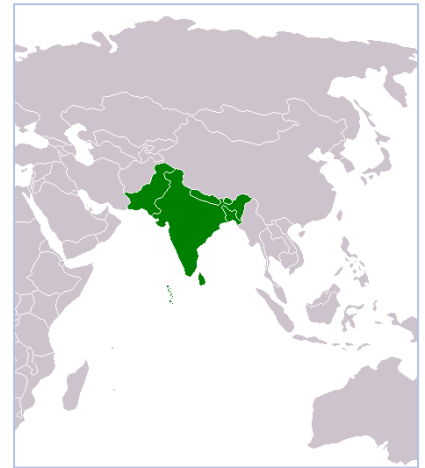


ADP REGIONAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

FOCUS : SOUTH ASIA



Accelerated Data Program



SOUTH ASIA

REGIONAL REPORT ON ACCELERATED DATA PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT 2015

OECD/PARIS21



adp.lhsn.org

www.paris21.org

Table of Contents



Introduction	1
Section 1: Metadata Quality Assessment	6
Contact Information of ADP Focal Points in South Asia	22
Partnership Information	22

The main objective of this report is to assess the quality and sustainability of ADP activities in the 4 ADP participating countries in South Asia, also called member countries of South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The countries and participating agencies are:

- **Bhutan:**
National Statistics Bureau (NSB)
- **India:** Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)
- **Nepal:** Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)
- **Sri Lanka:**
Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)

Introduction

The ADP was launched in 2006 as a recommendation of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (MAPS) to undertake urgent improvements in survey programs for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the high-level endorsement in November 2011 of the Busan Action Plan for Statistics (BAPS), the ADP addresses the BAPS's second priority (i.e., “promote open access to and use of data”). The ADP’s goal is **to increase the use and value of survey data**. The ADP supports data producers and users in developing countries by carrying out inventory, documentation, dissemination and preservation of micro-datasets; establishing national and regional survey data repositories to make existing survey microdata more accessible to users; establishing national microdata dissemination policies; and developing and implementing outreach and advocacy programs targeting microdata users (i.e., universities, research centers, independent think tanks, NGOs, development partners, and others) to increase awareness of microdata availability and use of microdata. The ADP takes advantage of tools and guidelines developed by the International Household Survey Network (IHSN).

The ADP is currently supporting agencies in more than 70 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean. The ADP was implemented by PARIS21 and funded through contributions from the World Bank Development Grant Facility which began in 2006 and ends in 2015. With the end of the program, a program evaluation was undertaken. As part of the tasks and activities undertaken by the ADP, this assessment developed some standardized tools used to render the evaluation comparable across countries in the region and across regions in the world. Over 30 countries in 7 regions were evaluated. The following key areas were evaluated:

- Quality of the metadata produced to describe the household surveys and statistical observation as documented using the DDI
- Quality of the NADA and its visibility for web based dissemination
- A review of the microdata dissemination and data access policies
- Management of users and cultivating relationships with data users
- Institutionalization of the documentation and dissemination processes

This is a regional report for four South Asian countries participating in the ADP program. This report will assess each of these areas and compare the performance of the countries in attaining a minimum level or threshold and/or exceeding that threshold. The report will also look at the countries outlook and ability to respond to the new data agenda being defined by the new SDG measurement agenda and the call for a Data Revolution.

The World Bank
Statistical
Capacity Score
2015 of SAARC
member
countries are:

- Afghanistan 51.1%
- Bangladesh 76.7%
- Bhutan 68.9%
- India 77.8%
- Maldives 55.6%
- Nepal 72.2%
- Pakistan 75.6%
- Sri Lanka 73.3%
- South Asia: 71.1%

Summary of ADP Assessment in the Region

Statistical development varies greatly in South Asian countries. On one part of the spectrum is India, the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country in the world, with a well-developed and integrated statistical system and on the other side, small landlocked countries like Nepal and Bhutan with less developed statistical systems. The South Asian countries namely: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are associated in a South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The SAARC Group on Statistics (SAARCSTAT), a network of Heads of Statistical Offices/Organizations, was formed in 2005 to initiate regional cooperation on statistics among the member countries. Some activities have been conducted under the SAARCSTAT initiatives, however the group does not have a formal administrative structure and funding to implement the statistical development activities effectively in the region. The regional and international agencies like the Asian Development Bank, UNESCAP, UNFPA, WB, DFID, ILO, UNICEF, etc. are the main supportive partners for the development of the statistical capacities in different areas in member countries of the region.

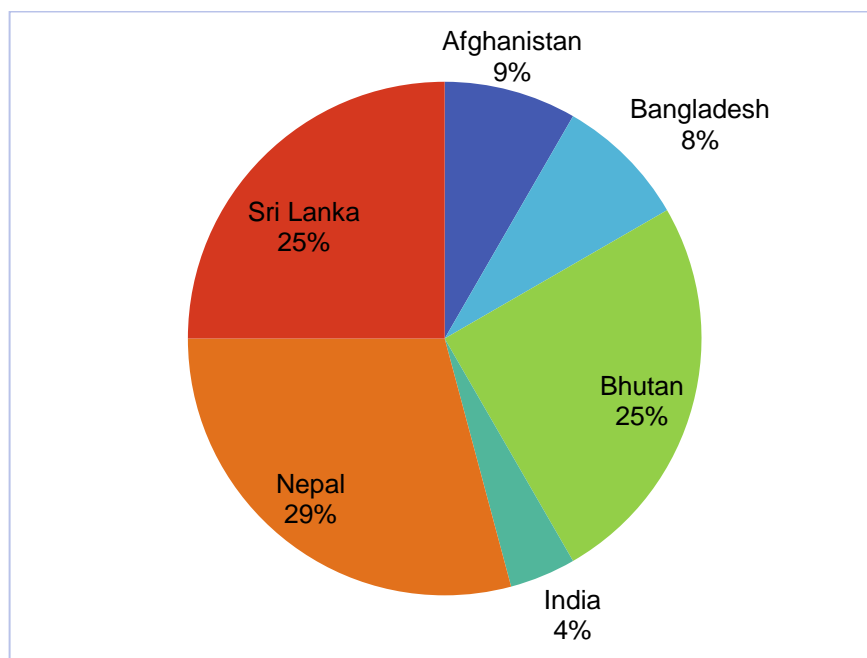
In the endeavor of statistical capacity development in developing countries, the ADP has supported six member countries of the SAARC, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka since 2009 for microdata management and dissemination. Out of 6 participating countries in South Asia, 4 countries, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, are active in maintaining the ADP activities. With ADP support, these countries have conducted a number of workshops in documentation and preservation of their surveys and census microdata and. In addition to documenting they have published online data catalogs, called the National Data Archive (NADA) on each of their websites for the dissemination of the survey information (data and metadata) for public access. Likewise, formal data dissemination policies were also developed and a number of events were organized for the promotion of data use and engaging with microdata users.

