emphasized the evidence-based policy and plan formulation at local, province and central level.

- Obligation of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) to fulfill the data demands by producing the relevant statistical products.

- Efforts in making the users’ access to statistical products.

- Need to approach the potential users for sensitizing about the data products.
The objectives

- To reveal the decentralized dissemination of the statistical products of the economic census 2018 of Nepal as an approach to reach to the diverse stakeholders upto local level.

- Key Discussion Points:
  - Legislative arrangements,
  - Existing dissemination practices,
  - Decentralised Data Dissemination of Economic Census Products
A. Legislative Arrangements

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• Prevailing statistical legislative frameworks
  • Statistics Act 1958
  • Statistics Regulations 1984
  • Census specific gadget (decree),
  • Official procedural guidelines 2007,
  • National Strategy for Development of Statistical System (NSDS) and
  • Policy guidelines mentioned in the plan documents

• For the execution of statistical production processes (planning, implementation, publication and distribution of the relevant official statistics)

• Publication as the obligatory responsibility

• Publication and distribution, and preservation of the statistical products as one of the objectives of CBS

• Non existence of the specific data dissemination policy
B. Dissemination Practices of CBS

• Dissemination:
  • Make statistical output available to the users.
  • Ultimate objective

• The users of the CBS statistics:
  • general public to the advanced users (planners and policy makers, professionals, researchers, academicians, business communities, international agencies and journalists)

• Institutional Set up:
  • Publication, Distribution and Library Section
  • Statistics offices (SO) in districts
B. Dissemination Practices of CBS

• **Diverse modes of data dissemination:**
  - Press-release
  - Conference, dissemination seminars,
  - Digital dissemination (uploading in web portals), and
  - Print copy distribution.

• **Distribution of publications and services:**
  - Mailing list users and the users who demand.
  - Library service
  - Consultation/ interpreting services via concerning section officials

*The major statistical products:*

- Statistical Bulletin, Nepal in Figure (brochure), Statistical Year Book, Statistical Pocket Book, National Accounts Series,
- Census/ Survey reports as a periodic publication

Virtual Event 15-18 June 2020
2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics Week
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#apstatsweek2020
C. Decentralised Data Dissemination of Economic Census 2018 Products

• **First National Economic Census in 2018**

• **Major objectives:**
  • Fulfil the basic data gaps on basic economic statistics.
  • Understand the economic structure comprised with diverse sector of economic activities

• **Decentralised census operation**
  • For improved census governance, increased efficiency of census enumeration, making census awareness, census data processing and dissemination of the results
  • Delegation and devolution of the duties and responsibilities
  • Decentralized census publicity to increase the response rates
  • Decentralized data processing as the successful experimentation
C. Decentralised Data Dissemination

- Data dissemination and its decentralisation
  - Dissemination of the census results as primary responsibility of CBS
  - Making available the preliminary reports with very limited data products on timely (Hard copy publication/web portal)
**Final Census Products**

- Users’ growing interest towards on final census results
- Adoption of strategies to release the results in phase-wise
- Released Reports:
  - National Report Series 1 and 2, Nepali version, Provincial series
• National dissemination seminar on July 01 2019 to release first National Report by Industry

• Goal is to reach the wide range of users with economic census products.

• Voluminous information pertaining to establishments with different characteristics
Final Results of National Economic Census 2018 of Nepal

Number of Establishments

(Nepal) 923,356 establishments

- Registered: 462,605 (50.1%)
- Not Registered: 460,422 (49.9%)
- Not Reported: 329 (0.04%)

Establishments per 1,000 persons: 31.6 establishments

Number of persons engaged per establishment: 3.5 persons

Total Number of Persons Engaged: 32,28,457.
Province and District Level Dissemination Programs

- Planned a decentralized dissemination program to its users at districts outside Kathmandu valley in FY 2019/20
- Authorized the statistics offices at districts
- Plan to disseminate results in the remaining districts in fiscal year 2020/21.

