

Excellence Award 2019

A reward system in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and various initiatives of the Government of India:



- to accelerate inclusive sustainable local and community action
- to dismantle the social trap situation and avoid negative feedback
- create social and ecological resilience
- bring community, academic, industry and policy actors together
- ensure effective local governance via local capacity building on making decisions for a community or locality



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The heart of the Excellence Awards
is the desire to draw and acknowledge
pathways for inclusive sustainable
development for all humans. ”

Convener: Dr. Seema Sharma & Dr. Arnab Bose

The Excellence Awards have come out as a result of work done on community resilience incorporating social and ecological aspects. The Awards is a reflection of the body of work heralded by Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Arnab Bose. The Awards are borne out of rigorous academic exercises carried across over 500 neighbourhoods spanning a decade, covering localities and institutions across the world, and this programme in particular has a focus on the Delhi National Capital Region

On the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, 25th September, 2019

The Economic Development alone will not take care of Society and the Environment. Recent discourse on human development has highlighted the role of resilience in both society and the environment is important for human development both in the short as well as the long term.

The world is grappling with issues like climate change, terrorism, local pollution, gender equality, access for the disabled, a life in dignity, etc. alongside rapid advancements in technology whose effects are yet to be internalized to better human society and global environment in the long run.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set in a framework for achieving inclusive sustainable development globally but true sustainable development will take place once these objectives are attained in every locality across the world. An arduous task indeed, and there are four kinds of stakeholders, namely, Academia, Community, Policy and Industry, whose coordinated actions will lead to true viable inclusive sustainable development.

The Excellence Awards in 2019 was to acknowledge persons, groups or organizations belonging to Academia or Community for their work to instil environmental and societal resilience to attain inclusive sustainable development

The Excellence Awards 2019 had focus on the Delhi NCR region and had the objective to acknowledge persons, groups or organizations belonging to Academia or Community for their work to instil environmental and societal resilience to attain inclusive sustainable development.

A summary of the research design, methods, axiological intuitions and heuristics is given at the end of the document (Page number 17 to 21).

“The authors are thankful to the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Sansthan for supporting the Pilot Implementation of Excellence Award 2019.”

Stakeholder relation diagram for a socially and ecologically resilient society



Research argument and Theory behind the Excellence Awards

Given the scenario, when the whole world is undergoing socio-economic and technological transition, the process itself provides enough space for some set of stakeholders to get into a social trap situation. A social trap is a situation in which a group of people act to obtain short term individual gains, which in the long run leads to a loss for the group as a whole. One of the best examples is the "Tragedy of the Commons" which often gets mention by climate change experts for using common resources like air, water, forest etc. Having said this; let us consider other myriad situations like inefficiency among public works like pavements, educational institutions; community services etc., even also how to deal with situations like avoiding littering; the question is how do we improve, say, the design of the pavement without any negative feedback (a Pareto optimal solution)? How can littering be more effectively discouraged or prevented? How can we make carpooling or public transportation the first choice for more people? To figure out these situations and to come up with some kind of solutions, authors and associated researchers conducted an ethnographic study across the above mentioned sectors and locations following the methods of data collection as mentioned by Margret Mead (appropriate to recollect a dictum of sorts - what people say, what people do and what people say they do are the three different things). After doing analysis, both quantitative and qualitative, authors came to the conclusion which also corroborates with the theory of social trap given by Platt J. (1973). According to Platt, J. 1973, a social trap occurs when there is opposition between a highly-motivating short term reward or punishment and a long-term negative consequence. While this is true and applicable world wide but situation gets worsen in country like India where overpopulation, lack of proper education and opportunities and political scenarios inherently promotes short term individuals gain among the stakeholders (academia, Industry, policy and community).

In brief the study explained the reason for inefficiency among stakeholders, littering behaviour and not opting for public transportation/carpooling are the social trap situation in India. Even if we are aware of social traps, it may be very hard to dismantle them. One possible way is to rearrange the reward system. The origin of excellence awards 2019 has happened in this line. To make the reward system free from social trap situation, first time ever reward system was created based on research and auditing in alignment with SDGs at the local level.

The Chief Guest for the event was Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Jal Minister, Govt. of India.



From right to left—Sri Vinod Shukla (National President, PDUSM), Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jal Minister), Sri Shyam Jaju (National Vice President, BJP), Sri Anand Mani (National General Secretary, PDUSM) Dr. Seema Sharma (Convener), Dr. Arnab Bose (Co-convener), Mr. Avinash Rai (PDUSM)

Guest of Honour for the event was Shri Shyam Jaju, National Vice President, Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).



