
ICT AND ITS ROLE IN E-GOVERNANCE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: AN INDIAN PRESPECTIVE

Mehraj Ud Din Wani

Central University of Jammu, Jammu, India

Zahid Iqbal Tantray

Central University of Jammu, Jammu, India

INTRODUCTION

As we talk about today's era of globalization information and communication technologies (ICT) has brought remarkable changes in the lives of people all over the world in every aspects of life. With the help of information and communication technologies government can deliver better services with its citizens at fur flung areas of the country. The ministry of Rural development has taken various steps at various levels by giving much more attention to ICT so that information will be readily available to rural citizens especially in remote areas. Communicating with the remote population has been a very big challenge for the government of India as India has a vast geography, immense population, with vast linguistic and cultural diversity. Basically the Proper way of communicating with the rural people is through connectivity at a digital platform. The digital India program is on the three basic vision areas.

1.The digital India infrastructure basically a need to every citizen

The government of India is planning to give internet facility with high speed to 250,000 Gram Panchayats, which will be in need for digital inclusion. The overall citizens will be given with a digital identity with unique, lifelong, online, and valid. The citizens will get easy access to common service centres and a shareable private space for every citizen on a public cloud.

2. The overall services and governance on demand

As we talk about this kind of need all the government departments will be connected with high speed optical fiber, that will improve the overall inter-operability and with this real time delivery will be possible within less time. The government of India is thinking that with the help of digital services it will improve the ease of doing business in India.

3. The overall digital empowerment of citizens

The basic vision of this type of initiative by the government of India is to increase digital literacy and universal access to various kinds of digital resources. Different kinds of documents or various certificates will be available on cloud with Indian languages.

NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

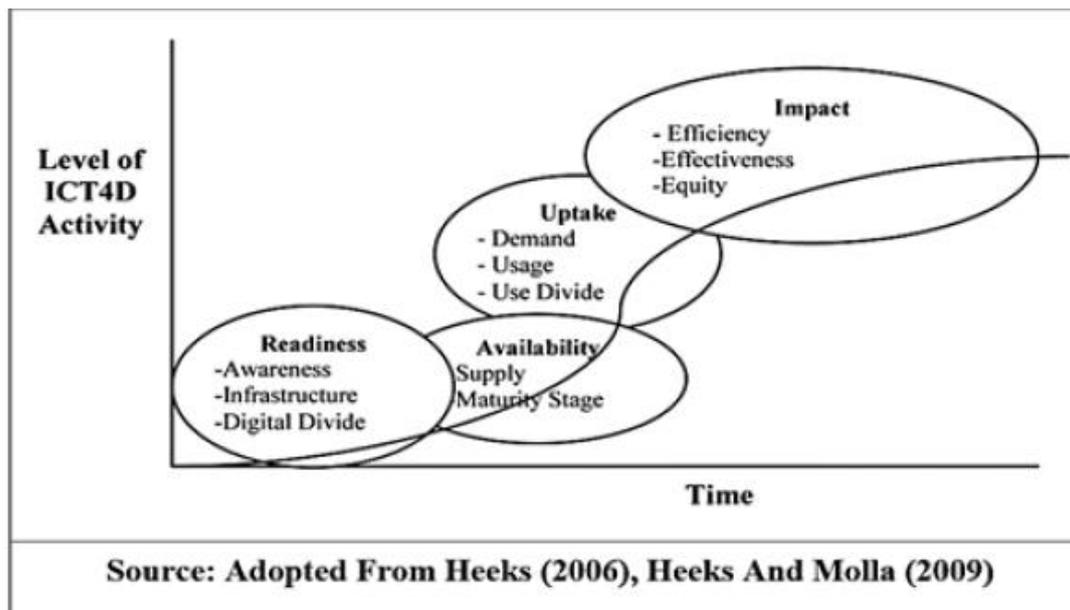
1. Broadband highways	2. Universal access to mobile connectivity	3. Public internet access programme	4. e-governance	5. e-kranti
6. Information for all	7. Electronics manufacturing	8. IT for jobs	9. Early harvest programmes	

Source: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

e- Governance

The e-governance on one hand has flourished well but in other hand its failures are also abundantly reflect that such initiatives have not yielded good results. Various estimates indicate that 35 percent of total failures, 50 percent are basically partial failures, and overall remaining are 15 percent successes in developing and transactional countries. These failures are only happening due to the gap between the first phase of designing a project and the final phase of implementation. With this unpromising outcomes, e-governance initiatives in the developing countries are somehow grown to a level of recognition among various government agencies. One of the Researcher Heeks and Molla has given the four kind of ICT 4D activity where he highlights that in initial stage the basic major issue is with regards to e-governance was readiness where it was very difficult to implement such kind of initiatives where actually there is lack of awareness, lack of digital divide and minimum infrastructure.