The ADP, in coordination with the National Statistics Offices of member countries, in some cases partnered with the country office of the World Bank and UK Department for International Development (DFID), conducted a number of ADP activities including Microdata Management Toolkit trainings, NADA installation and upgrading workshops, and Microdata Outreach and Advocacy events in the region. The ADP conducted a total of 24 activities in the region and over 152

Afghanistan and Bangladesh participated began engaging with the ADP in 2009. With ADP support, two microdata management training and data documentation workshops were organized in each country, but the country did not establish NADA and publish the documented studies online.

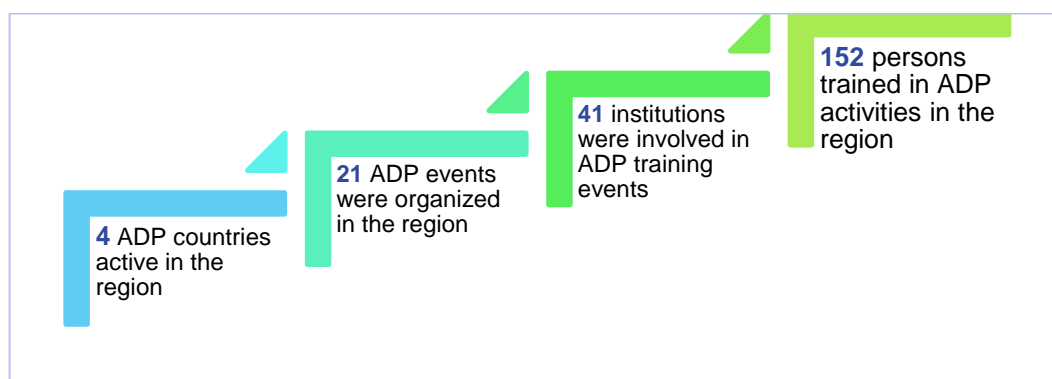
people were trained in 41 institutions. Figure 1 illustrates how those activities were divided by country.

Figure 1: Number of ADP activities conducted in country



The activities of the ADP are summarized in the input and output visualizations in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Inputs for the implementing ADP initiative in the region



The Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka has the largest number of studies published on its National Data Archive (NADA) of all ADP participating countries.

Figure 3 provides the summary of the outputs of the ADP in the region. These are the primary outputs as defined by the goals and objectives of the ADP.

Figure 3: Outputs for the implementing ADP initiative in the region



ADP Assessment

The ADP assessment in South Asia reviewed the following 4 countries: Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The assessment workshop took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka in October 12 – 16, 2015.

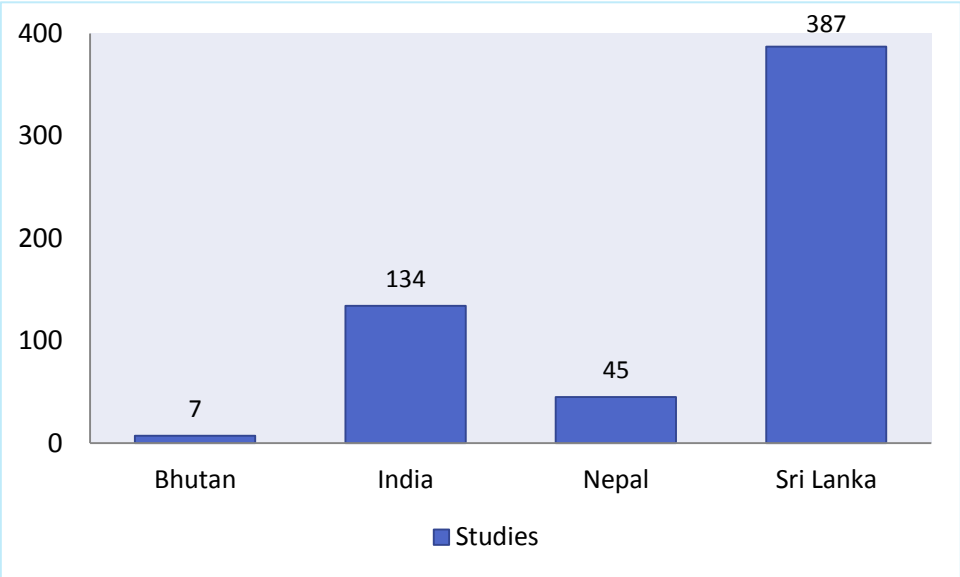
This report is organized in the following manner:

- Metadata Assessment
- National Data Archives
- Progress in data dissemination and legal constraints
- Institutional commitment and user management

These four areas form the basis for defining key performance indicators which provide a relative measure of how countries performed in the region. The primary

output monitored are the number of available studies on the National Data Archives. Figure 4 provides a view of the outputs per country evaluated.