From right to left—Sri Indu Prakash, Sri Anand Mani, Sri Vinod Sukla, Sri Syam Jaju, Dr. Arijit Das, Dr. Anupa Sidhu, Dr. Seema Sharma, Dr. Arnab Bose, Mr. Rohit Pathania

Session Chair for Excellence Award

Prof.(Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice Chancellor, O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana



Event Attendance

The event was attended by Academia-Industry-Policy-Community, all important stakeholders. 60 colleges and more than 80 schools of Delhi NCR, Member of Parliaments (Sri Manoj Tiwari and Sri Hans Raj Hans), more than 20 NGOs, Social Activists, Start Ups and local Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)



Research Team and Advisory Panel

Research Team



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Advisory Panel



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Dissemination of Excellence Award 2019

The Awardees had been selected keeping in mind the inherent characteristics of social and ecological resilience profoundly important for communities and neighbourhoods. The process also aligns with the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and social aspects like Gender, Age and Disability. The Excellence Awards 2019 on the occasion of Birth Anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya is to herald a new phase of effective local governance which will pave the way for inclusive sustainable development for a country like India, and for the world too.

The award was disseminated under six different categories in alignment with 17 SDGs

GLIMSES

Category I: Academic Institutions— in alignment with SDG4 (Quality Education)



Figure 1: Dr. Bijaylaxmi Nanda, Principal, Miranda House College, North Campus, University of Delhi, for delivering excellence in the area of environment and society

Category I: Academic Institutions— in alignment with SDG3 (Good Health and Well being)



Figure 2: Dr. Anupa Sidhu, Director, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, for excellence in bringing education, skilling, women empowerment and child development simultaneously in an institution

Category II: Academic Individuals—in alignment with SDG5 (Gender Equality)



Figure 3: Dr. Banumati Sharma and Dr. Vinita Bhargava, Associate Professor, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi, For excellence in developing National Guidelines for setting up and running crèches under the Maternity Benefit Act 2017

Category II: Academic Individuals—in alignment with SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)



Figure 4: Dr. Asminder Singh Baal, Director (Vocational Education), National Institute of Open Schooling, for excellence in promoting education and skilling ‘hand to hand’ the students of open learning schools

Category II: Academic Individuals—in alignment with SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)



Figure 5: Dr. Santanu Ganguly, Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), for excellence in knowledge management and stakeholder consultation

Category II: Academic Individuals—in alignment with SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)



Figure 6: Dr. Sarita Nanda, Associate Professor, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, for excellence in inculcating the spirit of ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’ among the college students

Category III: Community Individuals—in alignment with SDG9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)



Figure 7: Sri. Samiran Gupta, Head of India for ICANN (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), for excellence in creating a constructive and lucid multi-stakeholder discourse on Internet Governance

Category III: Community Individuals—in alignment with SDG16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)



Figure 8: Sri Indu Prakash Singh, Activist and Social Worker, for delivering excellence in safeguarding the interest of poor and marginal (whom he call City Makers) in Delhi NCR.

Category III: Community Individuals—in alignment with SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals)



Figure 9: Sri Ajay Data, Founder and CEO, Xgen Technologies and Chairman UASG (Universal Acceptance Steering Group), for excellence in digital inclusion in terms of languages and scripts

Category IV: Community action at the neighbourhood level—in alignment with SDG4



Figure 10: Sri Radhey Shyam Suyal, Social Worker, for excellence in community service for the under privileged

Category IV: Community action at the neighbourhood level—in alignment with SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)



Figure 11: Ms. Ushha Kiran (Educationist and Social worker, For excellence in promoting Education, Humanism and Spirituality among communities) and Mrs. Ritu Bhatia (Social worker, for excellence in community service for the under privileged)

Category IV: Community action at the neighbourhood level—in alignment with SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals)



Figure 12: Mr. Rohit Pathania, General manager-Corporate Communications, Cakr Innovations, for excellence in community engagement & knowledge sharing at the community level

Category V: Resident Welfare Associations—in alignment with SDG5 (Gender Equality)



Figure 13: Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Women Wing, Vivek Vihar, East Delhi, For delivering excellence in realizing the need and role of women in RWA to make the residential premises clean, green and happening. Women RWA wing are in existence since 2017.

