

E – Governance and Rural Development of India

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Available online at: www.ijcseonline.org

Received: 22/Aug/2017, Revised: 08/Sep/2017, Accepted: 19/Sep/2017, Published: 30/Sep/2017

Abstract— In spite of poverty, poor infrastructure India is moving smoothly and feasibly towards digital India. But due to unawareness and some other known and unknown reasons the policy-makers in India tend to justify the adoption and expansion of e-governance in India. Obviously and truly e-governance is the key factor for the Good Governance in developed and developing countries like India.

Keywords— Vikaspedia, Standardization, Unawareness, e-Governance.

I. INTRODUCTION

E-governance has become the key to good-governance in a country like India. According to an Information System Auditor: Robert E. Davis, "Developing and implementing IT governance design effectiveness and efficiency can be a multi-directional, interactive, iterative and adaptive process." The penetration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a key factor for better e-governance. Therefore, the ICT is being used to provide people with services of central agencies and central and state government departments. Several G2C and G2B plans are implemented to cut out the processing cost and to enhance reach. Large numbers of e-governance projects are governed to provide easy access to citizen services and improving government to citizen relationship [1]. In this report we will discuss what facilities are being provided to the citizen by their government and what are the challenges being faced by government.

II. FACILITIES

E-governance allows policy-makers to reach people beyond social and economical barriers. There is tremendous potential for e-governance in India to provide citizens with benefits and facilities and also to improve governance [3].

A. Central Government Initiatives

Government of India has taken many steps to improve e-governance in rural India.

1) Vikaspedia

An information portal named Vikaspedia is launched by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology on 18 February 2014 to provide people with knowledge on

sectors of health, energy, social welfare, agriculture, education and e-governance [2].

2) 3 – Tier Implementation Framework

First (scc) level would be to provide services to the rural people.

- The second/middle level would be to operate, manage and build the network and business.
- The third level would be to facilitate implementation of the scheme within the state/rural areas.

B. State Government Initiatives

State government has also launched many e-governance projects to improve e-governance in their states. Following are few successful stories of e-governance by state government in India:

1) Gyandoot

Another portal named Gyandoot was implemented in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. This intranet connects rural cyber cafes to provide e-governance facilities to people who are in needs. The portal currently has services like commodity marketing information system, maps, on-line registration, income certificate, passport, caste certificate [4].

2) Warana

The primary objective of this project is to demonstrate effective use of IT infrastructure in the socio-economic development by Wired-Village project in the Kohlapur and Sangali districts of the state of Maharashtra. The existing co-operative structure aims at providing internet access to existing co-operative societies. The project provides information on agriculture, medical, education to villagers on demand [5].

III. CHALLENGES

Information and communication technology (ICT) can be a help to meet good governance goal in India. Yet the potential largely remain unexploited till date that is because of reasons like:

1) *Lack of Standardization:*

Many similar projects are being carried out in different states and rural areas of India but they lack in co-ordination and understanding with the national projects.

2) *Lack of Understanding*

Lack of understanding by the departments which causes poor application of e-governance components which need to be improved.

3) *Infrastructure*

Lack of infrastructure in rural India also made it difficult to establish e-governance facilities in rural India.

4) *Unawareness*

There is generally a lack of awareness among people in rural India about the benefits of e-governance.

5) *Language Dominance*

Providing knowledge to the public in the language they understand is difficult in India due diverse culture and number of different language being spoken in different parts of the country.

6) *Security*

Data/ information keeping in India is done manually so, providing all that data online is difficult knowing all the security hazards of information online.

IV. WHAT MORE NEED TO BE DONE

What is done is not sufficient, theirs lot to be done to reach each and every citizen of India.

1) *Common Service Centre (CSC):*

CSC is a model for providing multiple e-services of the government at a single location [6]. The main purpose of the centre is to provide a facility to deliver e-services. CSC aims at delivering e-governance services at low cost and in cost-effective manner. The objective of the SCS as follows:

- Access to information
- Delivery of G2C and B2C services
- Access to cost-effectiveness and quality government services

2) *Need of Broadband Connectivity:*

With the lack of physical broadband connectivity and telecommunication infrastructure in rural areas only a few can avail benefits of e-governance. To improve e-governance in rural areas broadband connectivity is must [7].

V. CONCLUSION

Applications of Information Technology are increasing rapidly, Indian government is making many efforts to provide number of services to its citizens through e-governance. Indian government is funding immensely to these projects but are not being implemented successfully. Participation of local people and their confidence can play a vital role in successful implementation [8]. In spite of poverty, poor infrastructure India is moving smoothly and feasibly towards digital India. But due to unawareness and some other known and unknown reasons the policy-makers in India tend to justify the adoption and expansion of e-governance in India. These e-governed services are extremely useful for the development of New India. Further, e-governance is the key to economical and all round development for the nation building. These services provide efficient and effective government services to its citizens.

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Dr. Shafiqul Abidin has accomplished M Tech (IT) and Ph D (IT) and presently associated as Professor & Head – Department of Information Technology with H M R Institute of Technology & Management (Affiliated with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University), Delhi, India. He has published many research papers in national / international journals of repute and conferences. Dr. Abidin has visited various countries for teaching and research purpose in their institutions for a period of more than five years.

