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Factors Affecting E-M Governance and Rural Development in India

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Abstract

In the way of continuous development of India as an economy, the Indian government has enlarged its social responsibilities to cover every aspect of life. Government as a producer and more as a distributor of public services has aimed at achieving efficiency, accountability, transparency, citizen's full participation. Good governance is perhaps the most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. Thus use of technology is inevitable for ensuring good governance and eliminating poverty for development. Thus use of technology is inevitable for ensuring good governance and eliminating poverty for development. The E-M technologies are the core behind the making of digital India. This programme was conceptualized at the end of 80's but it has become possible in the 21st century with the growth of electronic manufacturing industry, IT services and making of satellites. The E(electronic) and M (mobile) services has become a huge market in India . Electronic market is $ 100 billion in 2016-17 and is expected to be more than double in 2020. It is growing at 16-23% annually .It is expected to reach $400 billion by 2025.

Keywords: Accountability, Transparency, Good Governance, Electronic Services, Mobile Services, Peoples Participation, E-M Technologies, Public Distribution System, E-District, Adhar, Jandhan, Diversification.

Introduction

India is said to be the second largest populated country in the world having population 1.33 billion out of which 85% of the population live in rural areas. Considering this fact and also the importance of population in an economy, India is still a rural based economy. Is it possible to change rural an area in to urban is a long way question because it is based on vast infrastructural development and social up-gradation. But it is impossible to keep this rural population untouched with the changes taking place globally . With more and more opening of Indian economy to the international market, the nation has come under the strict monitoring of international agencies like U.N. WTO, ILO, UNESCO etc. Under the pressure of these agencies and in the way of continuous development of India as an economy, the Indian government has enlarged its social responsibilities to cover every aspect of life.

Government as a producer and more as a distributor of public services has aimed at achieving efficiency, accountability, transparency, citizen's full participation. All programmes are motivated from UN agenda in which good governance holds key importance. While defining World bank (1990) identifies three aspects viz., 1.) the form of a political regime 2.) the process through which authority is exercised in the management of country's economic and social resources for development and 3) the capability of government to design , formulate and implement policies to discharge function. In its definition point 2 and 3 verifies the fast, efficient , transparent and broad coverage of public services which is possible only with the usage of new technologies like ICT based on GIS and GPS. As said by UN Secretary General Kofi Anan "Good governance is perhaps the most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development". Thus use of technology is inevitable for ensuring good governance and eliminating poverty for development.

Review of Literature

According to Pereira Branco 2006 democracy in narrow sense depict regular elections but in broader sense it means political aspects and ultimately group equality. Thus in narrow sense it talks about representative democracy while in broader sense it talks about participatory democracy. He quoted the example of Bolswana region who adopted democratic governance had displayed one of the best records in

human rights observance and fastest average growth rate in the world between 1965 to 1985. Amartya Sen in the concept of 'Capability approach' talks about developing socio-eco-political capabilities of the people rather than mere rise in income. Amartya Sen in his book 'development as freedom' he mentioned five instrumental freedom viz., economic facilities, political freedom, social opportunities, transparency guarantees and protective security. He give immense weightage to politics as a tool of making good choices to achieve development. Kaufmann and D. North are of the view that democracy enhances economic growth and development. Hirschman (1988) view that democratic rotation brings sequenced satisfaction of different groups of voters objectives and finally contributes to the satisfaction of the common interest.

Aim of the Study

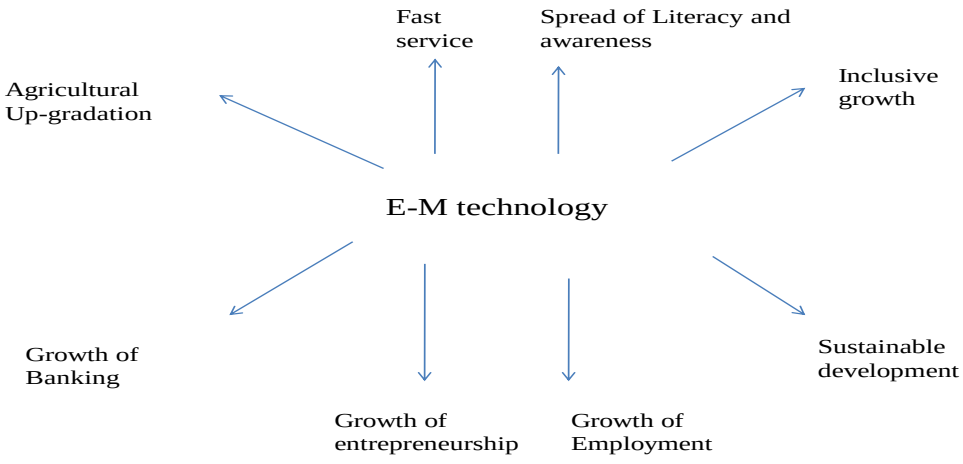
1. To recognize the digital based efforts of good governance.
2. To enumerate the efforts made by the government for making digital India.

