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How E-Governance is Helpful in Indian Universities - Advantages of E-Governance to Indian Education System

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ABSTRACT

E-governance is an emerging phenomenon in India. There are several areas of e-governance that need to be addressed and suitable models need to be recommended. Some areas of e-governance which need immediate attention with respect to India are development of technical infrastructure, building institutional capacity, building legal and judicial infrastructure, etc. Nowadays the education system of the country is also taking active participation in this measure. This paper focuses on the contribution of India's education system and institutions in the development of e-governance in the country.

KEYWORDS: E-governance, Indian Education System, Education System, I.T.-Model, University System.

INTRODUCTION

E-governance has faced a lot of challenges in the country as there are a lot of languages spoken in this part of the world. Technology is not something new to the country but how to use it effectively for the development for the country has been a concern. This is the reason on why the government has entered into partnerships with private bodies in the form of IBM etc. The major objective of the programs is to improve literacy in the rural areas and the efforts have reaped in dividends. In spite the improvements in the literacy levels there is a lot of overall improvement which is required. The Information technology should be taken to the next level so that the masses are benefitted from it. In fact there are close to 5000 colleges as well as educational institutions providing education in the field of information technology. In fact mastery the Information technology coupled with good English skills is the urgent order of the day. It is a tragedy that still in many parts of the country e governance along with e-learning is a dream (Singh et al, 2011).

EVOLUTION OF E-GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

The core theme of the E-governance is to integrate and link the internal operations of the government with the external influences like the citizens as well as the other forms of business through the use of information technology. The prime reason for the development of e-governance in the country has been due to the development of communication along with multimedia technologies. The primary use of all these applications have been in the various government departments mainly agriculture, passports, police, government exchange as well as courts. In fact the e governance can be broadly classified under three levels mainly:

In the first place tend to be the various sources of internet technologies that provide the right to information. The second level is the transaction procedures which allow the citizens to interact with the various government departments. For decision making and monitoring the third level is used. A couple of methods are data mining which tends to provide on demand analysis and visualisation of data which is required for making the necessary social, economic and political changes in the country. What an effective e-governance set up does is that it takes out meaningful stuff from the transaction process, analyse the data and prepares the necessary policy. In the midst of all this the central and state government support is also required (Banerji, 2010).



Figure 1: E-Governance in India
Source: Daxnetworks (n.d.)

PROGRESS OF E-GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

The e-governance in the country has not progressed on the desired level because of the lack of financial resources along with the dominating influence of the corrupt bureaucrats in the country. Information and services are the key areas to be focused. The access to the internet can do wonders for the under developed section of the society in general. The ministry has finally woken up and whole hearted efforts are being put in this direction. A target of 100 million internet connections and 1.2 million kiosks are on the agenda. However the success of all this will depend on how far the local language will evolve as a whole and the reengineering of the government process. The government along with NASSCOM is trying to privatize the e-governance sector. Some major initiatives were undertaken by the government in this regard.

In the first place the government needs to pay attention to its own style of functioning. Secondly better along with effective services should be provided to the customer in a cost effective manner. Thirdly more priorities should be paid to the pioneer e governance projects. Finally the pressure areas of focus should be stressed upon. The order of the day is to integrate a data along with a management system and then deviating to institutional links and finally citizen based projects (Chandhoke and Priyadarshi, 2009).

ADVANTAGES OF E-GOVERNANCE

The spending of the government is increasing rapidly and stands now at 23 %. From 1500 crores in 2002 it has increased to 2000 crores in 2003. The government expectations have performed very well regarding the outlined expectation and reliability and there has been a decline in corruption. Benefits in the form of various schemes at the grass root level in the form of panchayats have been an instant success (Gopalswamy, 2009).

Changes in the world are difficult to accept and this happens to be a universal truth. But in the overall scenario changes occur for the betterment and progress of civilization. India as a country has been following different mechanisms for maintaining information, in fact the National Informatics centre being one of them and all the information is like separate segregated islands. In order for the country to take advantage of the information maintained through the NIC it is recommended that the government takes use of the latest technology on board. Grid technology is one of the major technologies which look at future e-governance along with management systems (Satapathy, Avadhani and Abraham, 2012).

