HOW PROGRESSIVE ARE

INDIA'S PANCHAYATS

A MINI REPORT ON
PERFORMANCE & IMBALANCE USING
PANCHAYAT ADVANCEMENT INDEX
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INDEX

INTRODUCTION

Local governments stand at the core of the decentralized governance structure in India as enabled through the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. The Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is a holistic measure of the development at the Gram Panchayat level indicated by the aggregated score across nine indicators based on Local Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)[1].

This project introduces two complementary metrics :

1. 'Imbalance' - Measures the inconsistency in performance across the nine metrics.
2. 'Performance Gap' - Measures the inconsistency in data quality and metric valuations.

These metrics enable us to identify gaps in performance across the nine metrics within and among the states at the Gram Panchayat level.

DATA SOURCING

The data was downloaded from the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) portal for every state for which data was available. A few states whose data was not available in the portal were excluded from the study.

METHODOLOGY

The project uses two complementary metrics designed to identify the consistency in performance across the nine metrics used by the government and to evaluate any potential data inconsistencies in the evaluation of the PAI score.
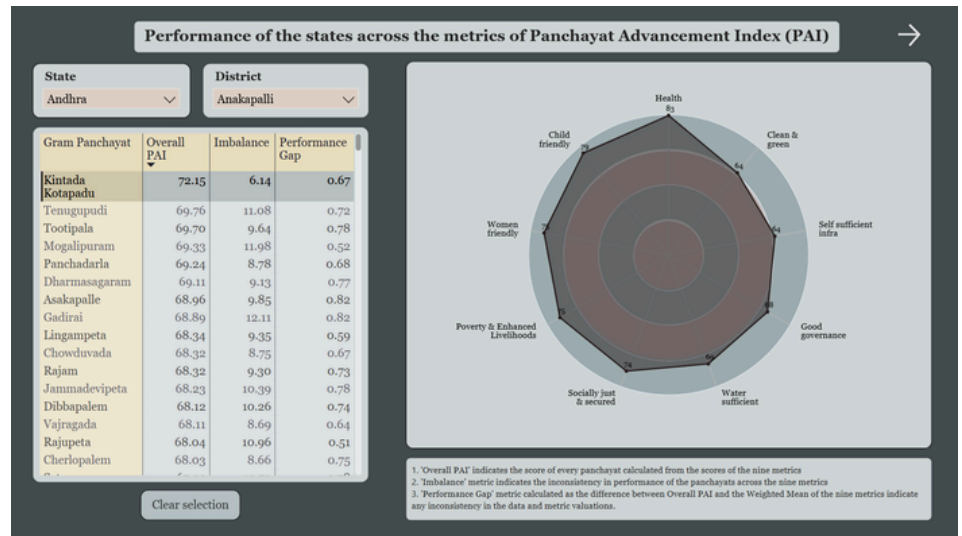
1. ''Imbalance'' - Calculated as the 'Weighted Standard Deviation' across the nine metrics. A lower value indicates consistent performance across the metrics and vice versa.

1. 'Performance Gap' - Calculated as the difference between ''Overall PAI score' score' and 'Weighted Mean' of the nine metrics. A lower value indicates that the PAI score aligns with the average value of the metric scores and vice versa.

A dashboard was created in Power BI to represent the performance of the states using their 'Overall PAI score' spread across the nine metrics through a polar chart.This is followed by a statewise scatter plot demonstrating the Panchayats as clusters comparing their 'Overall PAI score' against the imbalance score and another scatter plot categorising the states based on their combined measure of 'Overall PAI' and 'Imbalance' scores.
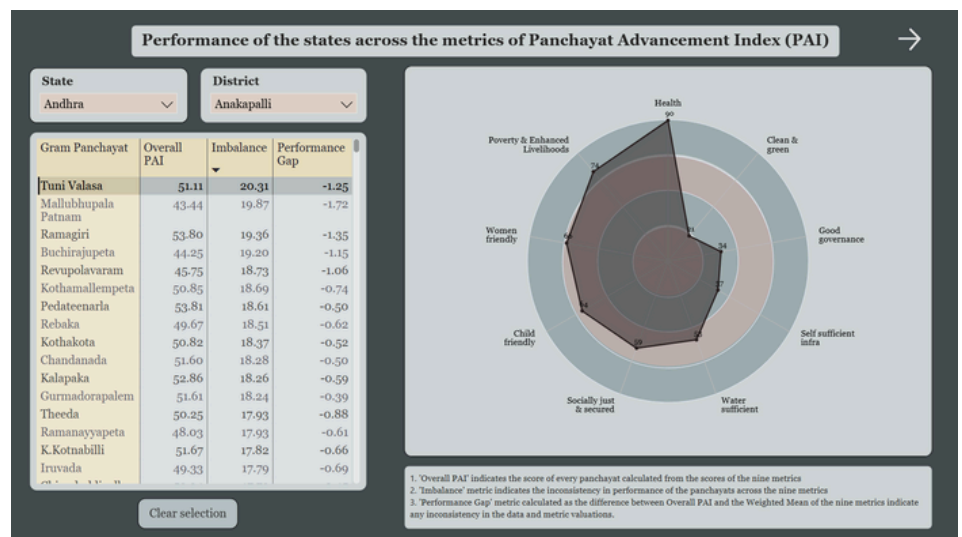
PERFROMANCE ACROSS THE PAI METRICS

