

ICSSR Data Service

Indian Social Science Data Repository



Background

The ICSSR Data Service has been set-up as a platform for social science research community and data providers in India to deposit, use, reuse and analyse data with the objective of strengthening research and policy analysis capability. The "ICSSR Data Service" is culmination of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The MoU provides for setting-up of "Social Science Data Repository" and hosting of NSS and ASI datasets into the data repository.

The ICSSR Data Service hosts a comprehensive set of statistical datasets generated by large-scale government surveys, i.e. National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) conducted by Industrial Wing of the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Subsequently, scope of the repository would be expanded to include datasets from all social science institutes under ICSSR's direct purview, other organizations, NGOs and individuals as well as Government agencies. The ICSSR Data Service is designed to provide seamless, integrated access and support to meet the requirements of academic researchers as well as policymakers who heavily rely on high-quality authentic social and economic data for their research.

The ICSSR Data Service hosts extracted and transformed data along with raw data in the data repository with necessary metadata and documentation for the benefit of researchers. Training materials and guidance to meet the needs of data users, owners and creators are also offered through this platform. Users can explore collection of datasets accompanied with user guides and supporting materials using search interface of the ICSSR Data Service.

The ICSSR Data Service, as a policy, promotes data sharing to encourage reuse of data and provide information on developing and generating social science research data and its management.

The INFLIBNET Centre is executing the project of setting-up of ICSSR Data Service with funding from ICSSR.

Stakeholders

The repository of the ICSSR Data Service has been developed based on participatory approach. As such, while the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and other Ministries, Government Departments

and organizations can contribute unit-level data in the repository, it is expected that the students, researchers and faculty would also be contributing their research data into the repository. Besides, individuals and organizations are also welcomed to contribute secondary data driven from unit-level NSS and ASI datasets and make them available for the benefit of other researchers. Major stakeholders of the ICSSR Data Service are:

- ❖ Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and its two organs, namely National Sample Survey Organization and Central Statistics Office (CSO);
- ❖ Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and 27 organizations under its purview;
- ❖ Other ministries, Govt. Departments, and policymakers as users as well as contributors;
- ❖ Students, researchers and faculty as users as well as contributors;
- ❖ Working professionals and NGOs as users as well as contributors; and
- ❖ Universities and colleges as organizations that use ICSSR Data Service and define policies on data generation and its delivery.

Features and Functionalities

- ❖ Built on an open source data repository software called NADA;
- ❖ Uses Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) metadata standard for describing datasets;
- ❖ Provides raw as well as transformed data;
- ❖ Provides options for online analysis by choosing multiple variables;
- ❖ Provides for data visualization through bar charts, line and scatter diagrams, pie charts, stacked charts, histogram, etc;
- ❖ Supports multiple output formats such as CSV, TSV, EXCEL, DTA, SAV, etc;
- ❖ Multiple search and browse options; and
- ❖ Visualization of geo coded data on maps available.

Available Data Sets

The repository of the ICSSR Data Service mainly holds the unit-level statistical data of National Sample Survey (NSS)

conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) conducted by Industrial Statistics (IS) Wing of Central Statistics Office (CSO) along with their supporting documents, i.e. questionnaires, data collection methods, codebooks, and project summaries / descriptions, etc. Other Ministries, Government Departments, institutions, universities and other organizations conducting research in social sciences are also being contacted to contribute their datasets. The datasets are categorized in major categories such as Debt & Investment, Domestic Tourism, Enterprise Survey, Employment & Unemployment, Housing Condition, Household Consumer Expenditure and Health Care.

Data Providers

The NSS and ASI datasets are contributed directly by the MoSPI under the MoU signed between MoSPI and ICSSR. Other Ministries Government of India will be approached to contribute.

Accessing Datasets from ICSSR Data Service

One can search and browse datasets available in the data repository. Complete descriptions of each dataset along with related resources such as survey questionnaire, support guides, instructions to data collectors, etc. are available on this platform. Please note that user would be asked to register with ICSSR Data Service before downloading the datasets or analyze it online wherever possible. There are no charges for registering with ICSSR Data Service. A user manual on "How to Search and Access Datasets from the ICSSR Data Service" is available at: http://www.icssrdataservice.in/files/ICSSR_Data_Access_Manual.pdf

Using the Data for Teaching, Research and Policy

The data from ICSSR Data Service can be used to conduct advanced research, informing policy and improved teaching.