Category VI: Community Services—in alignment with SDG9 ((Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)



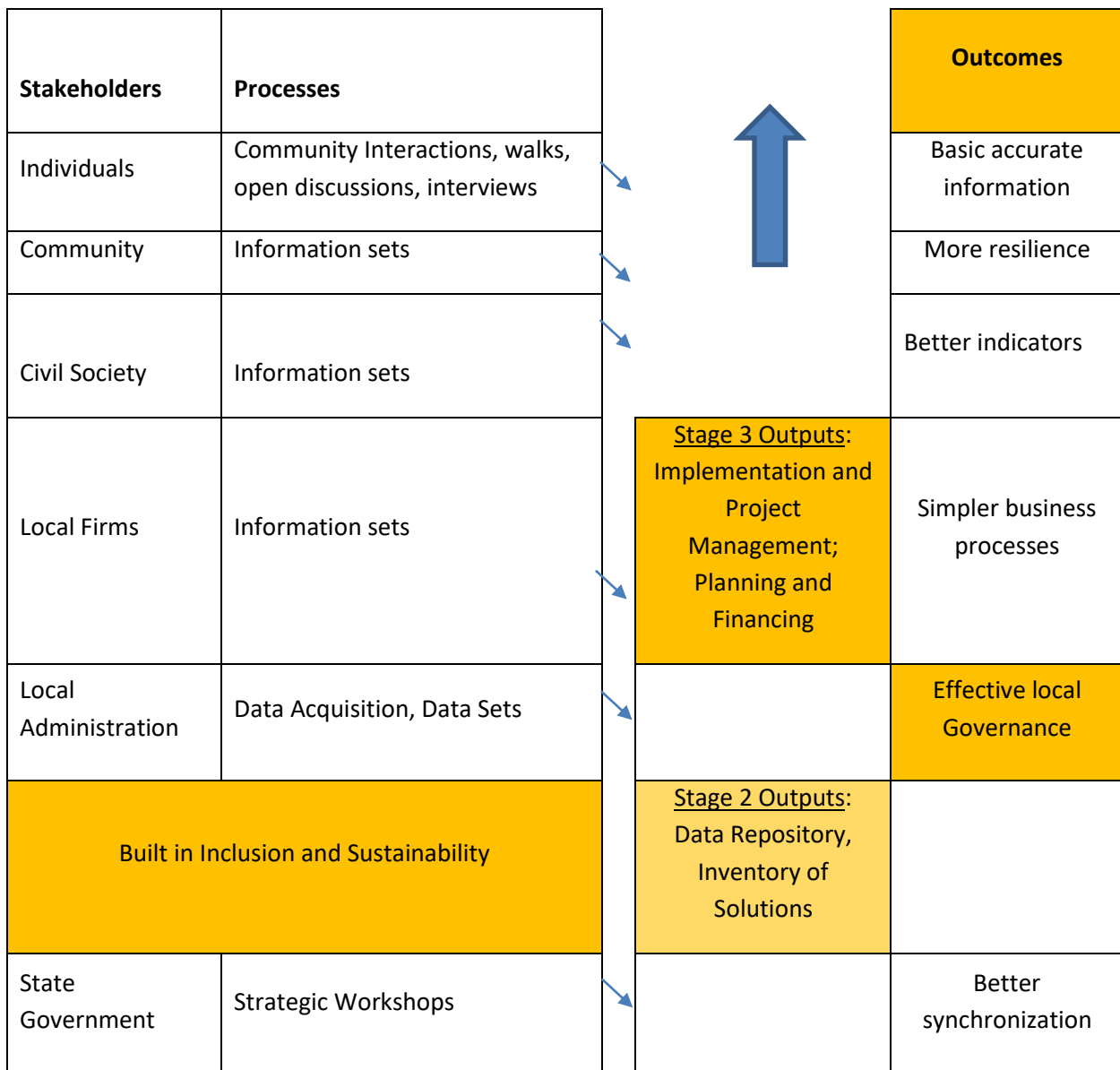
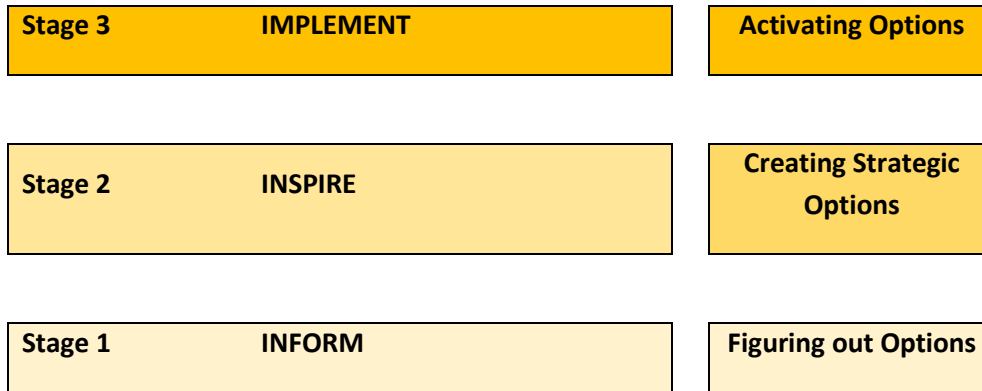
Figure 14: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), for being a large scale built system that any person on a wheelchair can enter from and exit any station alone on most occasions. DMRC is a case for resource and management efficiency is well known, it is good to know that it has a heart of gold too.

