



## A Study of E-Governance Educational Projects in India

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### ABSTRACT

*Governments and public sector organizations around the world are facing to reform their public administration, organizations and deliver more efficient and cost effective services, as well as better information and knowledge to their stakeholders. E-governance is the effective use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) to improve the system of governance that is in place, and thus provide better services to the Citizens. E-Governance is considered as a high priority agenda in India, as it is considered to be the only means of taking IT to the "Common Public". Developments in e-Governance provide opportunities to harness the power of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to make the business of governance inexpensive, qualitatively responsive, and truly encompassing. In this paper we discuss about vidya-vahini, an educational project.*

**KEYWORDS : ICT, E-Governance, Vidya-vahini, Education, Project**

### INTRODUCTION

Literacy skills, greater awareness, education, and capacity-building efforts such as the vidya-vahini e-literacy project are regarded as important factors that will enable greater civic engagement and citizen participation in e-governance. The vidya-vahini project is a unique partnership involving the government, private entrepreneurs, community volunteers, and citizens in improving the e-literacy skills of the community. Capacity-building initiatives like the vidya-vahini project can bridge the digital divide and advance digital democracy. Kerala had achieved almost total literacy before embarking on providing e-literacy to the people of the state. Though the 28 states of India are at various stages of development, the project attempts to highlight the possibilities for other states that are similar to Kerala in levels of development. It can be regarded as a model for emulation in other states of India and has also generated considerable interest throughout South Asia. Nevertheless, financing affordable Internet access and ICT competence – including investment and training to create, maintain, and expand computer networks – may challenge the sustainability of e-governance in developing countries like India as they continue to grapple with the many complexities of development

E-governance means 'electronic governance'. It is application of Information Technology in government functioning in order to have good and smart governance. Smart here refers to 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent'. This involves using information and communication technology by government agencies to have transparent dealings with different users. There are many reasons for which e governance is required. Some of them are :

Re-structuring of administrative processes, Increasing revenue, Providing quality services, Improving internal controls, Time and cost saving, Efficient delivery of public services, Speedy way of doing work, speedy work, exchange of information with government departments, citizen and business houses.

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ue to grapple with the many complexities of development.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has provided means for faster and better communication, quality services, efficient storage, effective work, processing of data and exchange and utilization of information to its users. It helps in providing better controls and increasing revenue. All individuals, groups, businesses, organizations or governments are benefited by the advantages of ICT. It is a faster, more accurate and simpler means of word-processing and is now being used as a tool for tabulating data which finally helps in decision making. With increasing awareness of using computers and internet many users are benefited and they are motivated to modify their ways of doing things in order to en-cash the advantages provided by ICT. This has led to re-engineering of business processes.

The process of re-engineering helps in faster and better processing of information and thus a better decision making, greater reach and better utilization of resources. This helps in having overall good governance. In the case of citizens, it provides enhanced access to information and government agencies, efficient service delivery and transparency in dealings and also acts as an information tool to the government. With the increasing awareness among citizens about their rights their expectation has totally changed. Today they expect government agencies to be transparent in their dealings, accountable for its activities and faster in its responses. For this use of ICT helps in achieving good governance. The technologies used helps in achieving a wide range of objectives. There is equitable and faster development with a wider reach. Today 'Ethics in Governance', with the help of tools of modern technology such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) should be used to transform the relationship of the government with its employees, citizens and businesses, and also between its own agencies. It has been recognised that e-Governance is the logical step with the use of ICT in systems of governance in order to ensure wider participation and deeper involvement of citizens, institutions, civil society groups and the private sector in the decision making process of governance.

### REQUISITES OF E GOVERNANCE

For effective e governance the foremost requirement is that work-place has to be fully computerized. Computer is the most important requirement for e governance. Computers should be connected so that online work is possible. There has to be some online work flow procedure. Government employees should be trained so that they can work on the software. The training is required so that they become user friendly with the software. Services should be fully accessible. It also insists in removing the paper based system and making everything computerized to increase the transparency of work and a speedy flow of work is possible.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF E-GOVERNANCE IN INDIA

Indian government has taken many initiatives in the field of IT for the desired implementation of e governance in India. The plan popularly known as the E governance action plan correctly portrays the long

term growth action plan for India. Its successful implementation was seen during the period of 2003-2007. It provided both the citizen centric and the business centric governance all together at the local, state and the national level. It was a good kick start an many flaws were seen thereto such as suitable system for quickly motivating the states needs to be improved, a single window for providing services to the citizens should be implemented, whether and whenever possible outsourcing of services should be implemented for quicker growth perspectives, more efforts were required to stabilize and increase the public private partnerships, improved connectivity was required. Such flaws were thoroughly noted and improved thereon. Apart from the 2003-2007 action plans, many other plans were successfully implemented. Some were:

Implementation of "Information Technology Act, 2000" .It helped in providing the legal framework for all the electronic transactions. The act came into force on 17 October, 2000.

