

Data Justice for Inclusive growth

Nipuna Kumbalathara, Oxfam in Asia



OXFAM

Asia: a tale of two fortunes

- As a region, Asia has prospered
- Our billionaires have grown faster; we've the most billionaire wealth in the world
- Nearly 500 Asians are million are struggling to make ends meet
- Businesses have driven both growth and inequality



Women and girls are left behind

- They earn 30% less for the same work
- They've limited opportunities for work that pays or their work is not counted
- They've enormous untapped potential to drive growth in Asia



Data and information injustice

- Data and tech has also driven growth in Asia.
- More people consume, engage in, and create using data and technology
- But 42% South-East Asians and 64% South Asians don't even have internet
- Again, women and girls are worse off; in consumption and creation



Role of business

- Why business? Why not anyone or everyone else?
- The private sector has driven the growth of tech and data
- Businesses are obliged play by the rules; human rights
- You have greatest potential than anyone else to make things better
- Billions of underserved are potential customers



Data justice for inclusive growth?

- Increasing demand for social justice through data is growing.
- It's an incredible convergence of multiple disciplines.
- We need practical approach that makes sense across sectors



Data justice for inclusive growth?

- Three useful lenses:
- How can we capture the natural diversity of the real world to leave no one behind? (Representation)
- How can we make our data, information, products and services benefit all, especially those usually left out? (Access)
- How can we enable all, especially the underprivileged, to make use of data, information, and technology to proactively improve their lives? (Capability)



Representation: How can we capture the natural diversity of the real world to leave no one behind?

- We need to represent across multiple diversities: gender, ethnicity, race, language, income group, etc.
- We can compensate for “natural” biases; the hidden (psychological) are more challenging
- If we don't count biases, predictions made will discriminate
- Human behavior is complex; we need to think deep



Access: How can we make our data, information, products and services benefit all, especially those usually left out?

- Often, if not represented, there'll be no or inadequate access
- New business models to include outgroups
- Access is not merely consumption but also creation and work
- Data can give us complex intelligence to comprehend diversity that hasn't been possible till now



Capability: How can we enable all, especially the underprivileged, to make use of data, information, and technology to proactively improve their lives?

- Capability is about giving the power to the people to proactively use data and technology: “empowerment”
- To demand or create solutions themselves
- In addition to services, we must build, skills and attitude
- Among them, the ability to adapt is critical



Data justice for Inclusive growth

- We need to reach across the unfamiliar aisles
- We need to learn from each other
- We need to be bold and open
- We need to work together to achieve meaningful data and information justice for equitable growth