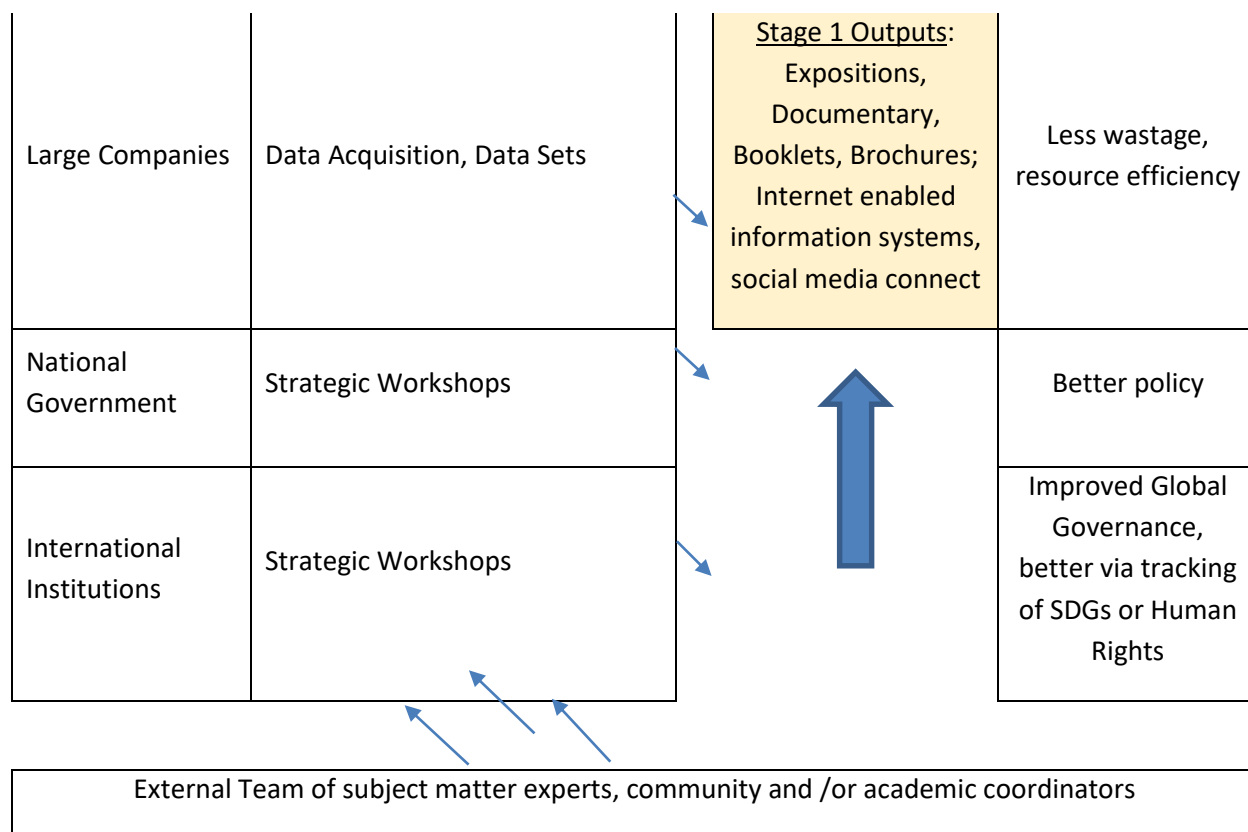
Category VI: Community Services—in alignment with SDG10 ((Reduced inequality within and among countries)



Figure 15: Flag Foundation, for creating a space for integration and bonding with a sense of pride and realization of common heritage.