Figure 4: Number of studies available in each country’s NADA



The final section of this report will review the data priorities in the changing environment necessitated by the the calls for measuring sustainable development as defined by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a look into the innovative approaches in the data process reviewing the statistical processes as defined by the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

The report also provides a series of recommendations and an estimate of the costs required to sustain the process of data development; catalyze change and assure higher quality data is made available at the right time. Following the regional review, a more detailed country section is provided.

KEY FACTS**(Metadata quality)**

- *Bhutan performs best in terms of DDI quality ranking among the 4 participating countries in South Asia .*
- *Nepal is second according to their DDI quality score, but has the largest variation in metadata quality of the studies posted on the NADA website.*
- *Sri Lanka has the lowest average DDI quality score among the 4 countries with critical scores in four categories – Sampling , Data collection, Data processing and Data appraisal.*

Section 1: Metadata Quality Assessment

Metadata are descriptive elements that help researchers and policy makers assess the quality of data and undertake more effective research. Different standards have been developed by different user communities and, in the case of the ADP, the standard which was introduced was the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI). The DDI is an international effort to develop a standard for describing social science data. It is a standard that is designed to be interoperable and exchangeable for both human and machine exchange. The concept of DDI and documentation are used interchangeably. The metadata assessment evaluated the quality of the “documentation” from the standpoint of the utility of the information to a researcher. Details of the processes undertaken during the review are provided in the annex.

Table 1 provides the results based on the standard Metadata Quality Assessment tool which was used to perform the evaluation. The scores are based on a scale of 0-100 and evaluate the quality of the information under the primary headers provided.

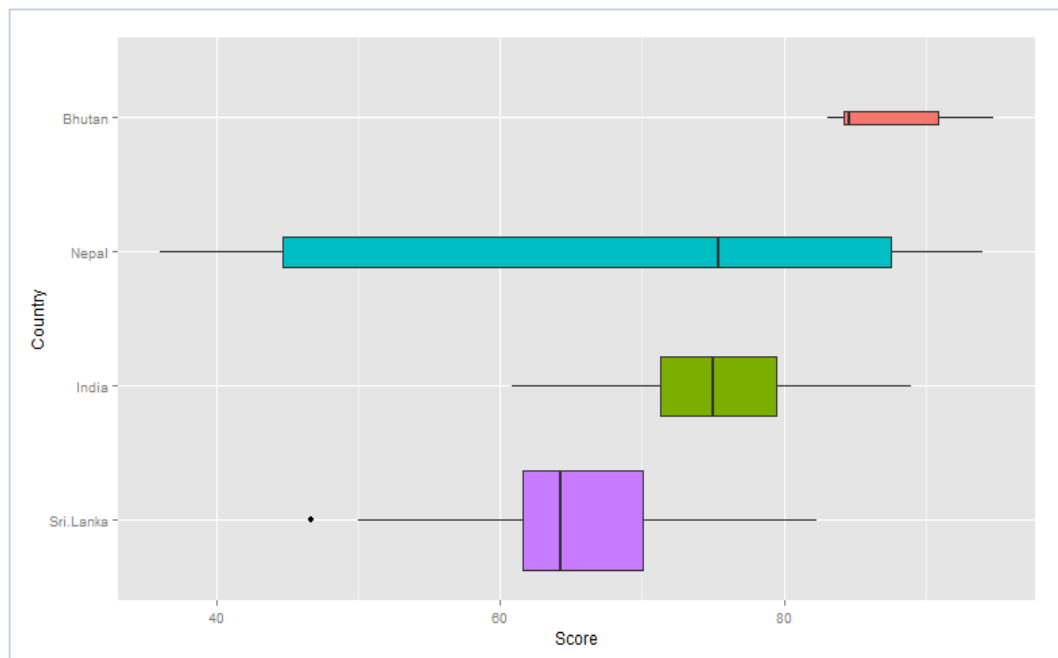
Table 1: Summary of the DDI quality assessment in various elements

Metadata category	Average score (%)			
	Bhutan	India	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Total score	89	77	78	66
Identification of the study	94	49	90	98
Version of metadata	68	80	56	79
Overview of the study	100	94	97	84
Geographic coverage	100	47	93	66
Producers and Sponsors	100	100	100	96
Sampling	76	76	88	21
Data collection	75	46	75	27
Data processing	94	38	77	30
Data appraisal	40	32	46	4
Data access	86	61	54	62
Data files	93	95	48	77
Variable description	99	89	97	67
External resources (Questionnaire & reports)	100	76	86	67
External resources (description)	72	60	86	78
Metadata citation and use	61	39	47	99
Study exists in IHSN catalog	100	100	97	27

On average, the region performed well in the quality of the metadata produced with an overall quality score of 77.5%. Bhutan ranked first in the regional ranking of the assessment achieving an overall score of 89.3%. However, Bhutan achieved a low score in Data appraisal, but did well across all other categories. In fact, all four countries have lower scores in the following categories: Data collection, Data processing, Data appraisal and Data access. Among the four 4 countries, Sri Lanka received relatively lower scores, and performed especially badly in terms of data appraisal, resulting in Sri Lanka ranking last.

Figure 5 indicates that Bhutan has the lowest number of studies on their NADA but the documentation is of high quality and the quality scores have a small variation. Contrary to this, Nepal has the highest variation in quality scores of their metadata, ranging from 36% to 94%. This is mainly due to the absence of data files in many studies published in Nepal. Likewise, Sri Lanka has the 2nd largest variation in DDI quality scores. The studies from India are relatively good compared to Nepal and Sri Lanka, but vary between 60.8% and 89%.

Figure 5: Range of DDI quality scores by country



KEY FACTS (NADA quality):

- The average NADA quality score of South Asia is 63%.
- Sri Lanka ranks on top among the 4 countries in NADA quality. However, Bhutan is on the bottom.
- Countries are good at defining the data access types, but less responsive to users' queries and promoting NADA use.

