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E-Governance: An Approach towards Nation Development

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ABSTRACT

With the continuous advancements and innovations in the technology that takes place in the present scenario, the applications and standards of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a significant importance in the nation development. E-Governance, one of a standard of ICT is associated with the use of technology to enhance the access to and delivery of government services to benefit citizens, business partners and employees. E-Governance practices begins to develop and became more sophisticated, citizens will be forced to interact electronically with the government on a large scale. It is very convenient and cost effective for businesses and the public benefits by getting easy access to the most current information available without having to spend time, energy and money to get it. The main focus of E-Governance is to enhance citizen participation through the internet so that people from all over the country can interact with politicians or public servants in a better and effective way.

KEYWORDS

E-Governance, Government, Information and Communication Technology, Development.

1.INTRODUCTION

Development, in general, is an important factor that leads to the realization of objectives. Information and communication technology standards not only fulfill the need to realize the objectives but also have a significant role towards the development of the nation. In the present scenario of technology advancements day by day, E-Governance is one of a leading standard of Information and Communication Technology associated with the use of technology to enhance the citizens' engagement and participation in governance. The main focus of E-Governance is to create a comfortable, transparent and cheap interaction between the government and citizens (G2C), government and government (G2G), government and business enterprises (G2B) and relationships between governments (G2G). E-Governance seeks to achieve efficiency, transparency and citizen's participation. Enabling E-Governance through ICT contributes to good governance, trust and accountability, citizen's awareness and empowerment, citizen's welfare, democracy and nation's economic growth. Through E-Governance, Government services are

made available to citizens in a convenient manner.

2.MEANING OF E-GOVERNANCE

E-Governance means the use of modern Information and Communication Technologies such as internet, Local Area Networks, mobiles etc. by Government to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, service delivery and to promote democracy. E-Governance is the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for delivering Government Services, exchange of information, communication transactions and integration of various services and interactions that takes place within the entire Government framework

3.DEFINITION OF E-GOVERNANCE

According to OECD definition of E-Governance, it can be defined as the use of information and communication technologies as a tool to achieve better governance.

4.PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OF E-GOVERNANCE

E-Governance products and services include AGMARKNET (connecting agricultural produce wholesale markets in the country for sharing market information through <http://www.agmarknet.nic.in>); BHUIYAN (land record computerization through <http://www.cglrc.nic.in>); ePost (to send messages anywhere in India through Post Offices using Post Software <http://www.indiapost.nic.in>); Examination Results Portal (<http://www.results.nic.in>); Gyandoot e-Governance Project (<http://www.gyandoot.nic.in>); JUDIS (comprehensive online library of case law that contains all reportable judgments of Supreme Court of India and various High Courts of India by <http://www.judis.nic.in>); Passport Website (<http://www.passport.nic.in>); Rural Bazaar (used to strengthen the marketing efforts and showcase and sell the products produced by rural / poor public <http://www.ruralbazar.nic.in>); and Value Added Tax (VAT) (used for Taxation Department to monitor revenue generated by State Government in form of Collecting Taxes and monitoring of Sales Returns from Commercial Establishments in the State through <http://www.megvat.nic.in>).

5.NEED OF STUDY

The need of the study arises to realize the role of Information and Communication Technological standards in the present scenario of continuous advancements that takes place in the technology.

6.OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The main objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the current status of E-Governance.

2. To realize the role of E-Governance in the development of the nation.
3. To create awareness about E-Governance in general public.

7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology used as conducted in this research paper is based upon real data – primary and secondary as well. Theoretical frame work was developed from the literature, data collected from the multiple sources of evidence in addition to books, news papers, journals, websites and other professional magazines. Specially framed questionnaire has been used for the purpose of survey.

8. EMPIRICAL DATA

E-Governance in India: The concept of E-Governance is now a reality for Indian citizens. The core strategy of E-Governance in India is to move ahead in a systematic manner and the approach is to achieve success step by step. The government of India has launched the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) with the intent to support the growth of E-Governance with in the country. The plan envisages creation of right environments to implement the government and citizens (G2C), government and government (G2G), government and business enterprises (G2B) and relationships between governments (G2G). The focus of NeGP is as follows:

- Adequate weightage must be for quality and speed of implementation in procurement procedures for IT services.
- In corporation of a suitable system of incentivisation of states to encourage adoption.
- The trend of delivery of services through common service centres should be encouraged and promoted.
- Wherever possible services should be outsourced.
- The full potential for private sector investment should be exploited.

The vision of NeGP is “All Government services accessible to the common man

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in his locality through a One-Stop-Shop (integrated service delivery) ensuring

convenience, efficiency, transparency and reliability.” To ensure the inter-operability among e-governance applications, government of India has set up an institution mechanism for the formulation of standards through collaborative efforts of stakeholders like Department of Information Technology (DIT), National Informatics Centre (NIC), Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC), other government departments, Technology experts, Industry, NGOs etc. In this process there is a provision of formal public review also. The main focus area is to share ideas and knowledge among the members of various committees involved in standards formulation process. It also has a provision for web publishing of draft documents for review comments by the public.

E-Governance in United States: In United States e-governance activities can have a significant importance. The election of Mr. Barack Obama as president of United States has become associated with the effective use of internet technologies during his campaign. On 21st January 2009, newly elected President Mr. Barack Obama signed one of his first memorandums-The memorandum for the heads of executive departments and agencies on transparency and open government. In the memo, President Mr. Barack Obama called for an unprecedented level of openness in government, asking agencies to ensure him public trust and establish a system of transparency, public participation and collaboration. The memo further directs the Chief

Technology Officer in coordination with the Director of the Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) and the Administrator of General Services (GSA) to coordinate the development by appropriate executive departments and agencies to take specific actions implementing the principles set forth in the memorandum. By enabling public websites like recovery.gov and datd.gov to distribute more information to the American population, the administration believes that it will gain greater citizen participation. Recently this initiative has crossed several key milestones and continuous to make a significant amount of progress.

9. SURVEY RESULTS

1. E-Governance helps simplify process. More than 60% of respondents were of this opinion.
2. E-Governance makes access to information more easily for public sector agencies and citizens. Only 45% of the respondents were of this opinion and rest could not respond.
3. E-Governance enhances citizen participation all over the country so that they interact with politicians or public servants. Only 42% of the respondents were of this opinion and the remaining respondents were not aware about this.
4. E-Governance eliminates the necessity of physical travel to government agents sitting behind desks and windows. Only 48% respondents agree to this factor.
5. E-Governance improved accounting and record keeping. 50% respondents were in the favor of this opinion.

10. FINDINGS OF STUDY

The main findings of our study are as follows:

1. E-Governance helps simplify process and makes access to information more easily for public sector agencies and citizens.
2. E-Governance enhances citizen participation all over the country so that they interact with politicians or public servants.
3. E-Governance eliminates the necessity of physical travel to government agents sitting behind desks and windows.
4. E-Governance improved accounting and record keeping.
5. By E-Governance, governments and organizations have turned to the internet and thus produce significant savings in paper.

6. E-Governance focused around the idea of increasing transparency throughout various different departments and agencies.

7. Still there is a great need to create awareness about E-Governance in India.

CONCLUSION

E-Governance is the use of modern Information and Communication Technologies such as internet, Local Area Networks, mobiles etc. by Government. E-Governance plays a vital role in improving the effectiveness, efficiency, service delivery and to promote democracy.

FUTURE SCOPE

As E-Governance is a very efficient mode to make governance effective and efficient, therefore E-Governance can play a vital role in further growth and development of nation in the coming future.

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