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Status of Good Governance in the State of Karnataka

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Abstract

Expenditure Management is critical to effective public service delivery, especially at the local government level. Leveraging on information systems to aid in expenditure management is viewed as an effective method in bringing about transparency and accountability in this process. Past research shows that there are a host of non-technological factors which determine the outcomes of information system implementations. This paper tries to outline these factors by understanding the phenomenon of public expenditure management which has been implemented through an Integrated Financial Management Information System in the southern Indian state of Karnataka –the paper also addresses implications for IFMIS implementation in developing countries in general. The research adopted an interpretative case study approach to study the phenomenon. The theoretical lens used was a combination of actor-network theory and control theory. The analysis shows that in a context where accountability relationships are not well-defined, the absence of control mechanisms leads to instability of networks of stakeholders. Further, the analysis also consistently highlights the importance of alignment of interests of local stakeholders – in a federal, decentralized context like that of India.

Keywords: *Public Expenditure Management, IFMIS, local government, interpretive, Actor-network theory, Control theory*

Introduction: The management reorientation is leading towards the domain of public administration aiming to achieve economy effectiveness in development .in view of global development phenomena. Our approach has been trimmed up towards holistic orientation entailing economics aspects. Political agencies and social entities. The current development parading is itching towards strengthening the qualities of accountability responsiveness are gaining irreversible good grounding in the new fangled development patter across the globe. Thinking of development has ushered in various corposants of developments and without which development cannot progress and that made us to realize the importance of human capacities and conducive environment and ago\its role in upholding human lignin and reality. This new development paradigm therefore demands not only structural changes human orientation but also compels the dispensation to rigorously employ contretemps suitable strategies. Sustainable human development and good governance. Good Governance.

Kautilya across his treatise ‘*Arthasastra delineated*’ the traits for the king of a good governance state as "in the happiness of his subjects lies his happiness, in their welfare his welfare, whatever pleases himself, he does not consider as good, but whatever pleases his subjects he considers as good" (Sharma, L.N. and Sushmita Sharma, 1998). Plato is credited with developing the concept of the

philosopher king as the ideal ruler Aristotle was perhaps the first political thinker to deal with the term "governance", when he classified constitution by indicating the manner in which they were ruled by a kind of numerical court of rule by one (dictatorship), a few (autocracy), or many (democracy) (*Sinclair, 1962*).

Kautilya mentions the following few prerequisites of good governance;-
Merge his individuality with his duties.

Guide administration

Avoid extremes without missing the goal.

Lead a disciplined life with a code of conduct.

Pay fixed salaries and other allowances.

Maintain law and order

Stress on *lekhaks* (writers)

Carry out preventive / punitive measures against corrupt officials.

Replace bad administrators by good ones

Emulate administrative qualities.

The World Bank in its report on *Governance and Development 1992 defined* governance as the manner in which power is used in the management of a country's economic and social aspects for development. The bank realized that "good governance is central to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong and equitable development and it is an essential complement to sound economic policies. It has defined good governance as the one epitomized by predictable, open, and enlightened policy making, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos acting in furtherance" of the public good, the rule of law, transparent process and a strong civil society for public affairs. Whereas Poor governance is characterized by arbitrary policy making, unaccountable bureaucracies, unjust legal, system a civil society paring in public life and widespread corruption. It identified the following three glancing aspects of good governance.

The form and nature of the political regions, military or civil, parliamentary or presidential, or democratic. The manner in which authority is exercised in the processing of a country's economic and social resources for sustainable development.

The capability of governments to design, and formulate and implement policies.

The characteristics of good governance lay down by UNDP are as follows.

1. Participation,
2. Rule of Law,
3. Transparency,
4. Responsiveness,
5. Consensus Orientation,
6. Equity,
7. Effectiveness and Efficiency
8. Accountability and
9. Strategic Vision.

E-Governance: In the rapidly changing scenario, e-governance has become necessary and also essential in a human system where people are the biggest beneficiaries in this context, the Union Ministry of Information Technology has made a number of initiatives, including the setting up of a center for e-governance at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which will cater to a forum for government

officials, legislators, industry, and other key players to come together to discuss and explore issues of common concern.

Some of the for e-governance are as follows:

1. Develop a system for unremitting of information between offices both at the center as the states.
2. Set-up specific communication networks among the government sectors.
3. Assist central and state governments in identification and implementation of suitable hardware and software packages for e- governance.
4. Establishing links worldwide, for interchange of ideas and experiences.
5. Develop special pilot projects through the use of the web and internet technology.
6. Build convergence into connected services delivery programmes related to citizen devices.
7. Develop commercial and governmental systems for issues and managing signatures / electronic signatures and smart cards.
8. Find out/ Identify measures for suitable protection of data with all security measures.
9. Establish Industry Consultative Committees (ICC), Citizen Consultative Committees (CCC), Ministries Consultative Committees (MCC) to provide a forum to various users, implementation groups and organizations to contribute towards the 25 percent goal.

