Nepal Open Data Index 2015

Second Edition

Open Knowledge Nepal
Working Group of Open Knowledge in Nepal

About The Open Data Index

The Open Data Index is a tool that allows civil society to track open government data publishing in all levels of government. The crowdsourced survey is designed to assess the openness of specific government datasets according to the [Open](.) [Definition](.). Through this initiative, Open Knowledge Nepal recently conducted a civil society audit of how their local governments actually publish data - with input from citizens and organisations around the world engaged in the same endeavor. The unique benefits of using the Open Data Index at the local and regional governmental levels include:
- Results from a citizen's perspective and not simply reliant on government claims of openness.
- A simple group of datasets that offer powerful insights into key government functions and performance, and that can be compared consistently across countries.
- Pioneering methods, with topical experts reviewing global submissions for each dataset to ensure reliability.
- An education and engagement tool for citizens to learn about open data, the state of government data in their own country, and how they can best make use of it.
- Allows Open Knowledge to establish a baseline and track changes and trends in the open data world over time as the field evolves.
For more information about Index: http://census.okfn.org/

As of January 2016, 35 instances of the Open Data Index exist around the world to measure openness at the municipal or regional level. In addition, Open Knowledge International annually coordinates the Global Open Data Index, a global benchmark that measures national level government data openness.

About Open Knowledge International

Open Knowledge International is a worldwide non-profit network of people passionate about openness, using advocacy, technology and training to unlock information and enable people to work with it to create and share knowledge. Website: http://okfn.org

About Open Knowledge Nepal

Open Knowledge Nepal is the working group of Open Knowledge International in Nepal founded in 2013. The group has been involved in research, advocacy, training, organizing meetups and hackathons, and developing tools related to Open Data, Open Access, Open Development and others. Open Knowledge Nepal is a non-profit open network of mostly young open knowledge enthusiasts. Website: http://np.okfn.org

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Key Findings

During December 2015, Open Knowledge Nepal volunteers surveyed open government data in 10 major cities in Nepal This year's Index includes the following cities:

- Kathmandu
- Bhaktapur
- Butwal
- Chitwan
- Dolakha
- Dhading
- Hetauda
- Kavre
- Lalitpur
- Pokhara

The datasets that we surveyed were:

- Annual Budget
- Procurement Contracts
- Crime Statistics
- Business Permits
- Traffic Accident
- Air Quality

Unsurprisingly, the largest municipality and the capital of Nepal - Kathmandu - ranked highest, followed by Pokhara and Chitwan. This year's Open Data Index review shows the following conclusions:

1. None of the data sets are completely open. All of them lack machine readability and standard licensing.
2. Annual budget data is public in almost all cities. Air quality data is not available in any city. Other datasets fall somewhere in between in availability.
3. The enthusiasm and progress shown by the national government in terms of open data projects has yet to catch on with local government authorities.

Introduction

About the 2015 Nepal Open Data Index

The 2015 Nepal Open Data Index measures the openness of key data published by Nepal Government's local bodies, Metropolitan City Offices, Sub-metropolitan City Offices, District Development Committees (DDC), Village Development Committees (VDC) etc. The main reason for running Nepal Open Data Index in 2015 was to measure and monitor the state of open data across the local cities of Nepal and establish a baseline for annual measurement. Open Knowledge Nepal believes the Index is an easy tool to gather data availability from government publishers. It can also encourage government publishers to improve their data standards. This will help in assessing the baseline of availability and nature of open data in Nepali cities and will enable to perform gap analysis and plan actions to make maximum impact with a minimum of effort.

Each local city can also check their open dataset's quality by comparing their data with others cities' datasets.

History of Local Open Data Index in Nepal

The Local Open Data Index was carried out to find the status of open data at local level for the first time in Nepal in 2014, with two cities Chitwan and Kathmandu where 15 different datasets were evaluated. The results of the 2014 survey showed the huge gap of openness between the two local entities, where the capital city Kathmandu published huge amounts of data, in comparison to Chitwan.

The 2015 is the second edition of the Local Open Data Index in Nepal. This edition of survey features 6 different datasets evaluated across 10 cities. We've focused our analysis this year based on our findings in the 2014 Index and have expanded our reach to get a more complete look at the state of open government data at the municipal level across the entire country.

Open Data, Open Government Data

Open Data is data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and sharealike.
http://opendatahandbook.org/guide/en/what-is-open-data/

Open government data and content is material that is:
- "Open" as defined by this site's Open Definition– in essence material (data) is open if it can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone.
- Produced or commissioned by government or government controlled entities.
http://opendefinition.org/government/

When the Global Open Data Index was launched in 2013, Nepal debuted nationally at rank 52, with a score of 30 % open government data. In 2014, Nepal's rank came down to 63, despite being 34 % open. In 2015, Nepal is ranked 61 with a score of 30 % openness.

The scores are evidences that Nepal has not made significant improvements over these three years. Technical issues like machine readability and open licensing (or lack thereof) continues to peg our score back. To improve our score significantly, we should consider these issues along with releasing more government data in the public domain.

