

Foreword

The work presented in this monograph provides a comprehensive review of the government expenditures on water supply, sanitation and public health. This monograph looks at expenditures by the Centre, State and local bodies. The government expenditures on these sectors are viewed from the perspective of public health and not merely as amenities enjoyed by the people.

The monograph points to the severe neglect of sanitation in government spending. It also points to the negligence of what is called 'public health' services in the government budget. It highlights the significant role played by the local government bodies, especially in the urban areas, in providing the basic public health services to the citizens.

As the authors note, this monograph is part of a much broader study conducted by ISEC on redesigning the public health services in Karnataka. I hope that the work initiated under this project would lead to more rigorous studies to emphasise the importance of public expenditure on preventive health services in the country.

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