As the time now the problem of availability of resources carrying out the e-governance projects came up. Then the people believe that they could avail facilities which they need.



E-governance project has reached the maximum level of maturity in many countries and the overall usage has also reached the level of maturity. But however, usage is always a very challenging job. Wilson finds that in a developing country like India, ICT has progressive and innovative applications in various sectors like health, governance, education, environmental monitoring, human rights promotion, as well as economic growth and all other areas.

E-governance plays very important role in development & economic growth of rural India. Various developments like political, cultural, socio-economic developmental & behavioural decisions. Government of India is having a broader vision and objective of transforming the government-citizen interaction at all platforms to by an electronic mode by 2020.in this regard various schemes are already implemented by government of India like Mahatma Gandhi National RURAL Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the other project in Maharashtra which is called Warana Project, now the income tax payment online service is also implemented, also online central Excise, Aadhar card, Unique ID and E- office has

grown very rapidly of respective areas and contributing to country's overall development. The various kinds of Projects that have been facilitating services to community as well as government, and are contributing for socio-economic development and overall growth of rural India.

Related information with connection to e-governance in Rural Development

- National e-Governance Plan
- Online Land Records
- e-Governance in Rural Agricultural Development
- e-Panchayats
- e-Governance in Developmental Schemes
- e-Governance in G2G and Panchayats function
- Right to Information
- Public Grievance Lodging and Monitoring
- State government e-Governance Projects

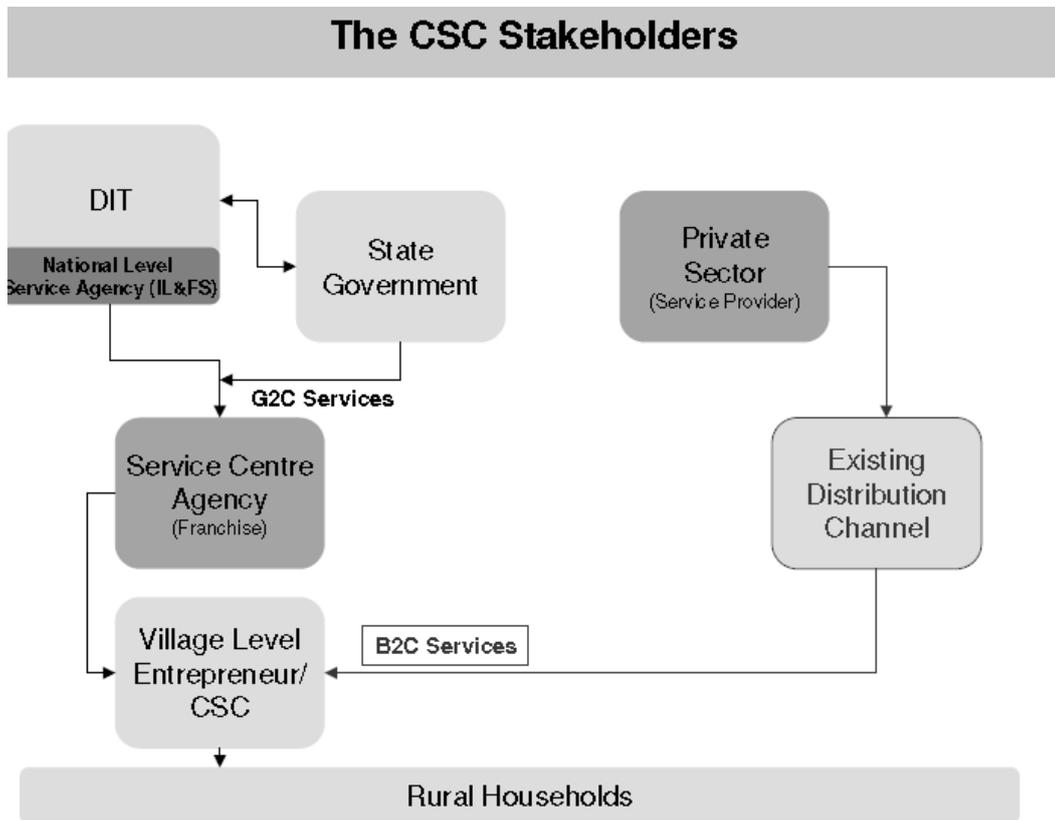
Common Service Centres

Government of India has launched a very excellent initiative all over India called Common Service Centres (CSC), Project for providing Sustainable development and digital communication access to rural people and providing needful impetus for the development of rural community. Common Service Centre is basically a part of the ambitious plan of National e-governance (NeGP).