Places

A survey was done in 10 major cities of Nepal by open data enthusiasts inside and outside of Open Knowledge Nepal.

The cities chosen were Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Butwal, Chitwan, Dolakha, Dhading, Hetauda, Kavre, Lalitpur, and Pokhara.

The cities chosen include a combination of developed and developing cities and vary widely in terms of geographical diversity.

Places details

With an promise of choosing and updating more spatially diverse sets of cities on upcoming years, the 10 cities which we chose for this year are:

1. **Kathmandu** : Kathmandu is the capital and largest municipality of Nepal, which also holds the administrative status of Mahanagar (Metropolitan City). It is the country's economic hub and a gateway city for most things.
2. **Bhaktapur** : Bhaktapur is an ancient Newar city which lies in the east corner of the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Bhaktapur is rich in cultural heritage and has best preserved old city center in Nepal
3. **Butwal** : Butwal is a administrative headquarter for Lumbini Zone and a sub-metropolitan city and the urban core of a rapidly growing urban agglomerate in Nepal, which lies in Western part of Nepal.
4. **Chitwan** : Chitwan is one of the beautiful districts of Nepal, which consists fifth largest city of Nepal, Bharatpur, which is a merger destination for higher education, healthcare and transportation for southwestern part of Nepal.
5. **Dolakha** : Dolakha is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal, a districts which lies on himalayan ranges with a strong religious affiliation.
6. **Dhading** : Dhading is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal, which consists lots of Religious Temples and Tourism destination. Dhading Besi as its district headquarters.
7. **Hetauda** : Hetauda is a Sub-Metropolitan City of Makwanpur District, It is also a headquarter of both Central Development Region and Makwanpur District, it lies in southern part of Nepal.

8. **Kavre** : Kavre is one of the seventy-five districts of Nepal and a part of Bagmati Zone. Dhulikhel is a district headquarters of Kavre.
9. **Lalitpur** : Lalitpur is one of the three districts in the Kathmandu Valley, along with Kathmandu and Bhaktapur. It is a part of Bagmati Zone, with Patan as its district headquarters.
10. **Pokhara** : Pokhara is one of the best Tourist destination in Nepal and a second largest city. It is also a headquarters of Western Development Region and Kaski District.

Datasets

Our findings of 2014 Index shows that the supply of data is in improving stage and the wave of opening up government data is still to catch up at local level. Only few datasets are available publicly in digital format.

Lots of data were trapped in papers and some of them were undemanded and were out of public interest. This year we chose the datasets that are more demanded by general public, based on our experience.

Local open data openness was measured by collecting information on six datasets that included:
- Annual Budget
- Procurement Contract
- Crime Statistics
- Business Permits
- Traffic Accidents,
- Air Quality

Datasets details

1. **Annual Budget** : Municipal budget at a high level (e.g. spending by sector, department etc). This category is about budgets that are plans for expenditure (not actual expenditure in the past).
2. **Procurement Contract** : Per contract information on municipal contracts including amount, awardee (name, address), date awarded etc.

3. **Crime Statistics** : Data on municipal crime, preferably at a reasonably disaggregated level (best would be exact date, location and type but per day per street or post/zip code would be acceptable).
4. **Business Permits** : Data of registered Business Permits / Licenses.
5. **Traffic Accident** : Statistics on road traffic accidents including time and location.
6. **Air Quality** : Data on air quality (e.g. levels of major pollutants) on a granular basis - that is at least broken down by month (preferably by day). Geographic breakdown (e.g. by grid point) would be nice but is not required.

Methodology

➢ 10 Cities were selected
➢ 6 Datasets were selected
➢ 10 Enthusiasts were selected for survey submission
➢ Submission to Portal
➢ Review of Submission by two members of Open Knowledge Nepal
➢ Publishing and Dissemination

Ranking

Capital city of Nepal, Kathmandu was ranked first and was followed by Pokhara and Chitwan.

		Annual Budget	Procurement Contract	Business Permits	Crime Statistics	Traffic Accident	Air Quality	Total Score
1	Kathmandu							255
2	Pokhara							190
3	Chitwan							160
4	Bhaktapur							155
5	Hetauda							125
6	Dhading							100
7	Lalitpur							90
8	Butwal							75
9	Dolakha							45
10	Kavre							0

