**3RD IIM-B Policy Hackathon: App for Governance**

**Our Team: Common Man**

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**Our Objective**

To provide a web based solution as a central repository for all government schemes, which is self populating and crowd-sourced and bridge the gap between the people and their government.

**The Problems**

There are two problems which we wanted to solve

* *Today, no single individual knows all the schemes the person is entitled to*
* *Equally problematically, there exists no central repository for government programs and schemes.*

**Our Solution**

Since the users were not being notified about the different welfare programs that they are entitled to, we decided to build an SMS based notification system which notifies the user when a new scheme or welfare program is implemented. This way even people in remote places can be made aware about the benefits they can enjoy.

To create a central repository for all the programs our solution is to build a web based portal and database where all scheme related data is stored in a database and this apart from being managed by an admin it is also crowd sourced, similar to the lines on which Wikipedia works.

Also to profess the idea of creating a repository for scheme data we have provided APIs to retrieve the scheme data in JSON format so that anybody can use this data in whichever way they like easily.

**Key Features, What Makes Us Different:**

* **Scalability and Portability-** We decided to make a web based app because it is scalable, portable and easily accessible to a large audience. The current design makes it easy to manage and add a large volume of scheme related data.
* **API-** We have made an API which returns the scheme data in JSON format so that others can use this data to make their own repositories, analyze the data etc.
* **Scheme repository and management system** – All government schemes will be stored in one centralized location as data in a MySQL database with complex columns. The web admin gets to manage, create and edit these schemes.
* **Crowd-source management system** – Any registered user can contribute to the archive by adding details about a scheme which is already in existence but is not showcased on the portal. These schemes are evaluated and undergo a validation procedure, which if successful, they become a valid scheme in the archive
* **Critical Analysis of Deprecated Policies and Suggestions** - There are many policies that are not as efficient today as they were when implemented. The portal allows users to give their suggestions for already existing policies so that their flaws may be highlighted and conveyed to the policy makers of the nation via the portal
* **Query and Matching System -** A user can, by means of a predetermined set of filters identify him for certain eligibility criteria and can find schemes that concern him. Through this he can also shortlist the benefits he can get from schemes that concern him.
* **Availability of Data in the form of PDF, Excel and CSV.**
* **Frugal Notification System –** All registered users are notified via SMS when a new scheme is added to the database.

We were able to implement most of these features overnight and for the next phase we have planned the following:

1. Improve the user Interface
2. Connect all the components of our applications which we couldn’t because of the time constraints.