A sample data of the Gram Panchayats of Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh state has been shown.
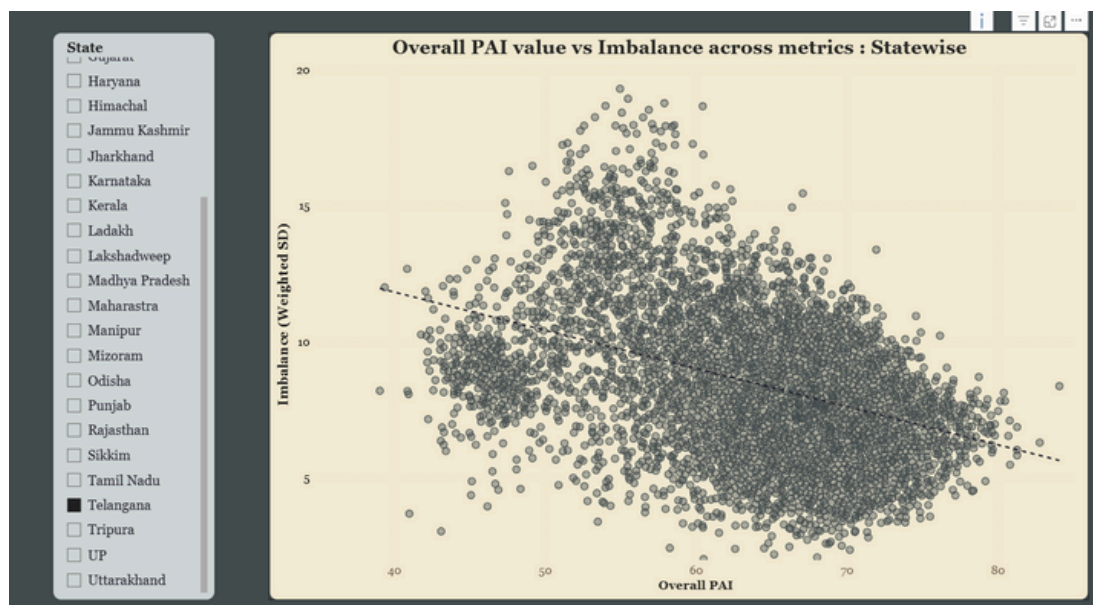

The Gram Panchayat Kintada Kotapadu has the highest 'Overall PAI score' in Anakapalli district with relatively lower values of both 'Imbalance' and "Performance Gap" metrics. This tells us that the panchayat's performance has been relatively consistent across the nine metrics used by the government.
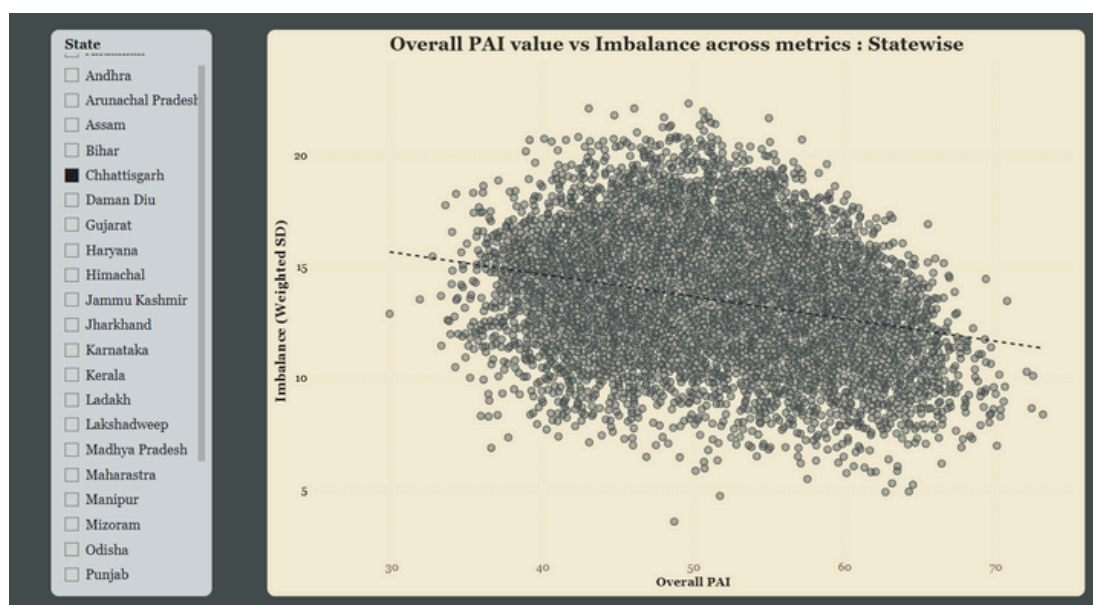

