School Education Needs Diagnostic: Khed Taluka

Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Team

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Introduction

The Khed Taluka in Pune District of Maharashtra has seen a multitude of CSR initiatives directed at the education sector. Often in conceptualizing and implementing CSR funded initiatives, extensive efforts have to be employed to ensure comprehensive updated details on stakeholder needs. This can often result in a gap between the supply supply side (CSR/CSO) on the knowledge of best possible interventions and on the demand side for communities to systematically highlight the problems they face and priorities that directly plug into the knowledge gaps with program designers. The central idea in this project is to create such a tool that bridges this gap. By providing validated reliable tool, clear guidelines and checklist for data collection, and an easy to use analysis framework, a system can be developed to highlight needs, synthesis programs and link CSRs, CSOs and stakeholder needs.

Ultimately, through this work we aim to enable decision makers in the civil society organisations and government to make informed, evidence-based investments into the education sector in Khed. In the long term this will encourage a move towards a collaborative network of CSOs, CSR and Govt towards solving systemic problems with contextual interventions.

Creation of a village level diagnostic tool is an extension of our Khed taluka landscape study that highlighted major problem areas for the taluka as a whole, and will be the basis of the framework in this program. The research vertical since its inception in 2018 has sought out opportunities to collaborate with other organisations in the education landscape and conduct in-house research studies that focus on aspects concerning the current education services provided to schools. In our work, our focus has been on producing knowledge that sheds light on the existing system's effectiveness and its needs, incorporates learnings from the grass roots, and reflects multiple stakeholder experiences and perspectives into public policy recommendations and reports.

Leadership For Equity (LFE) is a systems change and research organisation that supports governments with structural and implementation reforms to improve the quality of learning at scale. LFE's fundamental belief is that Public Education Systems are by definition 'gatekeepers' of equity; and effective and sensitive public systems will ensure that quality education is provided to every child. LFE works on four key verticals namely, Officer Professional Development (OPD), Teacher Professional Development (TPD), Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) and Advisory & Advocacy (AAA).

Approach and Methods

This project aims to create a 'School Education Needs Diagnostic', that provides information on the education needs in any given settlement (village). The objective is to create a diagnostic tool, that is valid, reliable, participatory and effective in capturing education stakeholder needs. The diagnostic tool will include description of key education statistics, participation from stakeholders and will take into account the interconnected nature of various education challenges and lastly provide recommendations for programs.

Fig: Process and key steps
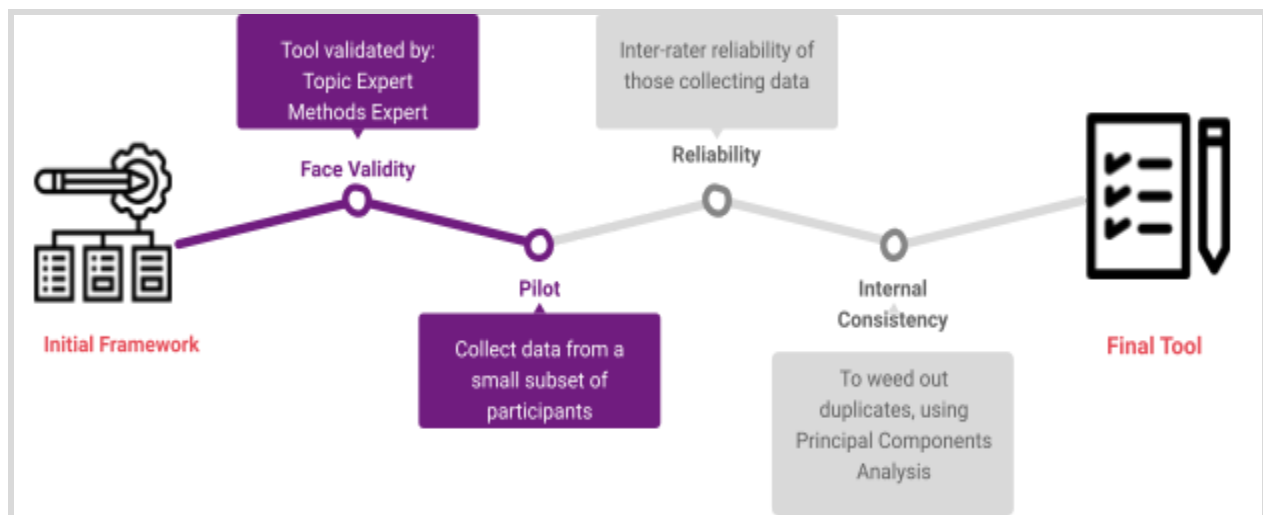
The chart above describes the process that will be adopted for the creation of this tool. Firstly, the framework for this tool will be developed based on the 'Education Landscape Study: Khed Taluka' (2019), conducted by our team itself. Here focus areas will be selected based on the findings of that report and concurrently indicators and aligned testing items will be developed for the first draft of the tool. Along with this a scoring system for tools, detailed guidelines and checklist for data collection (qualitative and quantitative) will be developed. After this face validity will be established with expert consultations. The tool will be piloted and reliability and internal consistency will be checked using principal components analysis. A final draft of the tool will be created with preliminary report cards on each of the settlements chosen for the study.

Scope

The tool will be piloted in 5 villages, and approx 20 schools[1]. These villages will be selected to ensure they represent the diversity of population in the taluka, variability in geographic conditions in the taluka, and the areas where the CSR/CSO organizations are currently active. For each school within a given settlement, at least two teachers will be contacted, two active SMC members, 3-4 student

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[1] Assuming upto 4 schools within each village boundary

representatives, Head Masters (HM), panchayat samiti members. All in all this may include data collection from 150-200 different stakeholders in the tool pilot phase[2].

Given the restrictions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, multiple precautions will be taken by the data collection team, with appropriate permissions from the concerned authority. We aim to collect all the data required with in-person data collection strategies itself. However, if required a combination of online and offline methods will be used. The team will be strictly required to adhere to all necessary safety precautions during in-person data collection phase.

Timeline

Week:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Framework and preliminary tool	█	█								
Scoring Systems, Guidelines and Checklist		█	█							
Face Validity			█	█						
Pilot (150+ respondents)					█	█	█			
Reliability testing, final tool, final reporting								█	█	
Buffer										█

Key outputs and deliverables:
- Bi-weekly email updates on progress made
- Draft tool at the end of week 2
- Note on tool validity at the end of week 5
- Final tool at the end of week 9
- Data reports for 5 villages/ 20 schools at the end of week 9

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[2] This has been estimated on the basis of assumption that each village settlement will have 4 schools, where at each school upto 10 stakeholders will be engaged.

Estimated Cost

Head	Per month cost	Multiplier	No: of months	Total
TEAM EXPENSES				
Project Manager	₹60,000	1	2.5	₹150,000
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE				
Cost per respondent[3]	₹600	40	5	₹120,000
Stationery and translation costs	₹10,000	1	1	₹10,000
Local Conveyance for 5 /per head[4]	₹15,000	5	1	₹75,000
Telephone & Internet @ 700 per person per month	₹700	1	2.5	₹1,750
				356750
Contingency and Overheads @ 10 % of [B]				35675
TOTAL				392425

[3] Assuming a total of 200 respondents will be engaged
[4] Assuming a five person data collection team will be engaged to cover 5 villages and 20 schools

Annexure

Team and Advisory Council

Research Advisory Council

Dr. Sadhana Natu
Associate Professor
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	Team Member	Qualifications
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