

Open Conversations on Open Data at ISB Data Camp

June 28, 2014

The Open Data Camp was a one day conference at ISB with enthusiastic and active participation from government, industry and of course academia. There were 3 broad themes for the conference - open data and its value across different sectors, public, NGO and government sector organizations interested in increasing accountability and transparency and governance and of course analysis of data and social media streams for the he most talked about event this year, India's 16th General Elections.

Prof. Galit Schmueli (ISB), Satya Putchala (Zettamine) and D.P. Misra and Sunil Babbar (NIC) discussed the open data platforms available from industry and government sources. The government realizes that it needs to promote public private partnership and open up its data sources to data scientists across the world in order to derive insights that will benefit the public. Talks on Smart Cities and the "Effectiveness of Prison Reforms in improving rehabilitation of inmates" showed concrete examples of how open data available is being used today to drive decision making in the public sector.

The quantum of data available about elections past and present from Election Commission, news and social media is staggering. Many different stories were presented. Gramener talking about how they analyzed and presented real time election results on TV and got more than a million hits in the span of 24 hours. ZT Analytics showcased its social media analysis on candidates and parties prior to the elections while Sandeep Khurana (ISB) showed the major influencers on social media shaping opinions about the Elections. The variety of analyses showcased completely different perspectives for the same event.

The day ended with a competition on data visualization on creating an interesting story on elections candidates in India.