Section 2: NADA Quality Assessment

Through the International Household Survey Network (IHSN), the ADP promoted the use of an online archiving software known as the National Data Archive (NADA). The assessment of the NADA catalog site was conducted through a comprehensive review of evaluating items such as:

- Visibility of the catalog: Is the site well integrated with the primary NSO website and does it have clear links and descriptions?
- Search and filters: These are key in browsing the archive and help present information to the user in more efficient ways.
- Data Dissemination Policy: This should be available and integrated into the NADA so researchers can quickly understand the processes of accessing data.
- Citations: The NADA has a functionality to track publications that are using national survey and administrative data. This functionality is considered important for monitoring use.
- Innovation: This measures innovative and creative presentation of the NADA to the user through online tools (such as YouTube clip).
- Days to respond user's query: How long does the NSO take to data user's queries and requests?

Table 2 shows the average of each of the eight categories. The scores below are based on a range from 0-100.

Table 2: NADA quality scores by category and country

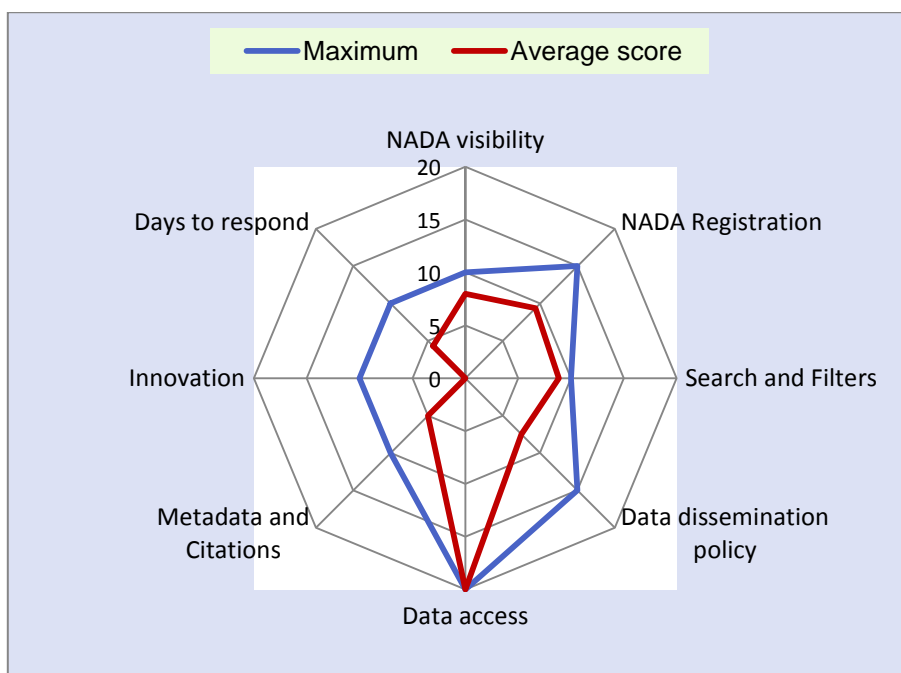
Category	Average score (%)			
	Bhutan	India	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Total score	56.6	59.7	63.3	72.3
NADA visibility	71	76	90	81
NADA Registration	75	0	100	75
Search and Filters	89	78	100	88
Data dissemination policy	0	100	0	100
Data access	100	100	100	100
Metadata and Citations	50	50	50	50
Innovation	0	0	0	0
Days to respond	43	43	43	43

Main findings

- In general, the overall quality of the National Data Archives is good. The average score for South Asia is 63%, but the quality variation is high among countries and needs improvements.
- The element which accounted for the greatest loss of score was the absence of innovations for online promotion of the NADA use. None of the countries monitored survey use by maintaining a catalog of citations; only two countries have a data dissemination policy attached to NADA, and all four countries take a long time to respond users' queries.
- The categories in which countries excelled are the Data access and Search & filters. Although most of the datasets are not directly available online in the region through the NADA application, they are accessible through alternative channels within the same institution.

Figure 6 provides an overview of the regional averages of the NADA evaluation scores. The inner box with red boundary represents the relative position of NADA quality of participating South Asian countries compared to the total quality scores of the NADA in different dimensions (the outside "footprint"). For this evaluation, a great deal of weight was placed on access to data.

Figure 1: Radar diagram of NADA assessment quality for the region



Search by Keyword ?

in study description

in variable description

Search **Reset**

Filter by Year

Show studies conducted between
 1995 ▾ and 2015 ▾

Filter by Data Access ?

☒ All

☐ Public use data files

☐ Licensed data files

☐ Data enclave

☐ Data not available

Filter by Collection 0

☒ All

Only 6.4% of the datasets are accessible online for user access. Most of the datasets are not available from the NADA, but could be available from other channels like direct request to NSO onsite.

Section 3: Status on Dissemination

3.1: Data Access

The National Data Archive – NADA Catalog has four types of data access:

- Public use files: Microdata is downloadable through an online process
- Licensed files: Some data require licensing procedures and more in-depth reviews
- Data Enclave: Data is available on-site in controlled environments
- Data not available: No data is downloadable

