



Social research for econ devt - NTC

March 2026

Introduction

HELLO

Sarayu

Apti Institute

A few other things about me

WHY DO WE NEED INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL RESEARCH?

SOCIAL RESEARCH AS THE 'LUBRICANT' OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS RELEVANT

Social determinants bear a complex, dynamic relationship with economic growth

DEMOCRATISATION TO DEMOCRACY

Dignity, voice and participation in progress

WHY ARE WE HERE?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Changing policy priorities

Focus on gap filling between state and citizen

Limited prioritisation of intellectual ecosystem building

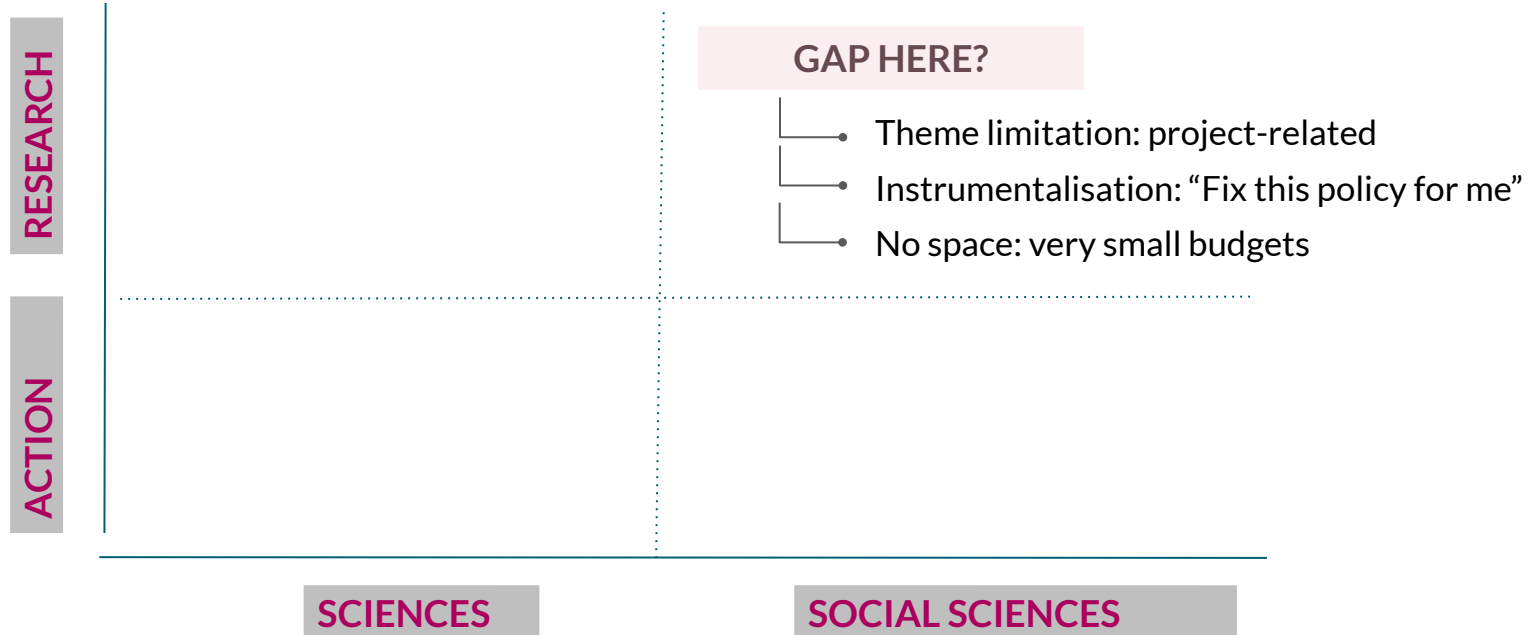
WHAT HAS IT LED TO?