Advanced Research

Students and researchers can make use of data from ICSSR Data Service to support their research. Deeper analysis of unit-level datasets in correlation with other publicly available facts and figures may lead to further understanding of key social issues.

Informing Policymakers

NSS and ASI data made available in the repository is often used for conducting research that is published in academic journals that, in turn, is used as a valuable resource by researchers in social sciences. These journals are often consulted by policymakers helping them to take well-informed decisions on related societal issues.

Improving Teaching

Use of real-life data collected by national level agencies like NSS in class room teaching and coursework generate interest. The students learn the techniques of substantiating their research with relevant data. Moreover, they learn data analysis skills necessary to make real contributions to future research and society.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why to submit/deposit data in ICSSR Data Service?

The value of any research data lies in their use and reuse. In addition, publicly-funded research data are produced in the public interest and therefore shall be shared widely. When data is managed well, it can be shared and reused for further scientific and educational purposes. Data repository enhances the long-term usability of preserved data. As such, everyone encouraged to submit/deposit research data into the repository of ICSSR Data Service, a national level data repository service that facilitate data sharing, preservation, access and reuse of research data in social sciences collected from entire social science community of India.

Depositing data into the repository has great benefits for the data owner and its users. The ICSSR Data Service ensures long-term preservation and access, sharing and reuse of data on researcher's (depositor) behalf. The data repository promotes the impact and visibility of the data deposited into it. Further, the deposited data may be very useful to other researchers working in the same field, in return, the depositor would be getting due credit with a citation from the users which will directly enhance individual as well as institutional research profile and impact.

Who can contribute datasets to the repository?

Ministries, Government Departments, universities, institutions and individuals conducting research in social sciences can contribute datasets to the repository.

How to deposit data in the repository?

Basically, there are two ways for data-owners to deposit their research data into the data repository i.e. online or offline. Data-owners may upload datasets online with all supporting documents in appropriate formats into the repository along with the filled and signed copies of prescribed Data Deposit Form and Licence Agreement Form, alternatively they may send their data through e-mail to the designated e-mail ID. Data-owners may have the option to send their data offline too by sending it through postal or courier services to the "Data Collection Team, ICSSR Data Service". For further clarifications, please contact our Data Collection Team or visit : <http://www.icssrdataservice.in/hddata.php>

How to prepare data to deposit?

Data preparation is an important component of a research project from the beginning of your research till its deposition in the repository. The data should carry appropriate data labels, supporting documentation, survey methodology/questionnaires, etc.

For more details please visit:

http://www.icssrdataservice.in/how_pre_datasets.php

Who is likely to use my data?

The most potential users of data will be within the higher education and research communities, data may also be used by researchers from cross-sectional sectors such as central & local government, private firms and researchers, etc. Data are mostly used for secondary research and teaching purposes etc.

Do I need to register to gain access to the data in the repository?

Yes, it is necessary to register to get access to the data available in the data repository except in case of open data. After registration, the researcher will be provided a log-in ID & password to use the repository and download datasets.

The process of registration to ICSSR Data Service is same for all users. Please, go through the Registration Process to register.

Can I download / export data available in the data repository?

Yes, a researcher can download/export the datasets available in the data repository, output of his/her online analysis to his/her own system for further analysis and reuse of the data.

Are there any charges to use the data available in ICSSR Data Service?

No, there are no charges to use the data available in ICSSR Data Service. The datasets available in the repository are freely available for study and secondary research purposes but not for commercial use.

Do I need special software to use the data?

You may not need a software program to use the data. The raw data can be analyzed and explored online through data visualization tool build plugged into the repository. However, you have liberty to download and use the datasets using statistical software such as Ms-Excel, SPSS, STATA, R etc.

For further information please contact

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