Rationale of E-M Technologies in Rural Development

The E-M technologies are the core behind the making of digital India. This programme was conceptualized at the end of 80's but it has become possible in the 21st century with the growth of electronic manufacturing industry, IT services and making of satellites. The E(electronic) and M (mobile) services has become a huge market in India .According to Business Standard electronic market is $ 100 billion in 2016-17 and is expected to be more than double in 2020. It is growing at 16-23% annually .It is expected to reach $400 billion by 2025. The digital services market is very wide and owned by 12 players and the government. It is difficult to know the aggregate turnover of these service. The government of India has started using these services in efficiency, transparency, reliability and its day –today affairs to ensure public participation. The government is aimed to build a cloud of data for every citizen so that there will be less dependence on paper. It will serve many objectives aimed for better economy viz.-

1. To restrict deforestation
2. To gather information of more than 1 billion people
3. To identify every citizen with a number
4. To link services
5. To monitor the per capita consumption of every citizen for better supply of services in future
6. To create IT jobs in urban and rural areas
7. To increase computer literacy
8. To harness new technologies specially GPS and GIS
9. To upgrade land records and protect their data
10. To provide financial aid to the poor
11. To monitor agricultural changes due to new technologies
12. To attain inclusive growth by assuring all people's participation.

The figure 1 compiles the role of E-M technologies on governance and rural development.



Role of E-M technologies in Good Governance

Fig 1

E-M Services in Rural India

Background

In rural India government has many obstacles to provide E-M services viz. lack of physical infrastructure, lack of computer knowledge, lack of e-m devices lack of internet connectivity and lack of skilled professionals in rural areas. The Indian government is trying to overcome these difficulties by heavily spending on services and inviting private sponsors in this area. For ensuring E-Governance government has revolutionized all public services on digital platform to have access from internet and mobile apps. This is done to ensure good governance achieving efficiency and transparency in public services. Agencies like DEIT (Department of electronics and Information technology and DARPG (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Greviances) are assisting government to achieve this

aim who formulated NeGP (National E-Governece Plan) in 2006. The NeGP has a vision which is to "make all government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency and reliability of such services at affordable costs to realize the basic needs of common man". The main thrust on E-Governance in India was made in 1987 with the launching of NICNET (National Satellite based Computer Network). This was followed by District Information System of NIC to computerize all head districts. This was done till 1990. Since then efforts are being done to extend nic portals, government portals like mygov.nic.in and digitalindia.gov. These portals helped the government to reach to every citizen through internet. Presently Digital India programme is aimed to reach 2-5 lakh villages by 2019.

Programmes

The government of India has launched many programmes through these portals and apps. Some of the efforts of e-services are-