The e-government solution strongly supports digitization of government administration through network technology and security technology to meet the needs of the people providing services and those receiving them. As the internet spreads throughout the society, operations such as e-applications and e-procurement become common place. Internet access is thus a central to the e-government efficiency. Strategies for Reach out to people Reaching out to the people in respect of making the masses literate about functioning of government in a quaint fashion, is little a difficult task. However, creation of awareness among general masses about the aforesaid compels the dispensation to long a greater emphasis on introducing software and hardware technology at the school level, especially from the elementary education (Computer Education). The biggest challenge for this is making personal computers (PCS) available at an at dirt cheap price. The Hardware Vision 2005 Plan envisages PC reaching 26 per 1000 people by 2005 from the present 6 per 1000. According to a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) paper, the best way of achieving this would be to go local in terms of local needs, local problems, local solutions and local contents while making PCs affordable after Government and business establishments, schools would be the Titanic consumers of PCs. The CII estimated that 18 million PCs will be needed at the rate of 20 sets in all mnc lakh schools in the country. However the price should have to be brought down to below Rs.15, 000 per computer to make more affordable.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Government of India have agreed to participatory exercise in one year project to install the media laboratory Asia, as an independent, non-profit organization. MIT decides to explore the technology to bring the cutting edge benefits of the most sophisticated conspicuous technologies to the daily problems of India's poorest and 404uasc people. The Media Lab-Asia in collaboration with IIT, Mumbai has also under taken an agro explorer programmed to farmers to benefit from various relevant information. The Ministry of Information Technology is very sensitive to the problem of language barrier and MIT therefore introduced a scheme of languages couples the scheme becomes get worked out, it will certainly e m p o w e r the masses. This strategy no doubt would be water shed in the development of good governance Karnataka breaks new grounds in IT strategies

The IT of Karnataka aims to offer direct citizen interface, non human resources plus connectivity and improve the efficiency of government officials. IT has been introduced in the following areas.

Local Area Network (LAN): This LAN envisages the computerization of all secretariat departments. It enables citizens to families themselves with the status of their file and the number of days the file takes to be cleared at various stages. It is a pragmatic step in proffering good governance to the citizens.

Khajane: This is huge project under taken at the loss of Rs. 45 crores is almost tailored for implementation. This system keeps accounts of all payments of the state, which amounts to approximately Rs.24, 000 crores a year. This system makes payments to 6 lakh employees, 3 lakh pensioners, 13 lakh aged, widowed and handicapped pensioners. All The accounts, available, real time, are stored in data centers in Bangalore and The STP is the in net work partner. The benefit of the project is the instant reconciliation of government accounts. The system also displays the money spent closes on all government schemes an over the state this enhances transparency and along with quality improvement.

Bhoomi and Nondani: Bhoomi project is computerizes states land records It targets cover 60 lakh farmers of 175 taluks. Operational in 12 sub-registration offices in Bangalore, it earns about 40 percent of the total revenue. This computerized registration is operating in 48 taluks of the state.

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This programme covers 225 training centers across the state run by reputed firms like Aptech, NIIT, SSI etc. The fees in the center are already reduced. The government offers subsidy of Rs.1500 for every three month course. A maximum subsidy of Rs.4500 is given for a six month course. The programme has decided to train over 1, 00, 000 rural youths in a year. More than 100 centers are operational in the state at present.

E-Lottery: The government has floated a tender to set up 10,000 terminals all over the state. Apart from this electronic lottery the kiosks could made to disseminate other public information.

Mukhya Vahini: This is Chief Ministers decision to support this system. Currently trails the C.M.S. instructions, the project agreed upon in the Global Investor meet, the constituency management system, summarized data regarding major projects in health, housing, and other social sector schemes. Number of modules is already in use.

Common Entrance Test: Karnataka has multitude institutions of higher education and invites students from other Indian states and also from overseas. State conducts the common entrance test. On yearly basis Over 1, 50,000 students take the exams and around 50 percent are from across the nation the admission process is absolutely transparent. The number of students from outside the state participate in large number shows the credibility in the local administration. Before computerization, the process attracted many questions from elected representatives and a lot of litigation. Now the system is so transparent that it has rid itself of both. Before the ad event of imputer the sates dispensation would pace embracing situation and litigation. Today all that has gone.

Other Initiatives: The Commercial Tax Department keeps tabs on check post entries. Information about movement of goods is automatically put in the dealers assessment file. In terms of tax collection, the state is one of the best in India. The Insurance Department uses computers to track all the government vehicle insurance details. Police salary bills are computerized. The irrigation department has a major project on e-tendering and e-procurement. Silk trading exchange in Karnataka has been computerized since 1985. thus the state has hungry benefited from the huge computerization process in the state.

Conclusion

E-governance is all about good governance and every government is must to provide good governance to its citizens. Citizens demand excellence in governance, high quality of governmental services delivered on time and minimum costs. They want government to be closer to the

citizens. The nature of science has changed from procedure orientation to science orientation. Government should try to give up ruling attitude and adopt siring attitude towards citizens. Politics and pragmatic has of technology would no doubts go a long way to realize resents to good governance. The proper use of technology and its connectivity with a view to enhance proximity would yield vibrant results in respect of human development and facilitates governments to deliver services at ease. The development paradigm of 21st century lays steers on information to be a power, if that is so then the citizens and governing dispensation should be made empowered to use and realize benefits' development.

IT based more than others, it is the limiters who should be lettered on government policies procedures and schemes and other govt/ official pronouncements to drive a way the glittering benefits of IT and its effective has reducing ohztnance and promoting proximity.

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