Using Analytics to improve our Living Experience In Sri Lanka

Truth be told we all there is something terribly wrong with all most our governments.

It's even more frustrating that there is nothing we can do about it, and therefore we take the easy route, point fingers and complain.

There is a simple data-driven approach that we can all adopt that will help us collectively improve the experience of living. It's a simple way to see our future, one that will ensure progress will be **measurable, transparent & inclusive.**

There are only a few steps to fixing anything.

1. ***Identify what's broken.***
2. ***Identify the reason for it to break.***
3. ***Experiment and test to identify how it can be fixed.***
4. ***Continuously get new insights to improve, and action.***

Analytical thinking allows you to do this.

Lets see if we can put this into practise at scale.

All of the sectors in Sri Lanka contribute towards the overall experience of living in this country.

The most important sector that affects all the other sectors in any government is education.

Let's go to the roots of the education sector, let's look at how we can improve the classroom experience of students.

The metric parents & teachers measure education through is academic performance of students.

What is the most important factor for a student's academic performance?

****Feel free to contribute if you think there are more important factors for academic achievement of an overall class than what's suggested below

Research shows that student engagement is the most important factor for academic achievement of students. Click Here to download the full research.

“The emotional connections students foster in their classrooms are likely to impact their success in school.” ~ Journal of Educational Psychology

How do you gauge emotional connection? Is to possible to quantify this?

Can we measure lack of emotional connection instead?

It is clear that those students who does not share an emotional connection with the other students in the classroom is relatively lonely. If we can find the **number of lonely students** in a classroom, we have cracked this.

The Number of Lonely Students (NLS) is a good representation of the emotional connections students foster in their classroom. Lower NLS shows that there is a higher emotional connections among students, making it easier for the entire classroom to be engaged in the learning experience.

But, how can we identify the NLS?

It’s simple.

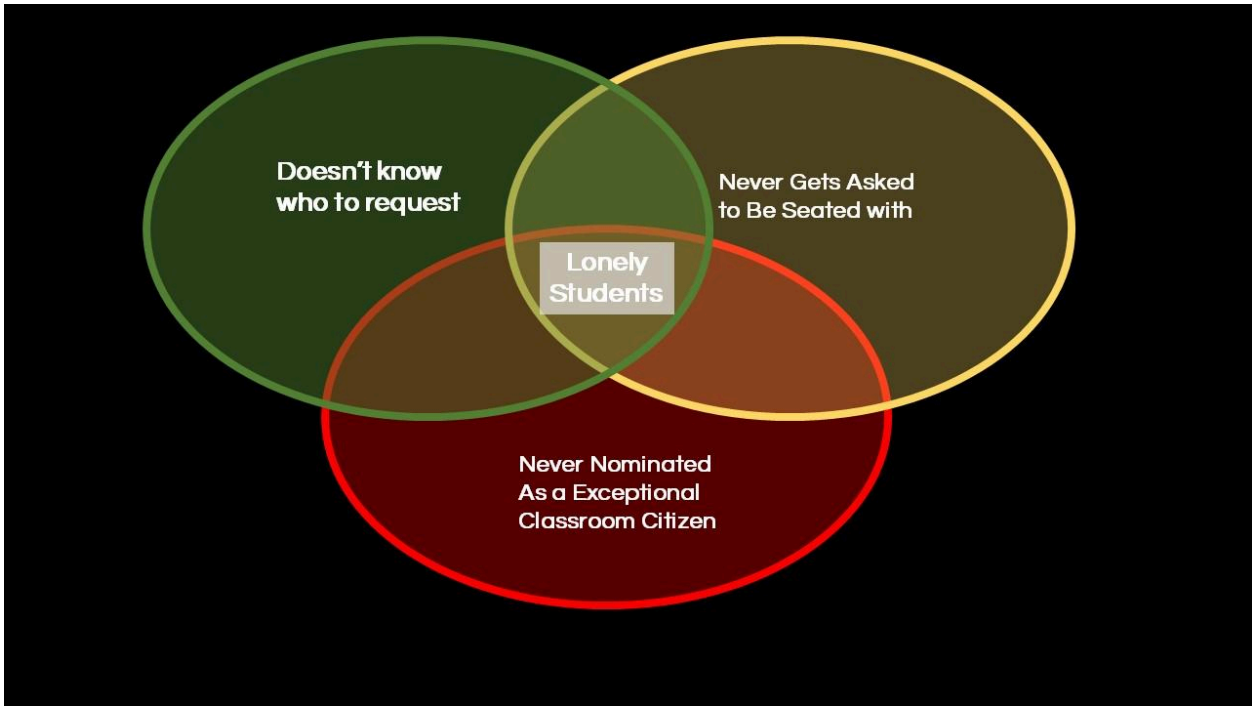
Distribute a small paper with the following two questions:

1. Name four friends that you would like to sit with next week(accommodated if possible)
2. Who do you think was the exceptional classroom citizen in the last four days

Once you start mapping this data for a few weeks you start seeing a few patterns, you get insights:

1. There are some students who never gets asked to be seated with, by anyone
2. There are also students who doesn’t know who to request
3. There are students who never gets nominated as an exceptional classroom citizen.

You notice that there are a few students who fall into these three categories. They are the lonely ones.