Passive acceptance - India consumer of external views

De-intellectualization of discourse - anecdotal, opinion as fact,
#LearntItOnReddit

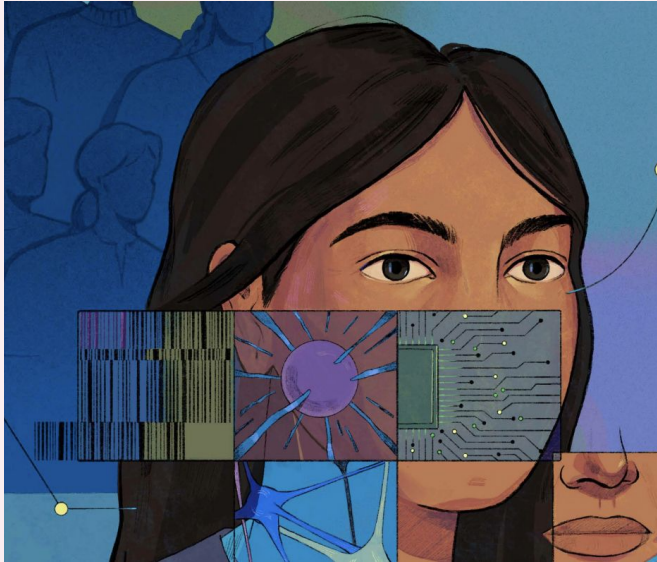
Opportunity costs uncalculated - loss not known

FUNDING FOCUS ON SOCIAL RESEARCH FROM AND IN INDIA



The What

DAKSHIN RESEARCH FUND



Establish a fund/path to a steady pool of resources to **nurture India's intellectual foundations**

[On the impact of technology on **societies**, communities, and individuals]

Via targeted support to **research, and dialogue**

Illustrations by Joanna Dovala for Aapti Institute

The What

THE OPPORTUNITY

UNDERSTAND OUR TIMES

The impact of technology in a context of heterogeneity needs unpacking

Disaggregated knowledge can advance targeted investment

BUILD BETTER TECHNOLOGY

Technology design is often abstracted from principles; “solved for” after

Empirical evidence can direct better design

ADVANCE INDIA'S NATIONAL INTEREST

India is a consumer and producer of technology (dual perspective)

Better capacity translating into economic development



HOLDING SPACE : WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT SO FAR

TWO WORKSHOPS, MIXED GROUP, BANGALORE





*“kaun kehta hai ki aasmaan mein sooraakh nahin
ho sakti, ek patthar toh tabiyat se uchhalo
yaaron”*

Translation: Who says that one cannot tear a
hole in the sky? Throw a stone with all your
heart and see.

- Dushyant kumar

HOLDING SPACE - WHAT IS NEEDED - 1

VOICE/S

more (not less) voices

CONNECTION

capacities in the network need to talk

PAUSE

enabling reflective work

THEMES

Research about research

GOVERNANCE

Shared

ACCOUNTABILITY

Multiple points

HOLDING SPACE - WHAT IS NEEDED - 2

VOICE/S

more (not fewer) voices

CONNECTION

capacities in the network need to talk

PAUSE

enabling reflective work

THEMES

Research about research

GOVERNANCE

Shared

ACCOUNTABILITY

Multiple points

The How

HOLDING SPACE - LET US TALK :)

RESEARCH ABOUT RESEARCH

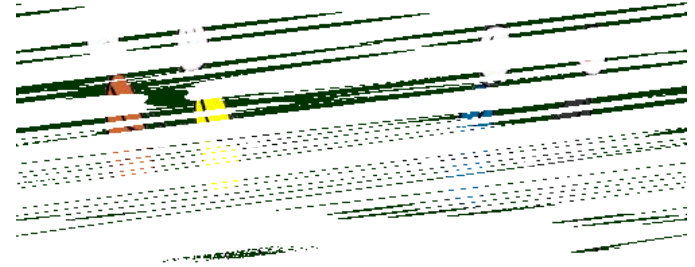
What themes?

ACCOUNTABILITY AND IMPACT

What does value look like?

COLLABORATION

What can we do together?



**Puranānūru 182, Kadalul Māyntha Ilamveruvazhuthi
sang this, Thinaï, Pothuviyal, Thurai: Porunmozhi Kānji**

(Translated from Tamil)

*This world exists because of those who,
even if they were to get the nectar of Indiran,
will not drink it alone knowing that it is sweet,
those with no hatred, without laziness,
not afraid of what others fear,
will embrace martyrdom for honour,
but will not accept fame if it comes with dishonor,
those who have no regrets, and with noble virtues,
who exert their power, not for themselves but for others!*

Adapted from Sangam translations by Vaidehi (2012), MyAna'sWorth (2010)

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