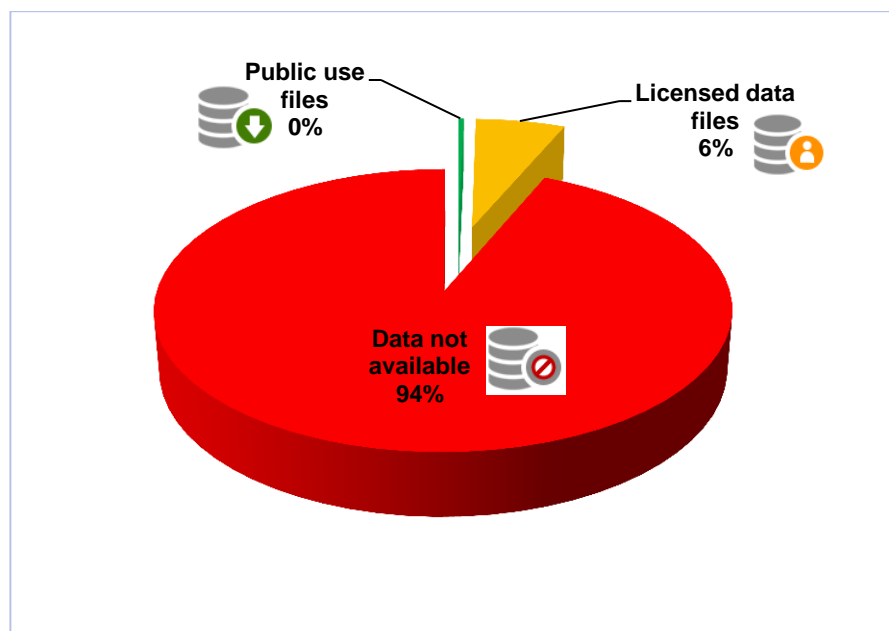
It is important to note that in many cases, although the microdata is listed as “Data not available”, there are other channels of delivering microdata access not specifically defined in the NADA system. These include: data for sale, or walk-in requests for data. Since it was not possible to reflect those other channels in the evaluation scores, it is important to acknowledge that the following scores correspond only to the online channels provided by the NADA.

Figure 7 provides an illustration of the kinds of data access available through the NADAs. Only 6.4% of the documented datasets are readily available through the NADA catalogs of the 4 countries under review in the South Asia region.

Figure 2: Types of Data Access in 4 SAARC countries

KEY FACTS (Data dissemination policy):

- Only two countries – India and Sri Lanka – have a separate data dissemination policy.
- Bhutan has worked on developing a microdata dissemination policy
- Nepal is revising its Statistics Act and planning to design a separate data dissemination policy.
- The Collection of Statistics Act 2008 of India also mentions the dissemination of unit level data.



3.2: Status on the Dissemination Policy & Statistics Act

Amongst the four countries in the region, India and Sri Lanka have well-defined data dissemination policies. Bhutan has a draft that has already benefitted from consultation with stakeholders. The draft is in the process of receiving Government approval. Nepal is working on revising its Statistics Act 1958 and has planned to develop a new data dissemination policy in 2016.

Although only two countries have an official microdata dissemination policy, they have internal procedures and practices for disseminating survey and census microdata to user access. The survey and census microdata are accessible to users through other channels like on-site data requests, in CD-ROM form with payment, etc. However, a clear dissemination policy and calendar is still lacking in Bhutan and Nepal and data access is granted to users on a case by case basis.

Table 3 provides a review of the status of the data dissemination policy evolution in each country.

Table 3: Status on Data Dissemination Policy and Statistics Act

	Bhutan	India	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Statistics Act allows Microdata Access?	NO	YES	NO	NO
Is the Statistics act available online?	YES	YES	YES	YES
Dissemination Policy allows Microdata Access (or similar guidelines)?	Draft	YES	Planned in 2016	YES
Is it for the NSO or NSS?	NSO	NSO	NSO	NSS
Is the dissemination policy available online?	NA	YES	NA	YES
Regulation of Dissemination Policy includes Calendar of Publications, Type of Users, Type of Data Access per survey, NADA & DDI Standard?	YES (in draft)	YES (partially)	NA	YES
Other channels to Microdata Access available?	YES	YES	YES	YES
% Data Accessible through NADA Catalog	57.1%	0.75%	33.3%	4.9%
Progress of Dissemination Policy (if not approved or updated)	75% (waiting for Govt. approval)	NA	NA	NA

KEY FACTS**(Institutional progress):**

- India and Sri Lanka have successfully internalized microdata documentation, preservation and dissemination processes.
- Nepal has developed expertise in data documentation & dissemination.
- NADA promotional activities and budgets are not planned in NSOs' yearly programs.
- Normally, the agencies are aware of regional support centres and consultants for data documentation and NADA maintenance.

Section 4: Institutional Progress and Relation with users

As part of the assessment, a survey was sent to the National Statistics Offices to elicit responses and identify areas where there could be relative strengths and weaknesses in the internalization of ADP processes. The responses of that survey provide the contents to this section. The NSO survey covered areas such as:

- Institutionalization of data documentation activities
- Undertaking data curation activities¹
- Regional and sub-regional support for data support activities
- Relationship with users

4.1: ADP Institutionalization

- 2 out of the 4 NSOs - in India and Sri Lanka - have been documenting new surveys internally as part of the related division's job description. Nepal has trained NSO staff with enough experience and skills to facilitate a data documentation workshop alone (without consultants).
- All 4 countries reported that their NSO staff had acquired the required skills and expertise to manage, maintain and update the NADA catalog independently, but that they may need external support for NADA upgrading and maintenance.
- India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have a regular internal funding for microdata documentation and dissemination and are self-reliant. The documentation of new surveys and publishing on the NADA are part of the NSO staff responsibilities who are assigned to ITC or data dissemination section. However, it is not specifically mentioned in their job descriptions.

¹ Data Curation is defined as an institutional approach to data documentation that involves a more in-depth management of data and metadata within the archiving and dissemination processes of the NSO.

KEY FACTS

(Performance indicators):

- India ranks on top with a score of 78% followed by Sri Lanka (68%), Nepal (53%) and Bhutan (37%).
- India has good metadata quality, productivity and institutional management, but is weak in user management.
- Sri Lanka performed well in metadata quality and institutional management.
- Nepal has moderate scores in all 3 categories except productivity.
- Bhutan is best in metadata quality, but very weak in productivity and institutional management.

