

E-government initiatives in Pakistan

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Abstract:

Pakistan is in its initial stages of development (country per capita income is less than USD 500). Large fraction of Pakistani populace to date is still deprived of digital opportunities for their economical and social development.

ICTs specifically the internet have catalyzed social and economic uplift of populations in the growing economies of the world.

The study entails the in-depth information of the e-Governance initiatives in Pakistan, transformation from the problem domain to the solution space.

Introduction:

In 1995 Internet emerged in Pakistan. At that time only few large cities on Pakistan were connected through the internet and the internet user population was as small as few hundred users. However now, in year 2007 the same has been increased more than 10 times of its inception. The internet access has now been made available to about 800 cities while the total number of internet users is now reached to about 10 million.

Major reason of this significant jump in development of internet infrastructure is because now the government of Pakistan solemnly taking concrete measures to connect even the remotest areas of the country with the Internet access.

Not only is the government building Internet infrastructure in the country but is also developing opportunities to make information regarding government, private, corporate sectors, etc easily accessible to its population through internet.

E-Governance Initiatives:

Pakistan's IT policy for the year 2003 now includes an independent clause advocating to commission an E-government body within the Ministry of IT build digital solution in-order to digitize information and disseminate it publicly.

This presentation will explain the steps taken by Pakistan's E-Government directorate. The presentation will discuss in detail large number of E-Governance projects that have been mandated by the public sector and outsourced to the local software development units.

Prime initiatives taken in this regard are the development of information portals like

- Records digitization
- e-Archiving
- Web archive management
- Portal seminars

Specifically, these include

- 1) Punjab Province web portal.
- 2) Land Record Management Information Systems.
- 3) Prison Management Information Systems.
- 4) Computerization of Arms Licenses and many more.

Some of these web portals are online while some of these are still under development but already sanctioned by the government to the software development companies.

Objective for the execution of these projects is to utilize Internet for improving the services to common man. They would provide a single entry point of information both for public as well as government. These steps are also advancement towards public private partnerships as vendors are believed to be partners in the development cycle.

In the end I will provide some of the suggestions and lesson learned from our experience for this e-Governance initiative to the developing and under developed countries.

References:

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