NeGP is based on three Pillar model

- The basic purpose is to enable e-Governance services through 25 MMPs and also offering the same process through state data centres (SDC)
- Connecting the state government all over offices Upto block level through the overall state wide area network (SWAN)

- Providing a network of access points for e-governance services at the very doorstep of community through these common service centres (CSCs).



There are already over 95,710 Common Service Centres in 31 states/UT in 2010-2011. Which are already functioning which are managed by local entrepreneurs and operated by qualified private franchise, they are acting like a catalysts for existing bank services. To ensure the overall availability of connectivity to CSCs, DIT is supporting BSNL to facilitate wire line and WiMax based broadband connectivity to all the 100000 CSCs.

The Peek into the CSC Pilot: Baramati, Maharashtra



E-Governance projects in Rural India

E-choupal

As we talk about Indian perspective India has achieved massive milestone industrialization in past decade but still agriculture is dominant occupation in India. The farmers are often exploited by different intermediaries at every step involved in the process of either it is selling products to the ultimate customer. Basically these intermediaries are agents, their purpose is only to add profit margin, and they try to hide the market information. The international business division of Indian Tobacco Company started a very good step which is called e-Choupal where the person of rural people meets. Under this initiative different e-Choupals were set up in around 6500 rural villages by 2012 and every e-choupal was equipped with a personnel computer, internet connection, and the printer as well as 24 hour power supply. With the help of this initiative managers at ICT-IBD could directly send raw materials to farmers.

GAGRITI E-SEWA

In the developing nation like India Jagriti e-sewa is very suitable and reasonable as well as accessible. This initiative was launched to sometimes old computers are used basically this

project is running with the help of Dial up telephone lines. The time for performing any kind of change like language change requires minimum time. These projects are located at the very centre point of village or settled at very renowned places of village so that one Kiosk can serve minimum 25,000-30,000 villagers.

AKASHGANGA

The first project which was launched in Gujarat Dairy information system Kiosk was implemented at a village called Uttarsanda Dairy Cooperative Society. With the help of this initiative every farmer has individual identification card. The farmers all information is updated in computer when farmers come at Raw milk Receiving Dock counter.

TATA KISAN KENDTA

This project was launched in three different states Utter Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab, TATA chemicals is the founder of project. In this type of project Geographic Information System helps Tata Kissan Kendra to track all the basic areas related to farming like soil, Ground water as well as weather. The overall data is in the form of digital maps and it provides the information regarding socio-economic set up. It gives detailed information regarding the estimates of crop.

KISSAN CALL CENTRES

The basic purpose of this initiative is to respond to the query which is raised by the farmers in a local language continuously. The scheme was started During April 2002 by the department of agriculture and cooperation. The basic purpose of this project is to serve the community which are not familiar to government schemes related to agriculture. Toll free numbers are provided to farmers so that they can interact and raise their issues related to agriculture.

MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

E-Governance is a way to provide better services to citizens of India. It is a way of involving people to those policies which are started already by Government of India. With this E-Governance initiative the attitude of leaders has changed abruptly towards the citizens like it becomes citizen oriented. Basically the concept of e-Governance is not only limited to manage the affairs of countries only but it can also be used to administrative purpose of the organization. The basic purpose of e-governance is to provide information flow to its

citizens so that they get benefitted from those policies which are already initiated by the government. Country is lagging behind a rank of 19 out of 57 in terms of the e-Governance offerings; it is not due to offerings which are provided by the government but due to some other barriers like limited facility of internet, lack of facility of digital literacy. Successful e-Governance programme is therefore involving that kind of Technology and implementing a sound e-Governance policy. The government of India should look into the policy making initiatives so that loopholes should be withdrawn from digital platform.

CONCLUSION

E-government is most important in today's scenario because it ways to bridge the digital divide in developing nations like India. There are various projects which were already started by government of India like ICT, e-Governance, digital India. The tool of e-Governance is helping in strengthening the social networks, rural empowerment and participation. Basically e-Governance is the need of the hour so that basic facilities are provided to rural people at the cheapest rate. In today panchayats should be provide with adequate technological resources in order to play a meaningful role for the developmental purpose. As if the ICT application in e-Governance is successful it provides one stop solution to problems which has risen by the rural community. A good example of ICT application is Railways Catering & Tourism Services.

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