- Circulation of a procedural guideline to the statistics offices for conducting the seminars
- Conduction of the provincial and districts seminars in 34 districts “Province/ District Level Dissemination Seminar of the National Economic Census 2018 Results”.
Objectives of the district dissemination

- Provide the information to potential local level users
- Provide the knowledge on the basic concept, process and utilization importance of the EC
- Encourage users to use
- Get the feedback from the users to improve the census in the future, and
- Establish the rapport
Audiences of the Seminar

- A wide variety of audiences about 1900 participants.

- The audiences of the seminars
  - Representatives from Planning Commissions,
  - District Administration offices,
  - District coordination offices along with other government offices,
  - Local level governments like province office or municipalities,
  - Academic institutes,
  - Business organizations,
  - Media personnel,
  - Non-governmental organizations,
  - Financial institutes,
  - Development partners, and
  - Civil society.
• Two presentations:
  • The first presentation (objectives, concept and methodology, scope and coverage, importance of the census results).
  • The second presentation (the major census results)
  • the tabular results, graphs and maps.

Graph 1. Percent to Total Number of Establishments of Nepal

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Section-C: Manufacturing Activities

- No. of Establishments
- Persons Engaged

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<tr>
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<th>No. of Establishments</th>
<th>Persons Engaged</th>
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<td>NEPAL</td>
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<td>510,523</td>
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<td>37998</td>
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<td>Kaski District</td>
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<td>11618</td>
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C. Decentralised Data Dissemination.....
Participants’ views

• Understanding the stakeholders’ views
  • important aspect to develop the users’ oriented statistical products.
  • An appropriate forum to get to know the participants perspectives
• Represented a direct producers-users’ face to face forum in establishing the rapport building
• Participants / Users Delighted to get information on the basic economic census results that gave the insights on the economic composition of their respective local areas.

• Hopeful for the formulation of local as well as district level planning and development by utilizing of census data
• Wrong perception changed to positively (suspect of tax imposition)
• Expressed commitment or realization of the need to cooperate CBS’s statistical undertakings.
Suggestive views or expectations

- Reach further to sub-district level
- Massive media campaign of the census data products
- Accept the weaknesses occurred in census operation,
- Develop integrated statistical database system of the establishments,
- Enhance the methodology to overcome the exclusion of the enumeration units
- Release remaining results soon
- Analytical reports
- Access on data /tables
- Formalize the unregistered enterprises.
Response from organizer

• Good opportunity for statistics offices to show the gratitude and acknowledgement
• Responded the enthusiasms or queries
• Assurance to improve the quality overcoming the present shortcomings
• Encouragement to utilize the published results and ensured to cooperate the users
• Informed the proper way of access CBS website https://cbs.gov.np/economic-census/
Media Role in Dissemination

• Issuance of the press release notes contained with major statistical findings.
• Role of the media in conveying the economic census results
• Highlights in most of the national and local news
D. Conclusions

• Successful in delivering the final economic census products on timely
• Need the regular promotion of the data products
• Approaching to the potential users only complete the census operation.
• Decentralized dissemination seminars:
  • an effective and essential approach to reach the remote users.
• Capacity development of the district statistics offices
1. Disseminate the census results up to bottom level
   • Dissemination platform empowers the National Statistical System, which creates the opportunity to be close with the users making statistically aware and get their cooperation in future statistical operations.

2. Click the mind of users about key terminologies and data products
   • Develops positive perspective on statistical operation which is the achievement of the dissemination mission.

3. Live dissemination essential to create multiplier effect
   • The participants informed with the census products will or may re-disseminate or convey indirectly to other closed ones about the economic census products.

4. Interactive dissemination, easy way to educate on the data products
Investment matters

• Investment in institutionalizing the decentralized dissemination system equally important as investment in collection and compilation efforts.

• Long term return is data use culture society developed.

• Frequent keep in touch with users-producers upto Local level via decentralized dissemination process
Thank you