

## Making transparent and accountable decisions using statistics for economic development

Statistics is the science of data which can help decision-makers understand and analyze data, identify trends, and make informed decisions. In day-to-day life, an extreme amount of data is collected everywhere. For example, when you log in to the internet to make a transaction in a bank, book a hotel, or buy goods from a shopping mall the data is generated. Further, the administrative data, research data, clinical data, survey data and climatic data are also available for each country. The gathered data consists of numbers and if numbers are genuine, they speak for themselves and are truthful. Hence, the data should be properly analyzed using statistical methods to uncover the hidden information that lies behind them. The results generated by the analysis should be appropriately interpreted and then used to make decisions before being effectively communicated and presented.

Transparency and accountability are two key points when making decisions, especially those influencing the development of a country. To make sure that these values are upheld, open and accessible data must be utilized. Open data is the data that is freely available, accessible, and reusable, which allows anyone to access and analyze them. When data is collected and analyzed in a transparent and accountable manner, it can be used to hold decision-makers accountable for their actions. For example, if a poverty reduction program is not achieving its goals, decision-makers can be held accountable for the failure of the program.

Statistics can play a key role in promoting transparent decision making. In the field of economic development, statistics can be used to track the performance of different sectors, such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. By analyzing data on employment, GDP, and other economic indicators, decision-makers can identify areas that are performing well and those that need improvement. Statistics can also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of different policies and programs. For example, data on poverty rates can be used to evaluate the success of poverty reduction programs. Data on education can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of different educational policies. The decision makers can use statistics to monitor and evaluate the progress of national development plans and to track the achievement of global development goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data on the progress of these plans and goals, decision-makers can identify areas where progress is being made, and where there are gaps that need to be addressed.

To evaluate the effectiveness of different policies and programs, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) can be used. RCTs are a type of experimental study that randomly

assigns individuals or groups to different treatment or control groups. By using RCTs, researchers and decision-makers can evaluate the effectiveness of different policies and programs with a high degree of confidence. This can help to identify the most effective policies and programs, and to allocate resources more efficiently. Corruption and mismanagement of funds are major challenges facing developing countries, and statistics can play a key role in monitoring and addressing these issues as well. Some examples in which statistics can be used to monitor corruption and mismanagement of funds is by tracking the flow of funds through the economy, evaluating the effectiveness of anti-corruption policies and programs, monitoring the performance of public services, and implementing statistical monitoring systems. By analyzing data on government spending, revenue, and investment, decision-makers can identify potential areas of mismanagement or corruption.


Further, the decision-makers can evaluate the effectiveness of different policies and programs, such as anti-corruption laws, transparency and accountability measures, and public education campaigns by collecting and analyzing data on the incidence of corruption. Additionally, by implementing statistical monitoring systems, such as performance indicators, and conducting regular audits of public expenditures, it can help to identify and track corruption and mismanagement of funds. This can also serve as a deterrent to potential corrupt actions as they will be aware that their activities are being monitored and can be held accountable for any mismanagement.

It is also important to note that while statistics can be a powerful tool in the fight against corruption and mismanagement of funds, it should not be the only tool used. Other measures such as legal and institutional frameworks, civil society participation, media and citizens' oversight can also play an important role. The combination of these different measures and the use of statistics can be an effective mean of combating corruption and mismanagement of funds in developing countries. To fight against corruption and mismanagement of funds, and promote transparent decision making in developing countries, the quality of statistics and data is crucial. Therefore, the related data needs to be accurate, reliable, and accessible. One of the main challenges face by developing countries is the lack of reliable and accurate data. This can make it difficult for decision-makers to understand the economic, social, and political situation of the country. Therefore, developing and maintaining a reliable, up-to-date, centralized and easily accessible database is crucial for developing countries to make effective decisions. A good database provides accurate, relevant, and timely information that can be used to convey decisions and evaluate the outcomes of those

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decisions. A reliable database ensures that the information used for decision-making is accurate and free from errors, which can help to avoid costly mistakes. This includes data quality checks, such as accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness. Also, an up-to-date database ensures that the information used for decision-making is current and reflects the current state of the situation. This allows policymakers to make informed decisions based on the most recent information available. Further, an easily accessible database makes it possible for decision-makers to quickly and easily find the information they need. This can include having the data available in a format that is

easily understood, such as charts and graphs, or providing data through an online platform. A centralized database also allows for data sharing and collaboration between different departments, organizations, and sectors, which improves the quality of decision making, as well as enables cross-functional and evidence-based policies.

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