Using big data analytics for analyzing SDG

Ekhlas Uddin Ahmed
Mushtaque Ahmed
Institute of Business Administration (IBA)
Dhaka University, Bangladesh

Keywords
Big Data, Big Data Analytics, SDG, SDG Analysis

Abstract

The coincidence of data revolution with the move from MDG to SDG was absolutely necessary as SDG demanded not only more and better data, but also new ways of working with and managing data so that the progress towards SDG could be effectively monitored. UN is playing a very much active role on ensuring peace and prosperity of the planet through aligning all the global leaders, subsequently formulating SDGs for transforming the world to a better place for living and also they are very much active in monitoring the progress of SDGs through its different wings, like UNSD, UNECE, UNESCAP, ITU, Global Pulse, UNDESA; utilizing the enormous strength of data revolution, especially utilizing the analytics of Big data.

In August 2014, the then UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, constituted an Independent Expert Advisory Group, named 'UN Data Revolution Group' with the aim of making concrete recommendations on bringing about a 'data revolution for sustainable development'. This Group, in their Report, highlighted two global challenges to be addressed: i) The Challenge of Invisibility and ii) The Challenge of Inequality.

Big data analytics is the perfect answer to address these challenging questions. Big Data is extremely large data sets, 1 petabyte or more, often unstructured, that may be analyzed computationally to reveal patterns trends and associations. And to analyze such a huge data we need advanced analytic techniques in association with systems, platforms, programming languages and tools. Data scientist follows one of these following five analytic paths: i) Prescriptive Analytics, ii) Diagnostic Analytics, iii) Descriptive Analytics, iv) Predictive Analytics, v) Outcome Analytics.

However, everything is not that smooth. There are limitations with Big Data analytics itself, the analytic platform, data sources, storage, knowledge base, coordination and management. There are limitations with Intra and inter-national cooperation, ownership and drive.