4.2: Process of documentation and dissemination in the region

- India and Sri Lanka have internalized the data documentation process in their agencies and have been archiving new surveys and censuses within a certain time frame of release of survey results.
- Nepal has started budgeting internal funding for data documentation since 2014 and it has developed expertise in documenting and disseminating data.
- Bhutan mostly depends on external support for data documentation and the data documentation has been done through ad-hoc workshops.
- An acceptable level of expertise has been developed in all 4 countries for NADA maintenance and updating, but they still some support in this regard.
- Apart from India, the other 3 NSOs - Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka - house studies from other official data producing agencies in the National Statistical System (NSS). That is, they have a distributed NADA where the collection functionality of NADA allows various data producers in the NSS to post their data in a central data catalog and disseminate data to users as per their own policy.

4.3: Regional and subregional support

- The ADP has developed some experts in national statistics offices and also allocated some consultants to each region for microdata documentation and NADA maintenance. The NSO staff who have developed expertise in data management or NADA maintenance could provide support to another countries or this need could be fulfilled by ADP experts/consultants. For Asia, the ADP consultants are located in the Philippines and India.
- All four countries are aware of the consultation resources available to assist them in microdata documentation and NADA management.
- All countries responded that there is no regional organization working on data curation that could provide technical support.

4.4: Relation with users

- None of the countries organizes user exchange workshops such as dissemination and awareness events and microdata outreach to users. Also, no internal budget is allocated in the yearly program for such events. However, the countries have introduced the NADA in some other user-producer fora for the release of survey results.

- Normally, countries receive feedback from users for further improvement of dissemination processes through e-mail or in user-producer fora for the release of survey results. India and Sri Lanka also receive feedback through the post. However, the agencies do not have a formal procedure to keep users on record and do not regularly communicate with the users.

Section 5: Key Performance Indicators

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are designed to provide an overall score based on 4 different criteria each equally weighted. Figure 8 provides a summary of the components of the KPIs used to determine a final score.

Figure 3: Composition of Key Performance Indicator categories

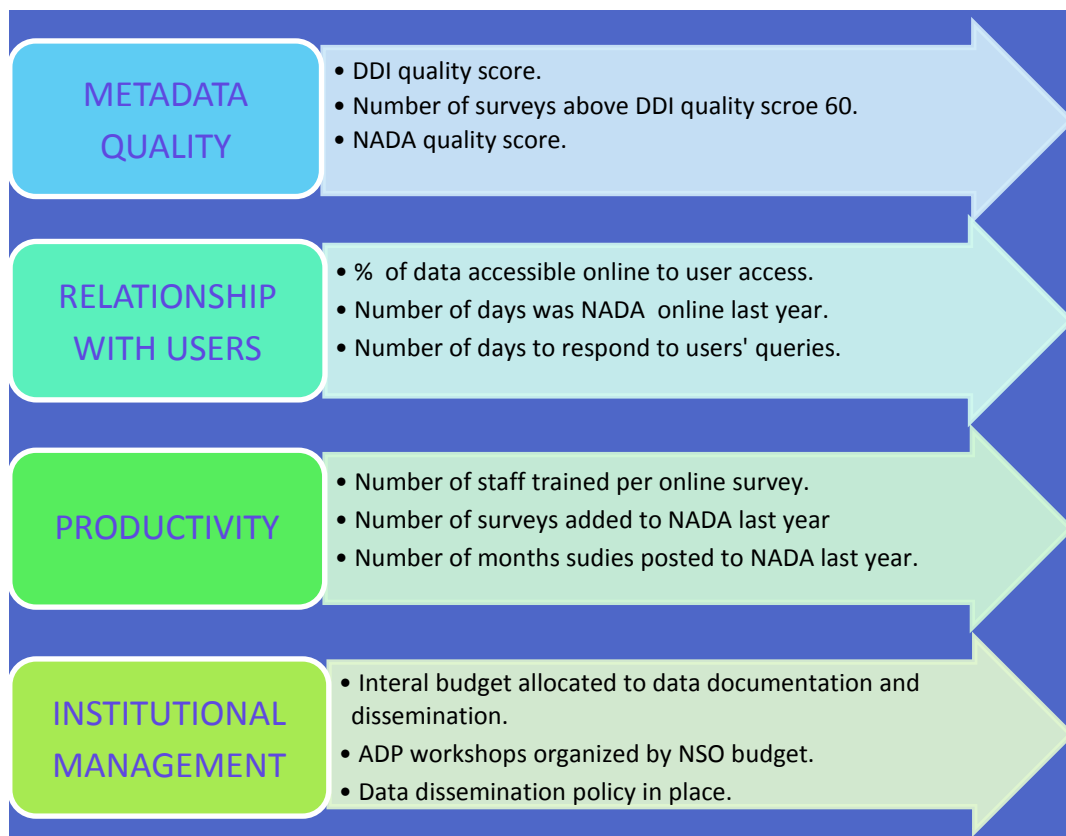
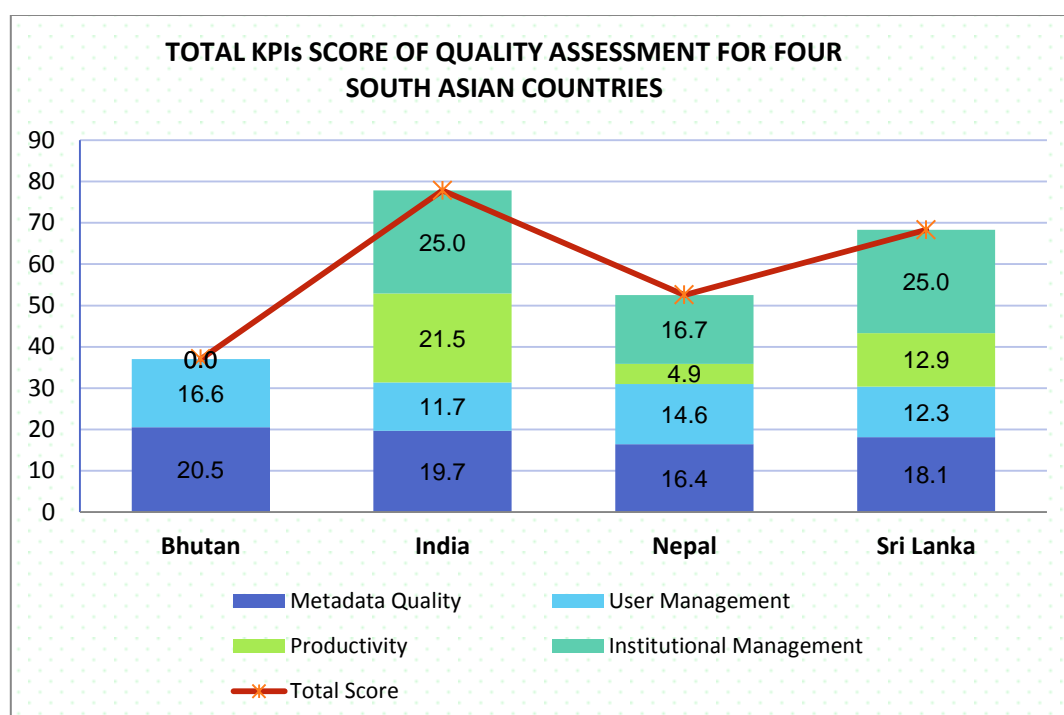