Key: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ No data

Results

Unsurprisingly, the largest municipality and the capital of Nepal - Kathmandu - ranked highest, followed by Pokhara and Chitwan.
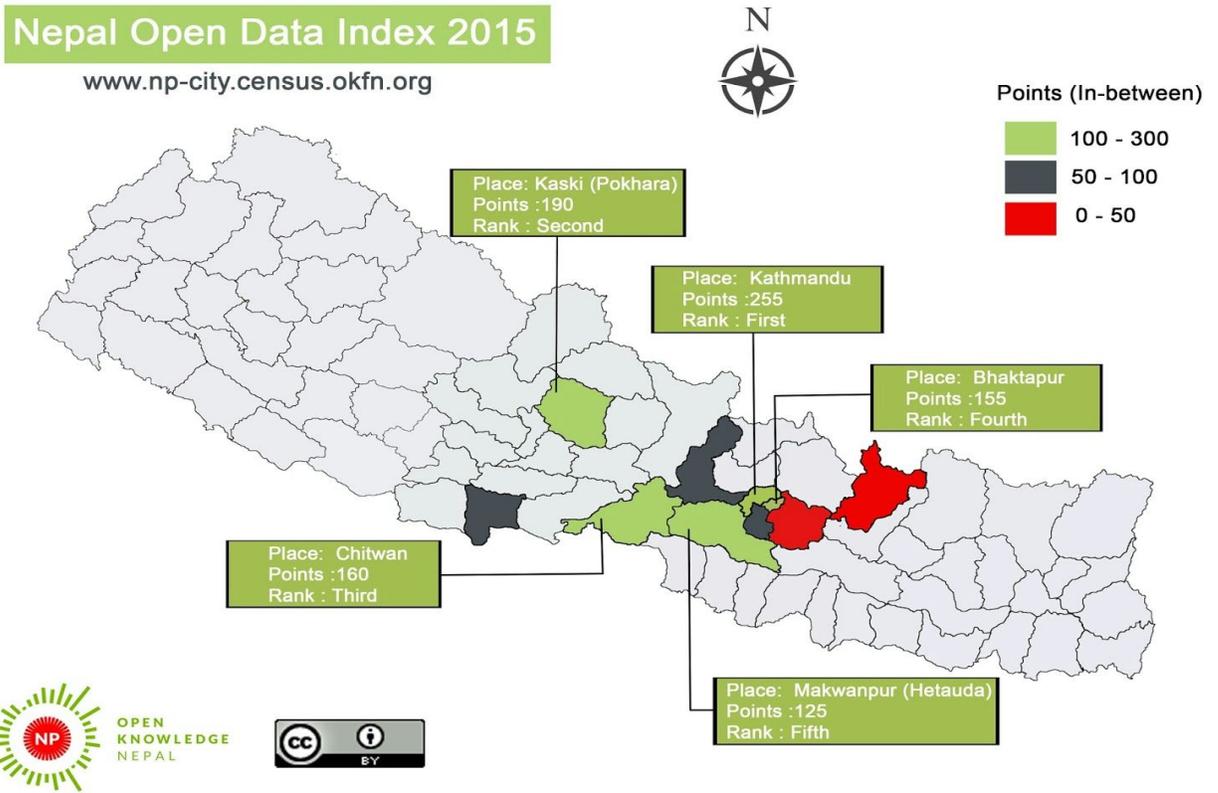
Different datasets were available in almost cities in digital format in government websites. All available datasets are free to access. However, none of the datasets were machine readable. Nor were any datasets licensed with any standard open data licences.

Datasets regarding annual budgets and procurement contracts are easily available digitally, although not open in the standard sense of the term.

Datasets for air quality are virtually nonexistent because of the overlapping of powers in between governments, its seems like no units of government have taken responsibility for air quality datasets until now. Data of Traffic Accidents and Business Permits are also not publicly available online although hard copy data of this datasets can be accessed easily.

The central government of Nepal is slowly adopting open data practices, and has shown commitment and action with projects like Aid Management Platform, Election Data, and interactive visualizations available in National Planning Commission website.   The enthusiasm for open government data is growing in the country, but, has not yet seeped into the minds or actions of local governing authorities.

Visualizations

Nepal Open Data Index 2015
www.np-city.census.okfn.org

N

Points (In-between)

100 - 300
50 - 100
0 - 50

Place: Kaski (Pokhara)
Points :190
Rank : Second

Place: Kathmandu
Points :255
Rank : First

Place: Bhaktapur
Points :155
Rank : Fourth

Place: Chitwan
Points :160
Rank : Third

Place: Makwanpur (Hetauda)
Points :125
Rank : Fifth

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Impact

This year's survey is important for obtaining a baseline. There is a huge room for improvement for the surveyed cities in Nepal and these results can serve as a guidepost for those municipal governments

The survey identifies that local governments have made data public, but that data is not open in the standard sense. The effort of making the public data machine readable, downloadable in bulk, and available in standard licenses will need proper skillsets and infrastructure in local government if it is to succeed.

With the steady progress central government has made in opening government data, we can be hopeful that open data will be available at local level in a not too distant future.

Call to action

The 2015 Nepal Open Data Index offers us valuable insights. It highlights the areas where we are lagging, mainly with technical issues like machine readability and open licensing, and availability of government data in many sectors.

Nepal government has shown commitment to a vision of Open Nepal Policy 2020, led by National Information Commission. Nepal government has gained significant momentum in opening data at central government level. This kind of momentum is also needed at local level. Nepal government should add opening government data at local level as a priority action.

Actions taken by civil society organizations of Nepal and international development organizations have given much needed support and confidence to Nepal government. Civil society initiatives in Nepal have been exemplary so far. Civil society organizations and international development organizations can work to increase demand for opening data at local level in the sectors that will be most useful to local economy and livelihood.

Acknowledgements