The standards of the higher levels of education have not been upto the desired levels in the country. Tools like e-governance have contributed to the social and economic progress to the country. E governance has really helped in the overall development of the Indian educational system. But it is an irony that most of the people focus on the first part E which is technical and ignore the learning which is the second part. They focus on specific aspects of the target audience, traditional and technical aspects, the course content and the mechanisms of delivery. The major advantages of e-governance are specified below

- Individualization
- Flexibility
- Being available on a continuous basis
- Active participation
- Cost effectiveness (Singh et al, 2011)

In the world of today even if the whole country became governed it would not be meaningful in any way as only one fourth of the people have access to the internet. The major advantages of an effective e-governance program are distance becomes meaningless; both the parties come close to each other mainly the governor and the governors. In addition to this there are greater levels of transparency on the part of the government procedures as well. In the final scheme of things corruption which has been the perennial problem of the Indian society is eradicated (Sood, 2011).

The Indian education system has been designed in such a way that it tends to suit the tertiary sector. Science and engineering have been the major areas of focus. The yawning gap between the demand and supply has created such a situation where a lot of skilled manpower has left the domestic front. In a way the opportunities are not in harmony with the needs of education or there has been unequal economic development on all counts. The key aspect of making a e-governance program is to incorporate social values in the poor income groups. If they are provided access to the online media then there are no second thoughts to the fact that the scenario will improve by leaps and bounds. The lack of proper digital methods has been the major hindrance for the proper growth of the e-governance in the country. The access to the internet as well as the computer is low in most parts of the country (Maumbe, 2011).

SUCCESFUL MODEL OF AN E-GOVERNANCE MODEL SYSTEM IN INDIA

One of the successful models regarding the Indian education system one of the models has been implemented in the Orchha village of Madhya Pradesh and some major facts have emerged which are

- The awareness and education should flow down to the poor and illiterate citizens so that they under the benefits of e governance and have faith in the system.
- The system should be set up in such a way so that the citizens can have access to the right of knowledge as well as information
- The computer along with the human interface should be of high standards. In this way only the information flow will have the desired outcome as there is an interaction between humans and technology in the first place.
- The project of e-governance should take into account the demographics, cultural considerations of the people. The masses should be able to align with the thought process of the individuals in the best possible way.
- The transparency, quality as well as time management are the three areas should be focuses upon. The computer should understand the language of the people so that the whole efforts towards the engineering process can bear dividends.
- In the final analysis the commitment of resources should be there (Remeneyi, 2007).

For instance, E-Governance for Madhya Pradesh, one of the biggest states in India underwent transformation in 2006 under the Presidency of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The new e-governance model for Madhya Pradesh is shown below:



Figure 2: E-Governance for Madhya Pradesh
Source: MP Vidhan Sabha, 2006.

INITIATIVES IN E-GOVERNANCE AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

One of the states which have recognized the growth of e-governance big time is the north east state of Mizoram. With rapid enthusiasm and making deep inroads into the educational set up the country has made Information technology as a compulsory subject from class three to eight and an elective one from class 9 to 12. This plan was known as the computer educational plan which was submitted to the human resource ministry as well as the government of India in the year 2001 which required the government to provide ten computer systems per 40 schools in the state.

Though the plan is in the centre's court the government would do a great job if they accept these initiatives and make the small state into a Information technology embedded one (Sinha, 2006).

The government of Karnataka has implemented the e governance skills in all the major departments with the help of private bodies. This has helped to reduce corruption on a drastic level and made the public officials accountable. The state government employees are provided with flash cards which shown their departments. Another major initiative has been the training program known as yuva which takes the education to the grass roots levels. In a way the people in focus are those whose annual income is less that 36,000 per year. Another initiative has been the filing of the online tax returns (Kumar, 2009).

In the global economy the action skills of the staff required to survive will be all the more. The action plan calls for the development of a local training centre. There should be constant innovations and all the attention should be on the focus and development. The higher education is facing a lot of problems recently mainly higher fees, intense competition among themselves and these are the changes which need to be addressed immediately. One of the mechanisms could be to evolve learning with an integrated management system in place. Project planning could also be an alternative (Singh et al, 2011).

CONCLUSION

Changes in the world are obvious and it is pretty difficult to adapt to them. This is the universal truth in life but one thing is common that changes occur due for the betterment of the society. The former president of the country Dr. Abdul Kalam has stated that there should be a e governance system in the country which should integrate and setting up a e governance board or commission abroad. In fact the whole objective of this purpose is to ensure greater levels of transparency between the government and human interface. A national ID database

was also his need. He was of the view that since the country has had a proven record in the field of e-governance there was possibility of integrating all these databases, operating as well as application systems in the local language. He had the dream vision to provide governance to one million people.

Another aspect which emerges is that most of the e-governance programs in the country have been hardware oriented. The bottom line is that the benefits of e-governance can only be achieved when the need is felt for governance. Very little effort or investment has been provided in the software sector which is a vital area for the development of e-governance in the country. No point in acquiring the tools but one needs to use it effectively for the development of the nation.

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