Figure 9 indicates that India can be considered the highest performer. This is primarily due to high scores in institutional management and productivity. Likewise, Sri Lanka, the second best performer also has high scores in institutional management, but its performance on user management and productivity are below average. However, these two countries have adopted the data documentation and dissemination tools and

standards with the greatest commitment. Nepal ranks 3rd, but its productivity is low. Unlike the other three countries, Bhutan has the lowest performance score, which is mainly due to "0" scores in productivity and institutional management. Therefore, Bhutan can be seen as the country with the greatest room to improve its performance on institutional management, productivity and even in user management.

Figure 4: Key Performance Indicators for South Asian countries



Section 6: Innovation & Data Revolution

Tied very closely to the processes of data documentation and dissemination is the ability of an NSO to innovate and adapt to the changing data environment. Indeed, it could be said that the KPIs discussed in Section 5 are proxies of a country's likelihood and ability to be innovative and open regarding data dissemination. As part of this workshop, two days were taken to assess the NSOs' attitudes and activities under the 'Informing the Data Revolution Project' (IDR) undertaken by PARIS21. As part of this two day assessment, a special questionnaire was sent to the participating countries in order to assess the "bottle necks" or areas of resistance in improving the data process. This was not specific to microdata but rather evaluated all processes in an NSO using the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). The following are the conclusions:

1. General

Given the differences in the group in terms of population size (ranging from India with a population of 1.2 billion to Bhutan with fewer than 1 million), the complexity of NSS governance, platforms, software etc. the issues faced by each South Asian country were different and context-dependent. However, there was agreement on a number of general points.

2. NSS Integration and Coordination

In all cases, there was a lack of integration within the NSS – the role of the statistical office was often secondary to other line ministries and there was little or no central coordination of standards or dissemination of statistics.

3. Regional support

There was general consensus on the need for an increase in regional support for technical capacity building, in particular for training programs but also to set up groups for sharing expertise.

4. Training

A strong need for training was identified in many areas. Following the presentations on modernization standards, it was apparent that most of the group were unaware of SDMX and none had received any information on emerging standards such as GSBPM, CSPA and GSIM. There was reasonable knowledge of database management. There was strong interest in the group on the proposed training curriculum on modernization standards ([link](#)) and the group requested to provide input on additional modules which included Statistical database design; Statistical Data Warehouse principles; Statistical Open Source products; Data collection; Data integration.

The group was also unaware of current software sharing initiatives amongst the international statistics community and training should inform them about the resources available (such as Sharing Advisory Board software inventory [link](#) and the Innovations Inventory).

5. Dissemination

There were no dissemination standards used by any of the countries in the group and no centralized data portal including data from other NSS members apart from Sri Lanka. Output formats included pdf, Excel, Cognos, and SAS.

6. GSBPM main “pain points”

The main processing bottlenecks identified in common in the group by GSBPM sub-process were:

2.5 – Design phase: processing and analysis

3.1 – Build phase: build data collection instruments

5.1 – Process phase: integrate data

6.2 – Analysis phase: validate outputs

7.5 – Dissemination phase: manage user support

7. Areas where specific technical needs were identified:

- Data backup & recovery
- Big Data sources, techniques and guidelines
- Statistical Data Warehouse technology
- Promote open source solutions
- New tools & methods for data collection
- Integrating production systems from data collection to dissemination

Section 7: Conclusions & Recommendations

7.1: Short Term ADP Type Activities² for Follow Up

- Follow up with Bhutan to finalize the data dissemination policy and add up new studies on NADA.
- Support Nepal to develop a data dissemination policy and organize a systematic microdata outreach and advocacy workshop.
- Follow up with countries and assure details of the quality assessment is properly transmitted.
- IHSN should include a category “Data available onsite” type in order to correctly define the data access type which are accessible from NSO premises.
- Extend the microdata management process to other SAARC countries in the region – Bangladesh, Pakistan and Maldives.
- Advocate with development partners to require documentation in the statistical activities they sponsor.

² The ADP activities include data documentation, dissemination process and promoting data use as well as a continuous relation with users.

- Continue to provide assistance in the quality review of documentations while encouraging countries to internalize the documentation process.
- Encourage the extension of the NADA to manage collections from other major data producers in the National Statistical System.
- Support promotion of NADA and data use events, especially targeting the academic users such as master's and post-graduate students and researchers.