****Have you got better questions that you think might help us quantify the classroom experience? Click here to contribute*

Identifying the lonely students solves part of the problem.

It is essential that the teacher utilizes interesting ways to make students feel inclusive. It could be simple things from quizzes to games and anything in between.

Got interesting ways to make the classroom inclusive, ***click here*** and add it to the common google sheet.

This happens naturally at the hands of teachers who are passionate about teaching. There can be complications where the students also need help from his/her parents. There are no one-size-fits-all answer for all but identifying that there is a problem is the first step towards finding a solution.

By making the most important metric that affects a classroom experience measurable, we can continuously work towards improving it.

If you are a passionate teacher who is interested to try this out in your own classroom, ***click here and get in touch with us. Let's collectively figure out how best we can implement this in a sustainable manner with minimum effort.

This is nothing new or complex, all we have to do is identify a metric (a certain point of view) and be methodical.

Now, let's look at the next steps.

What if we can have this process in every classroom across Sri Lanka and continuously work towards improving this metric with different strategies.

The academic performance and the overall experience of all the students in this country can be significantly improved.

It's exciting to think that we could actually change the course of education in this country. This method helps the government/schools to become transparent since the impact can be easily measured. All the data without personal information will be open for the public, allowing people to identify areas that can be improved and contribute their insights or expertise, and also **question stakeholders with facts and figures**.

Think a little further ahead.

If we can identify an insightful metric for each sector (Ex: the no. of lonely students for the education sector, what should we measure for healthcare? Transport? etc.) we can make this entire government efforts measurable and its progress transparent, an x-rayed vision of all sectors that are key to a country's well being. It will allow citizens who are passionate about a certain sector to provide their knowledge and effort to improve that sector and also be able to see the impact.

How can we make this possible? Let's find out:

1. Find a metric that represents an entire sector.

Isn't this the strategy used by all the great startups during their growth phase? Focusing on a single metric?

Facebook focused on the percentage of Facebook users who has got to 7 friends in 10 days against the total number of Facebook users. When you reach this number only then you can have a good experience on Facebook.

Google search focuses on getting you exactly what you were looking for, as fast as possible. Your experience with google depends on those two factors, relevance and speed. They measure this with bounce rate (If you have found what you are looking for you won't go for page

two, you would go to the site you wanted. Which then records as a bounce on the google search result page. I assume they have achieved 99%)

It is essential that we focus our effort on finding these representative metrics. If you are a professional working in a specific sector, you probably have thought that there is a better way to do certain things than what is done currently.

if you are a passionate professional who is interested to try this out to improve a cause you are passionate about, ***click here and get in touch with us. Let's collectively figure out how best to implement this

2. Make everything Easily Measurable

If data collection and processing is going to be too complex, It won't scale. Find the most simplest ways to measure. Measuring the NLS was simple and straightforward. All we needed was two questions on a paper.

3. Ensure information is accessible and transparent

Clearly show the progress of each sector against the chosen metric. Have a clear history of experiments done and lessons learned - making it easy for other industries or countries to adopt and improve.

Its is also very important that citizens who contribute to a certain sector can clearly and easily understand the impact they have made on that sector.

4. Make it Inclusive for all citizens

All citizens can contribute their expertise to a specific cause that interests them in a certain sector. Although it seems like a tedious task to find a metric for each government sector, with the help of knowledge contribution from the community it becomes a doable task.

The future we should look forward to is a decentralized governance system where citizens will decide and contribute towards growth of different sectors by breaking each sector in to smaller, efficient entities.

A decentralized governance system will give the power to everybody to decide the course of their journey making sure that no single person, political party, or any type of entity can single-handedly influence the course of growth. (Click here to read the research paper on Digital Voting with the use of blockchain technology.)

5. Ensure that the strategies for improving the chosen metric is aligned with the existing natural ecosystem

The way humans live has created massive sustainability for the future generations. The solution is to adopt **Biomimicry** - an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes, and policies—new ways of living—that are well-adapted to life on earth over the long haul.

Click here to learn more about biomimicry

When you give suggestions to improve a sector look at learnings from the nature that can be implemented.

By ensuring the above 5 steps we can change the course of our country.

Ok, the method makes sense, it's also possible. But who is going to drive this effort? The government certainly won't.

This is why we founded the Movement. We believe that analytics can help us improve our human experience on earth by aligning innovation and interventions to the natural ecosystem, thus ensuring sustainable development.

Our movement is dedicated to facilitate this thinking and to make sure that these efforts are implemented at the grassroots level. It will provide the necessary tools and training, data platform and and create an online community for every citizen to be contribute and be a part of. ***Click here*** to keep in touch with us and let's figure out how best we can improve the human experience on earth, together.

Most of our frustrations with the government is rooted in the fact that our government has completely failed to be transparent, and failed at clearly measuring impact (they have certainly done a lot to improve our lives, but it's difficult to measure how exactly).

Making efforts measurable will make it transparent. Transparency helps us understand what's going right and what areas need improvement. Learn from successful experiments and apply to the areas that needs improvement. Together, we can get this snowball rolling.

All of us, each and every living, breathing human being is responsible for what the world has come to today. We need to take actions, together, to improve our human experience on earth.