National Taskforce for Information Technology and Software development was established in the year 1998.

"Centre for E governance" was created for successful linkage of the local, state and he national level and so that efficient help could be made disposable at all ends.

"E office" was established so that offices , ministries , departments and authorities could be electronically connected.

HPC i.e. the High Powered Committee was created with the cabinet secretary made its head for the successful implementation of e governance.

A Joint Secretary level Officer as the IT manager was appointed in every Ministry and Department.

Websites for all Ministries and Authorities was developed for the wide coverage and availability of E governance.

One can surely say that E governance has been successfully implemented in India. A lot more needs to be achieved in this respective area. Majority of the states are implementing E governance in their working. They are making a collaborative effort in shifting from the manual working model to the electronic working model. It can be inferred that more of the planned implementation of IT is what the need of the hour.

More of powerful, efficient, quicker strategies may be drawn for a powerful implementation of E governance.

## Major E-Governance Educational Projects in India

### 1. Project Vidya-vahini

Project Vidya Vahini is a project started by Government of India in collaboration with Shiksha India, a non profit organization launched in December 2001. Shiksha India was launched to equip Indian schools with 5 Cs:

1. Computers
2. Connectivity
3. Coaching (Teacher Training)
4. Content
5. Commercial sustainability models

Project Vidya Vahini portal provides the opportunity for schools, teachers and students all across the nation, to express and share their creative and academic potential via the internet. The portal further aims at creating such an environment by providing facilities for Content Development, Content Deployment and collaboration.

Further the mission of the project is to spread better education and uniform quality of education across India to develop the creativity

and problem solving skills of the Indians. Shiksha further strives to increase the earning capacity, reduce information arbitrage in rural India and promote entrepreneurship by providing computer literacy.

Shiksha India is also working in partnership with The Ministry of Information Technology in the project Vidya Vahini and Ministry of Human Resources under the CLASS scheme which aims to connect 60.000 schools (approximately 20 million students) across the country in next five years.

End Users/Beneficiaries: Populace

State where Implemented: Across India

### 2. Project Drishtee

Connecting India village by village.This project is also known as "WORLD AT A GLANCE" for the people who have been benefited yet by it. This project provides e-governance and provides facilities related to health, **education**, market related information, and private related exchange and transactions. Dristee offers its platform to any service provider who wishes to market its range of products to rural India by plugging its range of services offered at village level.

This provides scope for the rural people to sell their products at the market at highly beneficial prices such that they earn a maximized rate of return. It also provides social benefits like access to education and health care information. It is helping in reducing the migration of people from rural to urban areas.

Dristee is presently capable of enabling the creation of approximately 50,000 information kiosks all over India within a span of six yrs. These kiosks would be able to serve around 500 million people, with an aggregate discretionary purchasing power of Rs.100 billion in less than two yrs.

This communication backbone has been supplemented by a string of rural services for example:- avedan, land records, gram daak, gram haat(virtual village market), vaivahiki(matrimonial), shikhyat,etc.

this project at last provides employment to a large section of unemplyed population in the village. Around 45000 people have been employed till 2003 under this programme by the kiosks owners.

End Users/Beneficiaries: Rural and semi-urban people

State where Implemented: Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa

### OTHER E-GOVERNANCE PROJECTS:

1. Project Stamps and Registration Software:-
2. Project Setu :-
3. Project Fast - Transport Department Automated :-
5. Project Mudra :-
6. Project Bhoomi :-
7. Project E-Seva (Electronic Seva)
8. Project Lok Mitra :-
10. Project Arakshi :-

**CONCLUSION:** In spite of poor infrastructure, poverty, illiteracy, language dominance and all the other reasons. India has number of award winning e-governance projects. Effective promotion schemes by the Indian government will also a boosting factor to provide quality services to their citizens, which means there is huge potential for the development of e-governance in various sectors.

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