7.2: Mid and Long Term Support on Data Management and Dissemination

Fully sustainable and operational data management systems will always require support, if only for keeping relevant and sharing experiences among the various data producing and using entities in the region. Our point-of-view is that the best actions for assuring sustainable results will require national and regional contextualization; contexts that are focused on increasing data use and applications by innovative local and regional users and researchers. Harnessing this engine of innovation will ultimately provide the bottom-up force for developing responsive national statistical systems.

7.2.1: Regional Context

Regional support should be promoted particularly within and through organizations that have been given the legal mandate to undertake regional integration. This includes organizations like the SAARC Secretariat, UNESCAP, the Asian Development Bank (ADP) and UNSIAP. The regional organizations like ESCAP and ADP have also been supporting countries on statistical capacity development and production of quality data for policy planning and impact evolution of national and international development programs. These organizations could collaborate to allocate funds to NSOs and programs designed to support data development, management and encourage a harmonized data dissemination system including both aggregated and unit level data. Demand from the users' side such as the Asian Development Bank, universities and research groups will provide the necessary push for the NSOs to maintain its data portals including microdata archives.

7.2.2: National Context

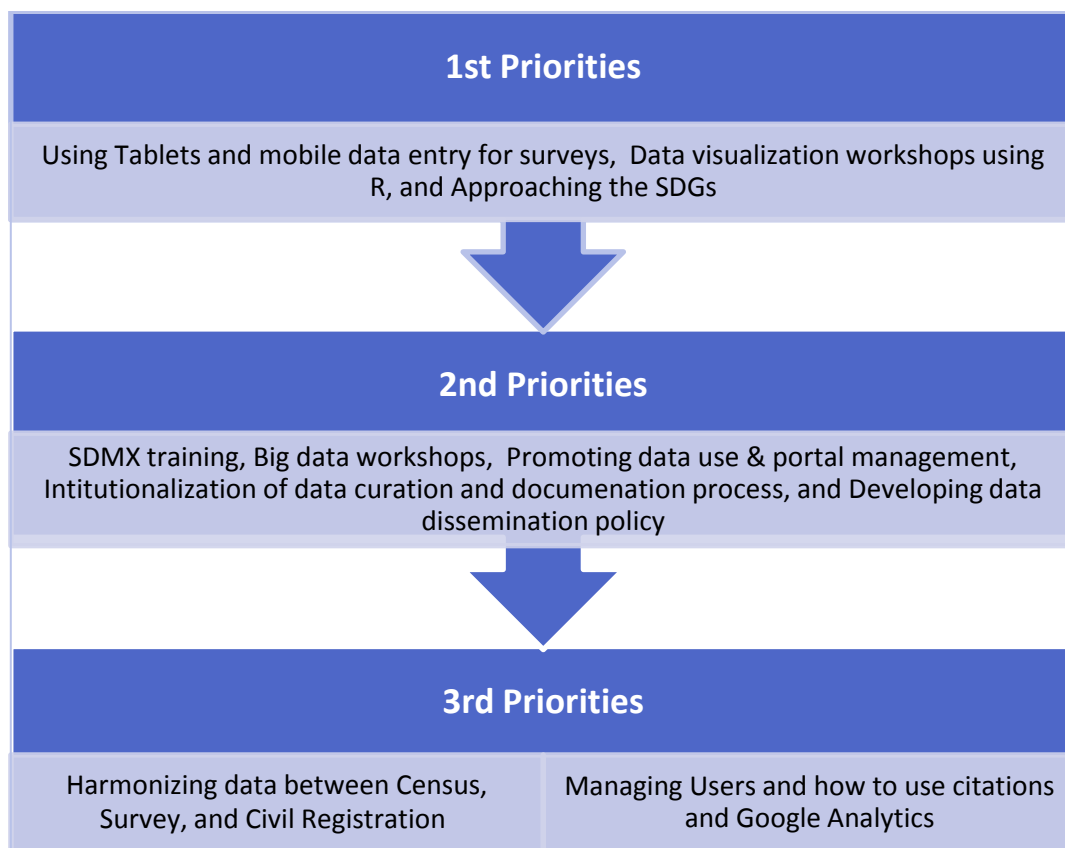
There is a clear desire in the NSOs to pursue ADP activities. Sharing of best practices, experiences, and benefits will further promote the use of these tools. There is now a growing demand for microdata and the NSOs are moving to meet this. It is to be expected that other agencies in the national statistical systems will want to be part of the national data archives. The NSO of India and Sri Lanka have successfully developed expertise in data management and dissemination. Nepal and Bhutan have also built a

level of skill in data management and dissemination. For the sustainability and institutionalization of the process, these activities should be formally planned in the yearly program of each NSO and supported by internal funding. Furthermore, a comprehensive data dissemination policy, or dissemination guidelines are necessary to establish and expand the process in the NSS. On top of that, a continuous interaction with key data users is vital to add value to the process and receive feedback for further improvements in data management and dissemination processes.

Section 8: Looking Forward

Country Priority for Post 2015 Data Development Agenda

As part of the forward looking component of the assessment, a questionnaire was sent to each NSO to express their priorities for data development activities in view of the post-2015 development agenda. The questionnaire contained 14 options ranging from Data curation, Data harmonization, Dissemination policy design, User engagement, Promoting data use, big data issues and the use of mobile data collection technologies among others. The analysis of the four countries' reporting shows their priorities in following order.



Contact Information of ADP Focal Points in South Asia

Mahesh SUBEDI

Microdata management

mahesh.subedi@hotmail.com**Somnath SAMBHUDAS**

National Data Archive

catchsomnath@gmail.com**Partnership Information**

OECD/PARIS21

2 rue André Pascal. F-75775 Paris Cedex 16

Tel. +33.1.45.24.15.04**Fax** +33.1.44.30.61.43<http://www.paris21.org/Data-products>**adp.lhsn.org**



Accelerated Data Program

2006-2015