

Chapter 6

Vachanamrut Visualization

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ABSTRACT

The authors discuss their interaction with data using various data visualization techniques, which are a quick, easy way to convey concepts universally. Currently, data has become more and more important; it is also important how one can visualize that data in the mind. This chapter is based on extracting important information from one of the holy Swaminarayan scriptures. The authors explore the content of the Vachanamrut, a unique work of prose in the Gujarati language, which contains discourses of Lord Swaminarayan and his conversation with saints and devotees. They convert the data in graphical interface using some libraries of the R tool. So, one can get the main idea of that data quickly, without a need to explain more about that data. Summing it up, this chapter examines the techniques of describing data of any ancient scripture or ancient text in any language by visualizing that data.

INTRODUCTION

If we observe today's generation and previous generations, one can find it obvious that most of the decisions of life depend mainly on the previous historical experience of other people. So, in today's era, every person relates to something called data, that means Data is equal to understanding. Every single information contains data; how to treat data that is different from person to person. "You can have data without information, but you cannot have information without data"—Daniel Keys Moran. (Marr, n.d.)

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Here the question arises, because the data is very precious, so how to understand data more effectively? The answer is, by data visualization anyone can easily understand the concept behind that data.

What Is Data Visualization?

Data visualization is a graphical representation of information and data. By using visual elements like charts, graphs, and maps, data visualization tools provide an accessible way to see and understand trends, outliers, and patterns in data (Tableau, n.d.). It provides a powerful means both to make sense of data and then to communicate what we've discovered to others. Despite their potential, the benefits of data visualization are undermined by a general lack of understanding. Nothing that is going on today in the field of business intelligence can bring us closer to fulfilling its promise of intelligence in the workplace than data visualization. "Without big data analytics, companies are blind and deaf, wandering out onto the Web like deer on a freeway" (Moore, 2012). Common types of data visualization are through charts, tables, graphs, word clouds, etc.

Why Data Visualization?

The way the human brain processes information, using charts or graphs to visualize large amounts of complex data are easier than poring over spreadsheets or reports. Data visualization is a quick, easy way to convey concepts universally – and you can experiment with different scenarios by making slight adjustments. Data visualization helps in every field, for example to analyze the growth of the industry, extract some important information from ancient texts and scriptures, analyze historical data, analyze the survey data and in the medical field. Also, data visualization helps to derive some concluding points.

Here authors choose the one Swaminarayan Hindu scripture "The Vachanamrut" to extract information and to convey the concepts of data visualization.

Who Is Bhagwan Swaminarayan?

"I, Purushottam, who is above Akshar, have taken birth in human form for the purpose of enlightening countless jivas by making them Brahmarup, and leading them to ultimate liberation."

Through these words, Bhagwan Swaminarayan states his life's purpose revealing two things – that he was Parabrahma Purushottam Narayan himself, and that his lifework was focused on spirituality.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan initiated many spiritual and social projects to remedy society's ailing conditions and reignite fading spirituality. He operated alms houses, built and recharged wells, introduced education for woman and inspired all to live pure, addiction-free lives. He also actively campaigned to eradicate entranced social practices of sati-burning, female infanticide and dowry.

Figure 1 shows image of Bhagwan Swaminarayan.

With a faithful following of Paramhansas, renunciates of the highest order, he established the Swaminarayan Sampraday, introducing much needed social reforms, serving the poor and needy, and challenging superstitions, addictions and blind faith. He cleansed and rejuvenated the impurities that had tarnished the celebration of Hindu festivals, such as Janmashtami, Holi and Ramnavmi, and transformed them into platforms for liberation. "That is why I perform grand Vishnu-yags; annually celebrate Janmashtami,

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