

Prospects and Problems in Implementation of Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj

(With reference to Dhule District)

Mr. Manoj B. Patel,

Prof. Dr. Mangala A. Sabadra

Abstract: The Panchayat Raj System is backbone of Indian governance to reach up to villages and to have an active participation of citizens in governance. The Panchayat Raj Institutions in India started functioning manually. As per 13th Vitta Aayog, the computer system and necessary setup are provided in every Gram Panchayat. Still the problems of availability of electricity, power backup, internet connectivity, training etc. are to be faced.

The implementation of Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj will facilitate citizens for easy and fast accessing of documents and information. This will save the time and money spend to visit office at taluka & District levels from villages. Mobile Information System will also facilitate employees for easy & fast working without affecting their geographical location. It will reduce the budget of government by reducing the cost of Computer Hardware & Software, Infrastructure setup, Electricity and Maintenance. It will provide portability, reduce the time lags of office works and will bring transparency in the process. However it is a challenge to implement Mobile Information System in Dhule district, hence a study is done to find out the prospectus and problems in implementation.

Keywords: Panchayat Raj system, Mobile Information System

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PANCHAYAT RAJ

Panchayat Raj has been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of recorded history. Gandhiji, the father of the nation, in 1946 had aptly remarked that the Indian Independence must begin at the bottom and every village ought to be a Republic or Panchayat having powers. Gandhiji's dream has been translated into reality with the introduction of three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction. Panchayat Raj System works at 3- Levels, Zilla Parishad at District Level, Panchayat Samiti at Taluka Level & Gram Panchayat at Village Level.

Zilla Parishad (commonly known as ZP), is a local government body at the district level in India. It looks after the administration of the rural area of the district and its office is located at the district headquarters. A block Panchayat (Panchayat Samiti) is a local government body at the tehsils or Taluka level in India. It works for the villages of the Tehsils or Taluka that together are called a Development Block. The panchayat samiti is the link between the gram panchayat and the district administration. Various departments under Panchayat Raj System are; Agriculture, Education, Health,

Building & Construction, Social Welfare, Information & Technology, Finance etc.

The Gram Panchayat is the foundation of the Panchayat Raj System. A Gram Panchayat can be set up in villages with a population of more than five hundred. There is a common Gram Panchayat for two or more villages if the population of these villages is less than five hundred. It is called Group-Gram Panchayat.

1.2 MOBILE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mobile Information System can be defined as "Any transaction, involving the transfer of ownership or rights to use goods and services, which is initiated and/or completed by using mobile access to computer-mediated networks with the help of an electronic device".

Mobile Information System relies on good back office ICT infrastructure and work processes. It has potential of using mobile phones as input devices in certain areas where last mile connectivity becomes issues for simple data inputs of critical importance for decision making

Now a day's use of mobile phones is not limited only upto Communication media, but it is used in many fields for various purposes. Some of the application areas of Mobile Information System are, - Banking, News, Ticketing,

Procurement, Information Services, Education, Mobile Marketing, Entertainment, Astrology, Mobile Shopping, Sports, Health Management, In Police department works, whether forecasting, Agriculture field, Home Automation & Security through Mobiles etc. Mobile Information System is helpful to increase channels for public interactions and low costs leading to higher participation of people.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Though by the 13th Vitta Aayog, computers are provided to Gram Panchayat, still the certain problem with computerization exists, like availability of electricity, necessary infrastructure, fear about using computers, training etc. To overcome these problems Mobile Information System is suggested.

“Implementation of Mobile Information System in Dhule District in Panchayat Raj System is a challenge.

3. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

To study the Prospects and Problems of implementing Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj. (with special reference to Dhule District).

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. A survey of 100 employees of Panchayat Raj System is done, who are already using computers for the office works. The primary data was collected by filling questionnaire and meeting with employees of Panchayat raj system.

