



ABSTRACT

Evaluation - Institutionalize an evidence-based approach to policy making to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programmes and policies in the State- Partnership with J-PAL – Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding - Orders – Issued.

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES (ST.2&E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.94

Dated:17.11.2016

Dhunmugi – Karthigai, 2
Thiruvalluvar Aandu 2047

Read:

1. Announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Under Rule 110 in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 8.8.2014.
2. G.O.Ms.No.81, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (ST.2&E) Department, dated 2.9.2014

ORDER:-

Based on the announcement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister under Rule 110 in Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 8.8.2014, in the reference second read above, Government issued orders for institutionalizing an evidence based approach to policy making to maximize the impact of anti-poverty programmes and policies in the State in partnership with Abdul Latif Jameel - Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Following this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was entered into between Government of Tamil Nadu and J-PAL on 19.11.2014.

2. In the above order, a Steering Committee was constituted to approve the new pilot programmes and evaluation and an Advisory Committee was constituted to provide ongoing oversight and feedback. In this regard, in the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting held on 29.3.2016, it was felt that adding a Data Sharing and Publication Protocol, which will be signed as an addendum to the main Memorandum of Understanding of the Government of Tamil Nadu - J-PAL partnership would be desirable for the following reasons:-

- (i) The confidentiality of official data requires to be protected wherever the legal position requires such protection.
- (ii) Privacy of personal data of participants in various studies needs to be protected.

- (iii) Provide a process for applying for and approving access to scheme/programme data, so that such data is shared only with due approval at an appropriate level.
- (iv) Researchers need to be given clarity on these aspects so that their involvement in such projects with Government is based on a clear understanding on what is publishable, since publication of research is their main motivation for participation in the programme.
- (v) The concerned Departments and Government through the Advisory Committee and Steering Committee constituted vide G.O.Ms.No.81, Planning, Development & Special Initiatives (ST.2&E) Department, dated 2.9.2014 have an opportunity to see and respond on what is intended for publication and to rectify any errors/misperceptions.

3. The Government after careful consideration, have decided to enter into an Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding with the Abdul Latif - Jameel Poverty Action Lab, South Asia (JPSA) on the policy on Data Sharing and Publication Protocol for policy research projects. The Government accordingly order that the Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding which is annexed to this order will be signed between the Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) and the J-PAL, South Asia (JPSA) at IFMR.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**S.KRISHNAN,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.**

To

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
School Education Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary to Government,
Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Health and Family Welfare Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai-9.
The Principal Secretary to Government,
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai-9.
The Secretary to Government,
Labour and Employment Department, Chennai-9.
The Member Secretary,
State Planning Commission, Chepauk, Chennai-5.
The Director (Full Additional Charge),
Evaluation and Applied Research Department, Kuralagam, Chennai-108.
Mr. John Floretta,
Interim Executive Director,

J-PAL South Asia at IFMR,
Institute for Financial Management and Research,
24, Kothari Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600034.

Copy to:

The Finance (Public) Department, Chennai-600 009.
The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Chennai-9. (Five Copies)
The Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (MC) Department,
Chennai-9.
Stock File/ Spare Copy.

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

S. Maheswari
SECTION OFFICER. 22/11/16

PC
22/11/16

ANNEXURE

I. Policy on Data Sharing and Publication for policy-research projects.-

1. Definitions.-

- a) Data.- - All data collected by JPSA for the purposes of monitoring or evaluation of a policy-research project. Data also includes all administrative data provided by GoTN and other third party data to aid the monitoring and evaluation of the study.
- b) Confidential Information.- Confidential information includes personally or unit identifying information obtained in the process of conducting data collection in the State of Tamil Nadu from individuals, households, firms, and other entities as part of any research study under the MoU. Aggregate statistics as well as information that would be available to a third party under the ambit of Right to Information are not Confidential Information.

2. Protection of Confidential Data.- JPSA shall be subject with respect to the Confidential Information to the following obligations:

- a) to keep any Confidential Information strictly confidential, and not to ever disclose to any third party or publicly.
- b) to disclose or divulge the Confidential Information (whether directly or indirectly and by whatever means or method) only to those affiliates, officers, employees, or consultants who are working on the project and reasonably have reason or need to know Confidential Information for the purposes of the specific study.
- c) other protocols related to maintaining confidentiality and data security as approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of the Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR), or the other universities to which the professors are affiliated.

3. **There will be no obligation from GoTN to share any information deemed sensitive under sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 (Central Act 22 of 2005).**

4. Ownership.- All data collected for the purpose of the policy-research project will be jointly owned by GoTN and JPSA, until the publication of the first external academic paper containing their results. This data will not be released publicly or to any third person or party by either party before the research paper is published in a peer reviewed journal by the researchers. In the event that JPSA affiliated researchers do not intend to publish an external peer-reviewed publication based on data collected from the policy-research project, they will inform GoTN within One Hundred and Eighty (180) days of project completion. In this case, either party can share the de-identified dataset publicly or with other groups of researchers, as it deems fit.

5. **Publication Rights.-** Consistent with policies governing academic freedom and the full and free dissemination of research and scholarship, as followed by JPSA and the host universities of the researchers, JPSA shall have the right to publish or otherwise publicly disclose material or information, except Confidential Information. JPSA will provide GoTN, both Planning Department and the nodal department for the study, **with a final project report at least thirty (30) days prior to any publication submission. GoTN shall have thirty (30) days within which to review the project report and request any changes particularly if any Confidential Information is being disclosed. The study results will also be presented to the Advisory Committee setup under GoTN–JPSA partnership, providing another opportunity for feedback.** In the event GoTN requests a change, JPSA will make a good faith attempt to arrive at an acceptable version of the publication. JPSA also agrees that GoTN would be clearly acknowledged in all publications and project materials.

II. Policy on Data Sharing and Publication of data collected by GoTN for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of its programmes and schemes.-

1. JPSA may request access to specific monitoring and evaluation data collected by the GoTN either by way of ongoing reporting compiled into departmental databases, or commissioned surveys and evaluation studies for use by JPSA affiliated researchers for further analysis (results of which will be shared with GoTN), or for formulating new research questions, or complement existing research. These would include Monitoring / Reporting data, and Survey data on key indicators at the individual, block, district or State-levels from social and infrastructure sectors that JPSA research focuses on.
2. At each instance, JPSA will directly submit an official request to the concerned line department, which can then facilitate access to the concerned dataset. If JPSA wants to publish a report based on this data, it will submit an official request to the Advisory Committee overseeing the GoTN–JPSA partnership with details pertaining to the report / article to be published, in the presence of the concerned line department. After due consideration and taking note of the views of the line department, the Advisory Committee may grant the approval. The above mentioned protocols for data security and confidentiality and review mechanism before final publication will apply to such instances as well.

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S. N. Nishuwalji
SECTION OFFICER

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