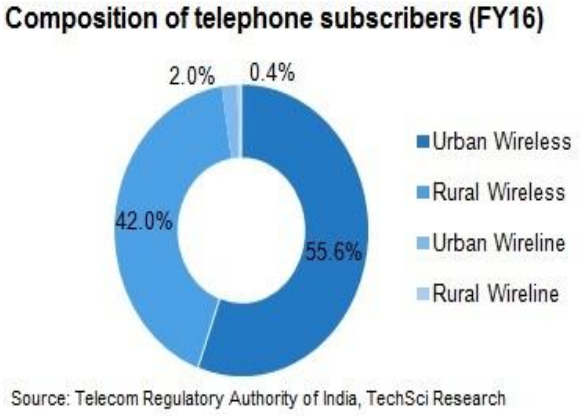
1. Monitoring Public Distribution System –With the use of e-m services government has succeeded in making 114 million ration cards in 2016 from 12 million ration cards in 2014. This means that more people have approached to the facility of PDS.
2. Providing integrated Services – E- district is one of the mission mode projects under NeGP. This is aimed to use computer in delivery of all public services using SWAN (State Wide Area Network), SDC (State Data Centres) and CSC's (Common Service Centre). There is UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New Age Governance) app launched by the government recently which loads 200 applications related to every field of related to rural life. It provides 1200 services supplied by the government.
3. Identification of citizen and collection of personal data- Indian population is very vast. For effective supply of public services it is important for the government to have record of every citizen .It will help to assess powers and needs. For this purpose ADHAR or UID number is distributed to every citizen based on his/her biometric informations and personal details This will curb duplicacy and infraudulment to some extent. Till March 2017 1 billion ADHAR are constructed by the government agents. This is linked to all public services like bank accounts, LPG connections, mobile connections etc.
4. Monitoring Employment Generation Programme- With the use of computer government has able to disburse 59 million MNREGA cards by 2016. Centre government can assess the performance of these programmes through internet portals. People can get information about such programmes in their states via apps and portals.
5. Funding farmers and rural Entrepreneurs-Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) are the important source of finding the poor and needy section of the society. Banks are helping to achieve this aim. Through Jandhan –Adhar –Mobile (JAM) yojana government is trying to ensure bank account of every needy person. Through these accounts government can pass subsidies to support people from inflationary hike in prices.
6. Development of Entrepreneurship- Rural entrepreneurs are provided training and information through ICT. The Common Service Centres are working in the field of providing information and training through internet and supporting software to promote rural Entrepreneurs.
7. Computerisation and Upgradation of Land records- With the use of GPS technology government has launched a National Land Records Modernisation Programme to upgrade the land records .Using GIS technology it has all land records online. It is also providing RoR (Records of Rights) to every land owner so that their rights may be protected in the cloud data.
8. Promote technology in Agriculture-New instruments based on bio technology and nano technology have surged the market which along with ICT tools are generating good results. Government through internet and advertisements on TV, is trying to spread knowledge about these new products and new experiments in farming like diversification, precision farming.
9. Extend marketing facilities to the farmers and Small and Tiny enterprises-Many apps and portals are working in the field of marketing agricultural and SME's products for empowering rural economy .e- NAM is such a portal where government is providing marketing informations and platform to 200 mandis in the country. Government has already electronised agricultural market through NASDAC.
10. Providing fast and sure medical facilities-Ministry of Health and family welfare has launched as Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) for making use of ICT. ICT tools are provided to ASHA and ANM workers to support NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) .For the supply of drugs and vaccines also the use of ICT has started. Example Dr. Sms app started by Kerala government.
11. Providing Education to all- Imparting primary and technical education through ICT tools and distance learning. Government is supplying e-resources to the schools to prepare soft data of schools. Shala siddhi app is made to monitor school education.
12. E- panchayat- ICT tools are provided to panchayats for better communication with higher authorities. However this task is yet not completed.
13. E-Kranti- This scheme is launched to link all villages with internet so that every citizen can take the advantage of ICT and mobile services. It help people to link with facilities not available in their villages and helps to create new resources for development.

Impact on Electronics Industry

Due to growing demand for IT and mobile services, these industries have optimistic business.

India's IT and Telecom sectors are the fastest growing sectors in the world. The domestic demand has influenced this growth. According to IDC, a research based firm the total mobile service market revenue in India is expected to touch US $ 37 billion in 2017 registering a CAGR of 5.2% between 2014-17 It is expected to grow to US 4 103 billion by 2020. Another market research shows that by 2020 India will be the fourth largest market of smart phone and two out of three mobiles will be smart phones due to development of apps and portals by the government and private firms. In India telephone subscriber has grown at CAGR of 20% reaching 1058.86 million. The figure 2 below shows percentage of rural and urban subscribers.

Figure 2



Same is the condition of IT sector whose contribution to GDP has reached to 7.5% in 2012from mere 1.2 % in 1998. The growth of these services ensure better and fast services in the government sector. The use of e- services will curtail costs] but also force the government to provide access to higher and higher technology. Complex regulations and high priced spectrum will act as a road block. In coming years more foreign players may enter the market leading to competition and cutting of prices. These situations has to be handled with expertise to avoid any hindrance in e- governance. There is pressure on government to invest in technologies. In the coming years the government may increase tax rates as we witness now. In case of industry long term profit any not be high but will sustain due to unprecedent demand.

Conclusion

We have started acknowledging the importance of e-governance as emphasized by UN agencies. India being a rural based country has to concern about rural population specially in the age when all population of the world are touching the waves of hi-tech revolution. E-governance would ensure fast, transparent and reliable mode of delivery and monitoring of public services. There are abundant opportunities for e-m services to transform conditions of rural India. How far the making of Digital India will upgrade the lives of rural population depends upon the extent to which the people will react to the technological advances. It is said that those who follow upstream come foreward. This can be true in case of India as we evident that every new change had brought India to a higher platform like green revolution and growth of banking sector.

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