

Enhancing Democracy Through Access to Open Data: What Are the Roles of Government and Civil Society?

Overview: Open Government Data (OGD) is widely seen to be a key hallmark of contemporary democratic practice and is often linked to the passing of freedom of information legislation. OGD is a philosophy—and increasingly a set of policies—that promotes transparency, accountability and value creation by making government data available to all. Public bodies produce and commission huge quantities of data and information. By making their datasets available, public institutions become more transparent and accountable to citizens. By encouraging the use, reuse and free distribution of datasets, governments promote business creation and innovative, citizen-centric services.

Objectives:

1. To study the intersectionality between transparency, accountability and consumption of data by stakeholders
2. To explore opportunities for the civil society to simplify governance through access to data, privacy of stakeholders and to address challenges faced in data collection and analysis

Sessions: Through sessions, the aim is to specifically investigate the role of civil society and media in this effort. The participants will deliberate on the above-mentioned objectives of the seminar.

- Session I: Praja Foundation Website Launch
- Session II: Data management with data centric approach and role of stakeholders in the urban governance eco system
- Session III: Open data-experiences; trends, challenges and opportunities, relationship between governance and data

Outcomes: The takeaway from the seminar should be to develop the idea of achieving data literacy. The presenters after a detailed interaction should take away the following from the event:

- Reflections on the use of Internet and technology as tools for better governance
- Balance the development of open data and the strategies to use this data in terms of ownership and replication of data
- Identify data sets which should be prioritised for release in order to maximise public value
- Data Accessibility: Capitalize on the demand for democracy and transparency by making open data more accessible to the larger public

Schedule for the events

Praja Website Launch and Seminar on Open Data Government

Date: 8th September

Location: India Habitat Centre

Timing: 9:30 am- 5:00 pm

Invitees: Government representatives, elected representatives, civil society organisation and media representatives.

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Schedule for seminar on Open data and Civil Society	
9:30-10 am	Registration
10 am- 10:15	Welcome Address and Keynote speaker
10:15 am- 11 am	Session I: Demonstration of the Website
11am - 11:30 am	Tea and Networking
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Session II: Data management with data centric approach and role of stakeholders in the urban governance eco system
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch and Networking
2:00 pm – 3:45 pm	Session III: Open data-experiences; trends, challenges and opportunities, relationship between governance and data
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Closing Remarks
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Tea and Networking

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