

‘...to reduce poverty, we must liberate access to information and improve the quality of information. People with more information are empowered to make better choices.’

*– James D. Wolfensohn, President,
The World Bank Group*

The Public Information Centre (PIC) at the World Bank’s New Delhi office is a one-stop resource centre for all the development knowledge and information generated during the Bank’s operations in India as well as worldwide. Its existence endorses the Bank’s belief that transparency and accountability are essential elements of the development process.

Situated on the premises of the Bank’s New Delhi office, the PIC is open to all those interested in discovering more about the Bank’s activities. This includes not only Bank staff but also researchers, academics, government officials, NGOs, journalists, other donor agencies and civil society at large. No membership fee is required to use the PIC resources.

Resources

- Open-access reference library with two computer stations to allow users to browse the Bank’s online collection of over 40,000 documents, reports and publications
- Collection of World Bank CD-ROMs containing development information and data
- Development-related publications by international institutions, governments, and NGOs.
- Reading room that subscribes to several Indian and international newspapers, magazines, and journals

- Access to Global Jolis catalogue that allows users to check the collections of over 60 other Bank PICs across the globe
- Free – but limited – distribution of some of the Bank’s core publications, including the *World Development Reports, Annual Reports, Working Papers, World Development Indicators*, etc.
- Free Bank literature on a range of development issues

Documents Available in the PIC

The PIC provides access to a range of information and documents on the Bank’s projects and programs, as well as the huge volume of analytical material emerging from these operations. Among the documents available are:

- **Project Information Documents (PIDs):** These are documents that give brief summaries of evolving projects.
- **Project Appraisal Documents (PADs):** These contain descriptions of a project and the plan for its implementation, including procurement procedures. They are made available to the public after presentation to the World Bank’s Board of Directors.
- **Economic Sector Reports:** These include macroeconomic analyses of the economy, analyses of major economic sectors and other reports on specific issues, such as poverty assessments, etc.
- **Environmental Assessments (EAs):** EAs are detailed studies required for projects likely to have significant impact on the environment. Such studies are available before the final appraisal of the viability of the project.
- **Loan (or Development Credit) Agreements:** These are records of loan amounts and terms and conditions on which the loan is made. The agreements are made available to the public after the loan agreement is signed and declared effective or ready for disbursement.

- **Bidding and Consultant Documents:** These provide guidelines for borrowers and their implementing agencies in the procurement of goods, works and consulting services.
- Other documents including Environmental Impact Assessments, Country Strategies, Operational Policies and Procedures, Operations Evaluation Department Reports, and some International Finance Corporation (IFC) reports.

Knowledge Sharing Activities

The PIC also serves as a platform for wider knowledge-sharing among stakeholders in the development process. Among its initiatives are:

- Organizing seminars, workshops, discussions, book launches, web resources demonstrations etc
- Depository Libraries – twenty one leading libraries across India receive approximately 300 official World Bank publications each year. They make these documents available to the public and help further disseminate the material (List overleaf).
- World Bank Information Kiosks – the PIC has set up kiosks at the British Libraries in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Ahmedabad. These are linked to the Bank’s on-line knowledge system and provide almost the entire range of resources available in the New Delhi PIC (Addresses overleaf).
- Participation in major Indian book fairs such as the World Book Fair, Delhi, Kolkata Book Fair, and Bangalore Book Fair, etc.