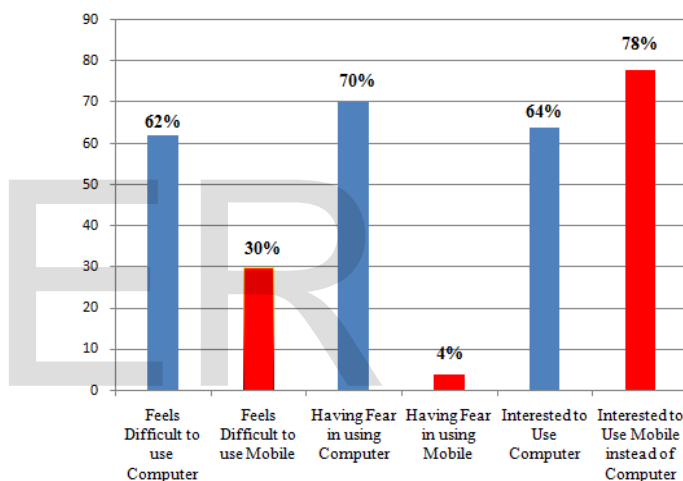
Whereas the secondary data is collected from Government Reports, other research papers and from various websites.

Sample size is 100.

5. PROSPECTS

- Mobile Information System is user friendly than Computers, hence employees will adopt easily the mobile phones for office works.
- Employees of the Panchayat raj system are already using the mobile phones, not all the employees have the smart phones but they are aware about the using mobile phones.

- Unlike computerization of the system, there is no need of providing individual Computer System for every employee.
- As the Literacy of Population of dhule district is 72.80% (As per census 2011), is will be helpful in adaptation of mobile information system.
- No need to provide separate Hardware setup for each employee and at each office.
- Need to develop only Mobile Applications, instead of Software.
- No need of special Infrastructure facilities which are required for computer system.
- Considering the expenses of computer system and necessary setup, Mobile Information System will be Cost effective than computers.



Comparison about Computer & Mobile Phone

6. PROBLEMS

- Mobile network coverage in the rural and remote areas of tribal district.
- Need to provide Compatible Mobile Handset to employees of the system.
- Continuous training of using Mobile Applications developed for office works; should be given to employees unless they are confident about using mobiles.
- Compatible Software & Applications are to be developed for the existing processes.
- English Language of the mobile applications and software will be a barrier for using mobile phones for office works.

Total	Using Computers	Feels Difficult to use Computer	Having Fear in using Computer	Interested to Use Computer
ZP-E	50	24	29	36
PS-E	30	20	24	18
GP-E	20	18	17	10
Percent	100 %	62 %	70 %	64 %

ZP-E: Zilla Parishad Employee, PS-E : Panchayat Samiti Employee

GP-E : Gram Panchayat Employee

Table1. Survey of employees about Computer usage

Total	Feels Difficult to use Mobile	Having Fear in using Mobile	Interested to Use Mobile instead of Computers	Using Internet on Mobile
ZP-E-50	8	0	41	44
PS-E-30	10	1	26	24
GP-E-20	12	3	11	14
Percent	30 %	4 %	78 %	82 %

ZP-E: Zilla Parishad Employee, PS-E : Panchayat Samiti Employee

GP-E : Gram Panchayat Employee

Table2. Survey of employees about Mobile usage

7. FINDINGS

To find out the responses of employees, a survey of employees using computers for office works is done. The questionnaire was distributed and from that data analysis is done. The questionnaire was bifurcated in two categories of questions - One focusing on the use of computer system and other focused on the use of Mobile Phones. After analysis it is found that 62% of the employees feels it difficult to use computers, 70% employees are having fear about using computers and 64% employees are interested to use computer system.

From the analysis of second section of questionnaire, 82% employees are using internet on mobile phones, Only 30% of the employees feels it difficult to use mobile phones, only 4% employees have fear of using mobile phones and 78% employees are interested to use mobile phones for office works.

Overall response is in favour of using mobile phones for office works.

8. CONCLUSION

With increasing Mobile awareness, user friendliness and employee's willingness for using mobile phones in office works, it is easy to adopt Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj. It will be also get positive response from citizens, as the literacy ration is 72.80%. Economically it will be a cost effective to use Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj System.

Whereas, with the issues like Mobile network coverage, compatible mobile handset, necessary applications and training; it will be difficult to implement Mobile Information System in Panchayat Raj.

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