



Welfare Database of Citizens

[The Economic Survey 2018-19](#) has recommended setting up of a **central welfare database of**

Data	What it can do for you	What it can do for the government
Health	Identify health issues, monitor health status, track health outcomes	Improve health services, reduce health costs, increase health equity
Education	Identify educational needs, monitor educational progress, track educational outcomes	Improve educational services, reduce educational costs, increase educational equity
Employment	Identify employment needs, monitor employment status, track employment outcomes	Improve employment services, reduce unemployment, increase employment equity
Income	Identify income needs, monitor income status, track income outcomes	Improve income services, reduce income inequality, increase income equity
Assets	Identify asset needs, monitor asset status, track asset outcomes	Improve asset services, reduce asset inequality, increase asset equity
Welfare	Identify welfare needs, monitor welfare status, track welfare outcomes	Improve welfare services, reduce welfare inequality, increase welfare equity

citizens by **merging different data** maintained by separate ministries and departments. [//](#)

- The principle behind the recommendation is that the most data generated by the people, of the people, should be used for the people.
- The government already held a rich repository of administrative, survey, institutional and transactions data about citizens, but these data are scattered across numerous government bodies.
- The government would be able to utilise the information embedded in the database **for enhancing ease of living for citizens**, enable truly evidence-based policy, improve targeting in welfare schemes, **uncover unmet needs**, integrate fragmented markets, bring greater accountability in public services and generate greater citizen participation in governance, etc.
- The **datasets that can be merged** include birth and death records, pensions, tax records, marriage records; survey data such as census data, national sample survey data; transactions data such as e-national agriculture market data, UPI data, institutional data and public hospital data on patients.
- It has been suggested that **database be created as a public good** within the legal framework of [data privacy](#). Even, a part of the generated data can be monetised to ease the pressure on government finances. **Access to a selected database can be provided to the private sector for a fee.**
 - Indian government is working on finalising the personal data protection policy.

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