E-Governance in E-Administration

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ABSTRACT
Information Technology (IT) is said to be the technology of 21st century. There has been a huge growth in the field of information technology. Traditionally IT was used only to provide the back office support to organizations. Nowadays it plays a strategic role in organizations supporting many business functions and also shapes new strategies in organizations. The IT field has also been introduced in the field of governance called "E Governance". This IT based E governance has also been introduced in the field of education. The implementation of e governance in education has led to new broader innovations.
E governance has enabled universities to expand their current geographical reach, to interact to prospective students all around the world and to establish themselves as global education providers. This paper examines the need for implementation of e governance in education sector and its possible advantages. The aim of this paper is to examine the nature of change in Education with respect to the introduction and growth of IT based e governance.
Keywords: E governance, e learning, Information and communication, Education, Improved Education, E services, E Focus.

INTRODUCTION

The application of Information Technology (IT) is fairly widespread by now in India in the private sector. However, when it comes to public governance, India has been a laggard in the utilisation of IT. The common man has benefited from the e-governance measures implemented so far. Perhaps the best example in India of how e-governance can lead to order out of chaos and put paid to the machinations of the ungodly is the replacement of the old ballot system by electronic voting in elections. Despite these advantages, e-governance has not yet made much headway in government in India.

What is e-governance?

This is a brief introduction to the notion of `e-governance,' which the author defines as a set of technology-mediated processes that are changing both the delivery of public services and the broader interactions between citizens and government.

E-governance may be understood as the performance of this governance via the electronic medium in order to facilitate an efficient, speedy and transparent process of disseminating information to the public, and other agencies, and for performing government administration activities.

E-governance can bring forth new concepts of citizenship, both in terms of citizen needs and responsibilities. Its objective is to engage, enable and empower the citizen.

E – Administration: It involves the use of ICT (In-formation and Communication Technology) in order to improve administration processes and the internal working of the departments within a Educational organisation

E – Services: The main aim is to improve the delivery of services to students by providing interactive services. Some examples of interactive services are: requests for documents, requests for certificates, issuing admit cards and id cards.

E – Participation: It asks for greater and more active student, faculty and administration participation and involvement enabled by ICTs in the decision-making process

Looks into the future:

In particular, it considers whether information technology will simply support and amplify conventional classroom practice or whether it will have, in Brown's (2000) terminology, a "transformative" effect on the nature of the curriculum and pedagogy. It begins to explore how teachers will use technology in 2007 by imagining what the technology environment surrounding them will look like. The quality and power of technology will continue to increase to the point where it will be able to deliver practically anything that can now be imagined. Moreover, technological advances will make powerful computing tools available to almost everyone at affordable prices. Outside of schools, it can be expected that educational and training uses of information technology will be commonplace.

To better understand where the future of technology in education is headed, it is important to establish a baseline for changes by examining the advances over the last decade. This will leads to following advantages:

Student Access to and Use of Technology in Schools

Changes in curriculum, school organisation and administration

Integrate e-governance in education sector

Education and Technology

Improving education system

Monitoring academic performance

1. Student Access to and Use of Technology in Schools

Over the past decade, technology grants and donations from businesses, parents, and the government have led to the increasing presence of computers and the Internet in educational

institutions. Currently, In our country private schools with the financial support of the management and Government school with the help of new schmes for providing standardised education at par with International standards have computeriesed. This shows, at best, a crude measure of student access, however, because it includes schools that use computers solely for administrative purposes.

A more useful indicator is the percent of U.S. classrooms that have a computer designated for instructional use: In 1998, more than 75% of U.S. schools met this criterion (Education Week &c the Milken Exchange, 1998).

The last decade has also seen a significant increase in student access to the Internet in school. In 1998, 95% of schools had at least one computer connected to the Internet (NCES, 2000). Once again, this measure is crude; thus, it is important also to examine the percent of instructional rooms within which there is access to the Internet.

