ACTIVITY PLAN FOR SAK

The work to be carried out in SAK will involve deep and intensive inquiry into our past heritage in various domains of public policy. This will require scholarly research into the traditions, processes and practices of crafting and implementing public policy in ancient India and investigating their relevance to the contemporary public policy paradigms. The work chosen is a long term and challenging task, demanding dedicated and perseverant efforts.

SAK's work involves two major components;

1. The generation of knowledge, in-house and through collaborative partnerships,

2. Dissemination of the generated knowledge among various stake holders.

A) KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

This activity of generating knowledge about our cultural heritage and its potential for enabling and impacting public policy is at the heart of SAK. We have troves of knowledge, some visible, some lying unexplored in different forms. SAK would design ways and means to explore and unearth this knowledge from myriad sources and process it for discourse and dissemination.

The following activities are envisaged**.**

1. Identification of Experts:

There is a plethora of institutions and individuals available in our country with expertise in different areas of Bharatiya Culture and public policy. Perhaps, they are working in an isolated manner and their efforts are not coordinated and networked. However, there is a very positive change noticed in the recent past and a few agencies and individuals have come together to integrate these efforts in a synergistic way.

This process will need to identify experts in the following ways.

1. Web search

2. Interaction with the few already known personnel and their contacts.

3. Approaching them with proposals for their association in the work. This can be done through meeting them individually, through correspondence and webinars.

4. Based on the discussions, their interest, suggestions and ideas, specific projects can be identified in their domain of work, which are found in tune with our stated mission.

5. The support and facilities to be made available from our side would be clearly communicated to them.

2. Identification of Projects :

Since the knowledge available is distributed over a vast number of domains and in a large number of resource forms-e.g. manuscripts, folklore, commentaries, scriptures, historical records, inscriptions, etc.etc., a guided and focused approach would be best suited for identifying projects. The possible ways of approach are suggested below.

1. Setting a priority order in the chosen domains of work.

2. Conduct of Brain-storming sessions to identify useful areas of work

3. Importance to be given to the interest of the domain expert in identification of specific work.

4. Review of available literature.

5. An advance assessment of the possible outcome to be made.

6. The category of investigation - Long term / Short term to be assigned.

7. Periodic reviews for progress assessment.

3. Interaction with Research Institutes:

It would be advantageous to identify registered research institutes and centres whose work is aligned with SAK's areas of interest. After identification, appropriate MOU's can be worked out with them. These MOU's can become the basis of proposal and follow up for joint work. SAK would be more interested in the outcomes from such collaborative work from the policy formulation perspective.

4. Interaction with National Level Institutes :

By national level institutes, the likes of IIMs, IITs, ASCI, CUs, etc. are implied, many of which are engaged in areas that interest us. Proposals for joint work with such institutes may include - Principal investigator and co-investigators from the institute and from SAK team.

5. Seek Fellowship from different agencies:

Several government agencies such as ICCR, ICPR, DST, DBT, UGC and others offer fellowships for carrying out research work in different areas. Possibilities of getting award of such fellowships would be explored.

6. Preparation of Project proposals:

Many individuals - either expert or senior administrators have the requisite experience and background in writing and fine tuning project proposals. Help from such individuals to be taken in writing project proposals.

7. Chair Endowments from industries / other organizations:

It is usually possible to identify areas of work of common interest which may be mutually beneficial to the identified entity and SAK. Possibilities of obtaining chair- endowments from them would be pursued.

8. Information Resources:

Samskruti Adhyayana Kendra would require rich information resource in the form of physical / digital Library. The library should be able to provide intensive resources in the disciplines that SAK engages. Subscriptions to other digital resources and relevant data bases should also be pursued.

9. Funding:

Execution of research projects to be undertaken by SAK would need considerable funding. The following ways of funding would be pursued.

i. Direct grants under CSR from willing corporates.

ii. Sponsorship from companies who find the projects worthy of their financial support.

iii. Through chair-endowments, as mentioned earlier.

iv. Seek endowments and corpus fund support from donors.

B) DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge dissemination is as important as knowledge generation and therefore, a structured approach is needed for this activity. It has the following components.

-**Sharing of knowledge with different agencies**

-**Training and Capacity Building**

-**Writing Newsletters and Bulletins**

-**Providing Advisory support to Policy Formulation.**

I. Knowledge Sharing

The Ideas and research outcomes emerging out of the knowledge generation processes, conducted in-house or through externally collaborated research / studies would be disseminated in the following ways.

- Organising knowledge exchange events like Seminars / Symposia / workshops where public opinion influencers, intelligentsia, domain experts, scholars, academic

institutions, think tanks and others including research scholars and students would be the key invitees.

- Brain Storming and Consulting Workshops will be organised for obtaining stakeholder inputs for research (proposed and completed).

- Expert Guest Lectures.

- Panel discussions and other outreach events.

II. Training and Capacity Building:

Personnel engaged in research/ aspiring to take up research in our domains of interest need training to carry out their work efficiently and effectively. Further, capacity building programs will be delivered where the participants would include young researchers, research aspirants, and public administrators at all levels besides those associated with science and technology.

III. Publishing News Letters and Bulletins:

These are means of reaching out to the interested members of society in large numbers without involving physical meetings.

IV. Advisory support to Policy Makers

Converting the knowledge generated through research / studies into suitable recommendations is a job that requires wide experience and exposure to public administration. SAK will reach out to the policy makers through experts with rich experience.

Interaction with State training institutes:

Many state-level training institutes besides central government institutes, train new officers/ promotees for different cadres in different fields. These training institutes require revision of their curricula from time to time. SAK personnel and pool of experts can collaborate in designing modules with inclusion of *Samskrutic* elements, wherever relevant and effective.

The above activity plan is intended to promote *'Samskruti'* in our public policy institutions and systems.