Research Design





Resilience Framework (Source: adapted from Bose A. & Sharma S. 2018)

There are numerous ways research can be designed especially from the resilience literature perspective (Dey 2003; Linkov et al., 2013). The following three steps have been identified as most suitable:

1. Sampling: Purposeful sampling; Random Sampling
2. Data Collection: By utilising part of the **Resilience Framework** (*in figure*)

Purposeful Sampling

In Palinkas, L. A. et al. (2015) an elegant narrative is formed on 'purposeful sampling'. It says that the purposeful sampling to examine evidence rich cases as a part of the narrative to build on evidence-based practices (EBPs).

Triangulation

A succinct account of triangulation with respect to reliability (consistency over time) and validity (does it answer the question at hand) is provided in Golafshani, N. (2003). Triangulation can be multi-dimensional in terms of persons, sources, theories, investigators, actors, agencies etc. as we see in Carter, N. et al. (2014). The resilience framework itself provides a platform for triangulation in terms of persons, actors and agencies, and this research in terms of places then goes into two cities and across various locations to strive in terms of reliability and validity, and, accuracy of data. As Golafshani, N. (2003) points out that though reliability and validity are terms from the quantitative methods and positivist approaches, their essence should not be missed out even in qualitative methods using naturalistic approaches.

Action Research

This research follows a Action Research work flow found in Community-based participatory research (Israel, B. A. et al. 2019). In research summary aspects of these have been brought in. There is an articulation of what people say via interviews; what people do via observations in photographs and videos; and what people say they do via feedback from seminars and conclaves.

Few salient features or aspects are discussed below with a table on research summary

Research Summary (source: self/authors)

Attribute	Comment
Methods	Qualitative, Reflexive, Action Research, Heuristic and Quantitative
Disciplines	Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Science and Technology, Management, Sustainability
Techniques	Techniques found in Community Resilience; Interviews, Focus Group Discussions, Presentations in conclaves and seminars, Photography and Videography; creating levels of interpretation and/or aspects
Places	Research spread across two urban agglomerations in Delhi, India
Persons	Creation of emic and etic narratives via multi-stakeholder models as found in the Resilience Framework

The following sections describe the specific steps taken in more detail.

Sampling

The sampling for cases occurs at two levels (Daymon & Holloway 2010) and will be purposive in both instances. First, at the level of case selection; and second at the level of selecting informants and participants. Cases will be selected according to a selection criterion mostly depending on trying to attain data saturation; participant selection will be done following the resilience framework (Bose & Sharma 2018). In this research roughly 7 to 10 cases each have been selected from built environments in and around Delhi, India, and Berlin, Germany. The stakeholder consultations can take the form of focus group discussions, conclaves, or conferences to improve access to important stakeholders (as shown in Fig 3.3). However, the nature of enquiry can be different on different occasions given the audience and what information is required at the stage of research. The people to be interviewed can be categorised and interrelate with each other as presented in Tab. 3.2 and Figure 3.1 below.

This categorization is adapted from the resilience framework devised for working at the scale of neighbourhoods (Bose & Sharma 2018). The categorization of people to be interviewed gives us a sense of the range of stakeholders and is helpful in formulating whether a person is an external (etic) or internal (emic) stakeholder with respect to the neighbourhood or locality of the study (Olive 2014, Orr 1996, Pike 1967). In principle, internal stakeholders are those who stay within the neighbourhood, and external stakeholders are those who stay outside the neighbourhood while the decision-making powers of etic actors may affect the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

Stakeholder Map using the Resilience Framework (Sharma & Bose, 2017)

Category	Alternate	Type	Context
Individuals	People	Internal	Emic
Community	Neighbourhood		
Civil Society	NGOs		
Local Firms	Small Business		
Local Administration	Municipality	Internal	Emic/Etic
State Government	Provincial Government	External	Etic

Large Companies	Industry		
National Government	Federal Government		
International Institutions	World Bank		

Disclaimer

The method of the Resilience Framework has been developed by Dr. Seema Sharma and Dr. Arnab Bose over a decade of intense research and field work. The content is a body of work of Dr. Seema Sharma with Dr. Arnab Bose who are the primary owners of the intellectual property contained in the work surrounding the Resilience Framework. The text and associated concepts is made available in good faith for better understanding of resilience and effective local governance. It is through this effort a paradigm of better local governance is envisaged for the betterment of a few billion people in developing countries who are bereft of kind, friendly and accessible neighbourhood spaces. This is done particularly keeping in mind women, disabled, children or old people in such areas.

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