2. Changes in curriculum, school organisation and administration

Given that technologies appropriate role, is to support the achievement of main stream policy directions, and consider how well the school system itself is adjusting to change. One of the ways that the school system is beginning to address vocational need is to reshape the curriculum to provide a far broader mix of academic and vocational courses for all learners. This will involve greater cooperation between schools and the colleges of further and higher education, which have a specific remit to address essential skills shortages and to provide vocational education. There has also been a marked increase in the number of students taking 'business studies' as an optional programme of study at school and in the further education sector. Also understood is the notion that the development of an enterprise culture requires far greater attention to the place of creativity in learning, with a stronger recognition that this involves risk-taking and innovation.

3. Integrate e-governance in education sector

The studies in educational technology states that implementing e-governance in educational systems will enable effective monitoring of academic standards. The studies cite the example of M-Star[1] education expert system which has overhauled the infrastructure in schools and colleges across India, making the learning system more accountable.

4. Education and Technology

The Right to Education Act gives little importance for implementing e-governance in our education system and the education sector has remained relatively untouched by e-

governance before this Act. This is most distressing, considering that "education is the cornerstone of our efforts to build up the future generation".

5. Improving education system:

If the quantity and quality of output from our education system have to be substantially improved, then there is no alternative to introducing e-governance in this sphere. However, to be really effective, the e-governance system deployed will have to go beyond mere computerisation of records or processes.

It has to be able to provide the management of the educational institution information about, Why of a happening or a trend besides the What, When and where, so that adequate prophylactic action can be taken. It should be able to provide answers to queries like: Why is the performance of a class dropping in a particular subject? Why is a particularly bright student lagging in performance in the last two terms? Which teacher has produced the best consistent results for her class?

Then again, considering the paucity of funds in our state-aided educational institutions, an e-governance system which is inexpensive to install, simple to use, easy to maintain and can be conveniently expanded will be much more acceptable.

6. Monitoring academic performance

One such e-governance system for educational institutions — the M-Star Education Expert System — has been piloted in scores of schools in India. This system currently runs in a variety of schools and colleges in the country.

School software those are already working:

Automate Admission.

Manage Student Information Efficiently.

Manage Classes, Subjects according to requirements.

Maintain Transport Maintenance Management.

Maintain effectively Students & Staff Attendance.

Automate Library.

Staff Salary Generation & expenses Management.

Automate Examination Management System.

Maintain Grades, Create Grade Book.
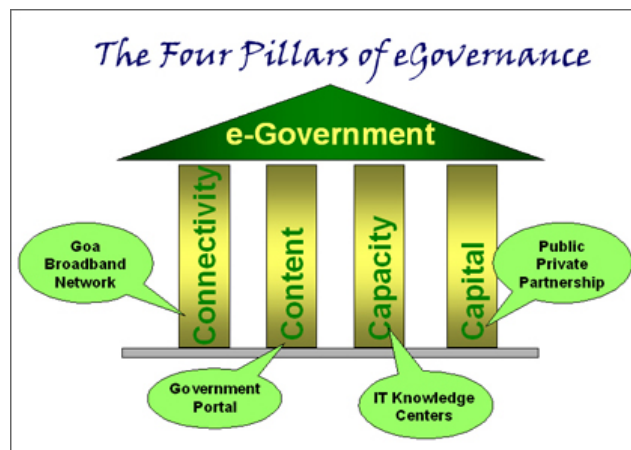
Analyze the Performance of a class.

Countless MIS Reports Generation.

Automate accounts and inventory (SAP).

Intranet Mail Service for all heads and Admin staff.

Internet and School Mail Id to heads and admin staff for Online Collaboration.

Grievance addressing of stack holders by using e-mail, SMS and telephonic service.

Improve Education System

If the quantity and quality of output from our education system have to be substantially improved, then there is no alternative to introducing e-governance in this sphere. However, to be really effective, the e-governance system deployed will have to go beyond mere computerisation of records or processes. It has to be able to provide the management of the educational institution information about the Why of a happening or a trend besides the What, When and where, so that adequate prophylactic action can be taken. It should be able to provide answers to queries

Like:

Why is the performance of a class dropping in a particular subject?

Why is a particularly bright student lagging in performance in the last two terms? Which teacher has produced the best consistent results for her class?

"If the Education Expert System gets linked to other national e-governance systems then the possibilities are endless".

E-Governance: Focus

- Greater attention to improve service delivery mechanism
- Enhancing the efficiency of production

- Emphasis upon the wider access of information

Endnotes

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