With a larger 'Imbalance' score of 20.31, the Gram Panchayat of Tuni Valasa has an 'Overall PAI score' of 51 which is below the mean for the state of Andhra Pradesh and a minimal score of the "Performance Gap". This tells us that while the panchayat may have performed well in some metrics, the other areas need a targeted development.

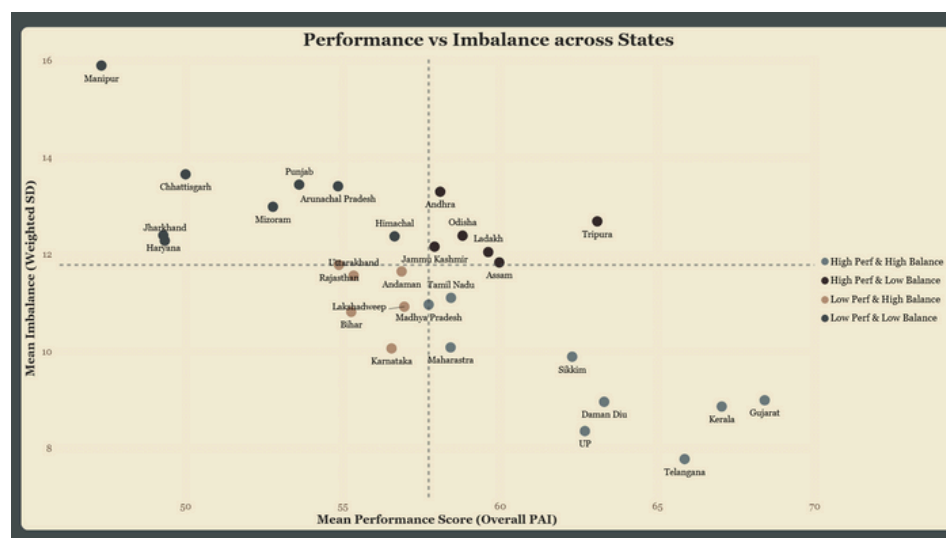**PAI SCORE VS IMBALANCE SCORE STATE WISE**

PAI vs Imbalance : Telangana

PAI vs Imbalance : Chhattisgarh

This graph of PAI score vs 'Imbalance' score of the panchayats of the states of Telangana and Chattisgarh represents a contrasting picture. The former indicates a clear negative correlation between the 'Overall PAI score' and the 'Imbalance' showing that the state in addition to having a large number of panchayats with high 'Overall PAI score', also has less imbalance across the metrics highlighting a balanced performance.

As for the state of Chhattisgarh, large number of panchayats have a moderate PAI score combined with a high imbalance score indicating developmental gaps and disparities that highlight the need for focussed progress in the state. This aligns with the Panchayat Advancement Index Report of 2022-23[2] where Telangana has a high number of panchayats classified as 'Front Runners' and 'Performers' while Chhattisgarh was classified as having a large number of 'Aspirant' and 'Beginner' panchayats.

INSIGHTS FROM THE PERFROMANCE OF THE STATES

This graph categorises the states into four - high performance & high balance, high performance & low balance, low performance & high balance and low performance & low balance. States like Manipur, Chhattisgarh and Haryana have a low performance as well as low balance indicating the need for multi-sectoral interventions.

Tripura, Andhra Pradesh and states alike in the high performance and low balance highlight the need for targeted measures in weaker areas. States such as Karnataka, Bihar and the like have low performance but high balance telling us that these states have been consistent so far and a focussed push could contribute to their overall development.

Top performers like Gujarat, Telangana and other high performing states with a high balance across the metrics could serve as role models for the rest of the states. Further research needs to be conducted on the best practices in these states that could potentially be tailored to other states across the nation such as Uttar Pradesh's amendment to the GPDP guidelines to include women's empowerment and child protection and ensure participation in Mahila Sabhas and Bal Sabhas[2].

WAY FORWARD

CONCLUSION

The project demonstrates the deeper insights as provided by the complementary metrics like 'Imbalance' and "Performance Gap" into the Panchayat Advancement Index beyond aggregate scores of the metrics.

By identifying states with balanced progress against those with sectoral gaps the study highlights the areas where targeted policy interventions are most needed. Further research areas could involve richer panchayat level data which can strengthen the index better enabling robust data driven governance reforms.

REFERENCES

1. PAI portal
2. PAI Committee Report 2022-23, Vol 1