

E-Governance in India – A Study

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ABSTRACT

E-government refers to the use of information and communication technology to carry out government operations such as delivering government information and services. E-government is generally recognized as a means of making government more efficient while allowing it to be more responsive to customer needs. E-governance can also be defined as the application of electronic means in the Monitoring the performance of various scheme started by government from time to time Interaction between government - citizens and government-business Simplification processes of the government Internal government operations to simplify and improve democratic, government & business aspects of governance

1. INTRODUCTION

India is a developing nation and diversified too in terms of literacy, language and culture. But despite of so many miscellanies, e-governance is growing tremendously. E-Governance is facilitating rural as well as urban masses by providing various types of ICT (information and communication technology) enabled services. E-governance process brings transparency in the system, so e-governance initiatives in various fields and can reduce the corruption up to a large extent. National Informatics Centre (NIC) is playing a vital in the implementation of e-governance by designing and launching various types of web portals and online management information systems (MIS). There are large number of projects running in India, but still there is a bunch of untouched areas where the implementation of E-Governance is required This paper is intended to study few present running schemes of E-Governance and explore new areas, where E-Governance can prove to be windfall for the society.

GOVERNMENT AND E-GOVERNANCE

E-Governance is a decisional process and it is about the use of ICT in systems of governance. It ensures the wider participation and deeper involvement of citizens, institutions, NGOs and companies in governance system. E-governance is a way of participatory approach in today's democratic era .Implementation of E-governance or the modernization of the processes and functions of the government using the tools of ICT so as to transform the way it serves its constituents can be referred as E-Government. The citizens in modern form of government i.e., E-Government are treated as passive recipients of digital information and services without any involvement.

CURRENT STATUS OF E-GOVERNANCE

The concept of e-governance has its origins in India during the seventies with a focus on development of in-house government applications in the areas of defense, economic monitoring, planning and the deployment of Information Technology to manage data for intensive functions related to elections, census, tax administration etc. A major initiative of the Government for ushering e-Governance on national scale, called National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was approved on 16th May 2006. NeGP consists of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) encompassing 9 central MMPs, 11 State MMPs and 7 integrated MMPs that span multiple backend Ministries/ Departments.

NIC has leveraged ICT to provide a robust communication backbone and effective support for e-Governance at various levels including sub district level in many States. National Knowledge Network is a core Backbone consisting of 18 Points of Presence with 2.5 Gbps capacity. 96 institutes have been connected to NKN (National Knowledge Network) and 15 virtual classrooms have been setup. NIC has setup National Data Centres at Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune which provide shared hosting and co-location facilities to the Government across India.

There are certain other areas where the implementation can help in eradicating severe problems of the society viz., poverty, education, health, sanitation etc. from India with special focus towards rural masses. Rural India covers over 68% of India's total population where half of it living below poverty line and struggling for better and easy access to health care and services. As e-governance is growing rapidly and by span of time every process of the government will be covered by it. While rest of the world can hope to provide access to all these citizen-centric service through public networks, internet and portals, the digital divide in remote areas in India challenges a last mile connectivity requiring solution like setting up kiosks. As a consequence every decision making process will be fully participatory; which will help in designing policies as well as deciding implementation mechanism by considering all kinds of beneficiaries.

EMERGING AREAS FOR E-GOVERNANCE

• AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED SERVICES

Implementation of e-governance can provide real time information to the farmers on crop prices to enable farmers to sell his crop at the best possible rates and eliminating the role of middleman. The disbursement of cash and monitoring of agricultural credit can be made more effective, quick and transparent. Information can be provided to farmers helping them increase agricultural produce by adopting new technique for selection of land, buying of seeds, and use of fertilizers to post harvest processing. Farmers can use a network of Telecenters (Known as Agricentres) to co-ordinate their planning so that there is steady supply to the market and more regulated and regular prices.

• Education

The studies show that; among 184 countries, India has secured 139th rank in terms of literacy with the literacy rate of 74.1%. Further, the literacy rate is the key challenge which affects major problems of the society and only e-governance is one of the probable way, which can

solve the problem. The rural India suffers from inadequate education services so, e-governance can play an important role in the delivery of education to rural village. Using technology, students in these villages can be taught by teachers in urban areas. Although Government of India has taken significant steps in this direction like launching of EDUSAT the first Indian satellite built exclusively for serving the educational sector.

The introduction of e-governance in higher education is one such concept that can empower the governing bodies to administer the progress of the education plan in the whole country and serves various stakeholders in a much better ways.

• HEALTH AND SANITATION

It is evident from the statistics that; 42% of India's children below the age of three are malnourished, only 43.5% of the children are fully immunized and India is having high infant mortality rate where approximately 1.72 million children die each year before turning one's governance can be used as a tool for comprehensive management of hospitals and health centers in the villages to ensure proper delivery of health related services in rural India. ICT are being used in developing countries to facilitate remote consultation diagnosis and treatment. The immunization process can also be covered by e-governance so that the percentage child vaccination can be improved to a great extent.

• MILK PRODUCTION

The dairy portal provides information on how to improve their productivity, recognizes if their cattle suffers from a disease and also the dairy unit can interact with collection centers, providing many services including veterinary assistance and artificial insemination services.

• USE OF ICT IN ENERGY CONSERVATION

Information and Communication Technologies can play a crucial role in achieving an energy-efficient and low-carbon economy. The European Commission has put ICT at the forefront of an energy revolution. ICT can improve energy efficiency in several ways:

Optimizing energy and reducing carbon footprint in the logistics industries, in particular transportation and storage requirements.

Improving production efficiency control, energy distribution, and consumption through smart metering and smart grids. With smart meters in homes, for example, consumers could reduce their energy consumption by as much as 10%.

Helping consumers to understand better how much energy they consume, how much it costs, and how it varies during the day.

CONSTRAINTS AND LIKELY CHALLENGES

There are several problems in the effective implementation of e-governance like:

- Lack of awareness is the prime factor in the utilization of e-governance services. This can be improved by sensitizing the people through arranging several awareness camps or workshops at the local grass root levels.
- The table given above depicts that every state is using various e-governance applications whereas the data of various applications is not centralized (i.e. the data will not be shared to other state). The application should be fully customizable and it should be hosted centrally so that availability of data can be nationwide and thus will help in reducing redundancy and inconsistency of data.
- The lack of communication between various e-governance applications (each application will work independently). Therefore the data requirement for each and every application will be separate and it may cause high volume of redundant data which results in inconsistency of data and information as well. There should be the internal communication between various e-governance applications so that space utilization as well as data inconsistency can be minimized.
- Still most of the population is illiterate or incapable of reading and writing in English language. Hence web applications should be developed which uses more local language on its interface to make it more user friendly. Mobile phones had addressed this issue to some extent by using pictorial features, but in case of internet this issue still needs more attention.

2. CONCLUSION

Although government of India has taken significant steps towards successful implementation of e-governance but despite of that, there are some factors which may affect in successful implementation. In spite of some reservations and potential negative implications of implementing and designing e-governance, including disintermediation of the government and its citizens, impacts on economic, social, and political factors, vulnerability to cyber attacks, and disturbances to the status quo in these areas, e-governance can radically change the face of governance. In future India will be having e-governance completely and which will impart an ideal democracy. In spite of some reservations and potential negative implications of implementing and designing e-governance, including disintermediation of the government and its citizens, impacts on economic, social, and political factors, vulnerability to cyber attacks, and disturbances to the status quo in these areas, e-governance can radically change the face of governance, especially in a big country like India and provide its citizens, an interface to get better and more efficient government services.

3. REFERENCES

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