Challenges of Digital India Programme in Karunabari Block of Lakhimpur District of Assam

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Abstract:Government of India launched a flagship programme of Digital India. The main goal of the scheme is to build India digitally empowered in technology. It is also ensure that government services are enjoyable by the citizens electronically by developing online infrastructure as well as internet connectivity. The dream of digital India is the development in the field of including electronics services, products, manufacturing and job oriented schemes etc. Digital technologies including mobile application and cloud computing is causes a significant role in swift development for economic enlargement and digitally empowered Indian citizen across the world. This paper overviews the concept of Digital India and specially the challenges faced by the rural society. A field survey was done in Karunabari block for this purpose.

Key Words: Digital India, concept, benefits of digital India scheme, Challenges in Karunabari block etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

A pioneer step concerning the digital India is to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. It has been introduced for the first time by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 July 2015. It has three essential factors- Universal digital literacy, Delivering government services digitally and Development of secure and stable Digital Infrastructure [1, 2]. In this era of digitalization when uses of technologies growing day-by-day in daily. It provides the facility to connect with each other and sharing the information and transactions between individuals to individuals, individuals between stakeholders and individuals between governments. There are few lines about digital India said by *Shri Narendra Modi* (Hon'ble Prime Minister of India) and *Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad* (Hon'ble Minister of Communications & IT Government of India).

1. "E-Governance is an essential part of our dream of *Digital India*, the more technology we infuse in Governance, the better it is for India"- **Shri Narendra Modi.**
2. "Digital India is more for the poor and underprivileged. It aims to *bridge the gap between the digital haves and have-nots by using technology for citizen*"- **Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**.

Digital India is a vision scheme of government of India. The purpose is to impart the government services to Indian citizens digitally and connects rural area with internet so that people get advantages of all government services and can also improve their digital literacy.

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Government of India wants to synchronize with common public by connecting digitally so that they can become digitally strengthened society. Individuals should ascertain to use of digital technology in daily life including communication, transaction, business and many other daily work.

With the help of Digital technology peoples can administer daily works and shares information in far better and graceless way.

The term "Digital India" speaks so much about itself. Digital India endorsement is an initiative to renovate India into a digitally empowered country and knowledge economy [1, 3, 4, 5, 6].

"Digital India" as term characterized something which is offer digitally using Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and contributing to improve growth in employment, economy and productivity. The vision of this scheme is to digitally empowered India and the motive is to say "Digital India: Power to Empower". It will able to give the facility for electronic manufacturing on a broad scale to match the increasing needs of the country [7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. It also guarantees that government services benefited by each and every Indian citizens so that attained a long-durable development in the country [1].

Aim of digital India is to bring together several existing schemes and modernized them. These schemes also need brought into focus and implemented into co-ordinate way. Many existing programmes only required process improvement with less cost effect. In this context DeitY has already provide a stage to make easier joint and participative governance named as **"MyGov"**. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is an organization which implements the National Optical Fibre Network project having charge of constructions Digital India projects. BBNL place an order to United Telecoms Limited to connect villages (250,000) through Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) to ensure Fibre to the Home (FTTH) based broadband. This is the basic step towards achieving concept of Digital India and expected that it completed by 2017 [1, 10, 12, 13].

Objectives

1. To discuss conceptual framework of Digital India.
2. To discuss the advantages of Digital India.
3. To discuss the challenges of Digital India in rural areas.

II. Research Methodology and Materials

In preparation of the paper descriptive, analytical and empirical methods have been used based on both primary and secondary sources.

Primary data's are collected by field investigation with the help of well designed schedule of questionnaires and secondary data's collected from different journal articles, news papers and web links.

III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

According to the report India's Telecom network is second largest in the world after China[22].
The country has 97.01 million telephone connection including 944.01 million of wireless telephone connections. Overall tele-density in the country is 77.59%. Urban tele-density is 147.75% where as rural tele-density is 46.14%. The share of wireless telephones is 97.22%. The share of private sector in total telephones is 89.15% number of broadband connections[22].

In a short span, digital India has enabled the roll-out of many new programmes and products, including the entire spectrum of e-governance in the country[23].

IV. BENEFITS OF DIGITAL INDIA

Digital connectivity is a growing concept to attach with peoples across demographic and socio-economic sectors. Digital India program guarantees to refurbish India into digitally empowered country by stressing digital literacy, providing digital resources, and combining digital platforms. To provide accessibility of digital resources for citizens is a pledge of Digital India programme. For example, the program is to give accessibility of phones, tablets and computers for those who are visual or hearing mutilations (either partial or complete) learning or cognitive disabilities or physical disabilities etc. [1, 2, 11].

e-Saadhya: Center for Development of Advanced Computing(CDAC) Bangalore with CDAC Hyderabad, implemented Adaptable e-Learning Accessibility Model for the Disabled. It is an education framework for those children with autism and mild mental retardation [1, 2]. Government of India is planning to produce 28,000 Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) jobs in various states and one Common Service Centre (CSC) in each of the gram panchayat in the state. India is seen the uprisings of the digital generation against established traditions. The purpose of digital India is changing travelling the paths of both rural and urban India with overwhelmingly shaping the lives of every citizen to make a new India which is digitally empowered knowledge economy [1, 17, 19].

In India digital literacy is about 6.5% and internet services accessibility was about 20.83% out of 100 people. After Digital India come into the existence high speed networks provides internet accessibility and mobile transactions to the peoples. In addition to rural areas healthcare services and education facility is upgrading day by day. It is also offers a platform to Indian farmers (E-farming) so that they can select best crop according to weather, plant protection and marketing information etc. [1, 5,]. In addition there are many other services which are helpful for the Indian society.

Is All Portion of India be Ready to Digital: Examining in Karunabari Block

Karunabari Block is an administrative block of Lakhimpur district of Assam, India. Karunabari Block is consists of Bongalmora, Barchala Mahghuli Pandhuwa, Dakhin Laluk, Dikrong, Harmati, Niz Laluk, Pabha,

Tinthengia, Uttar Laluk and Yubonagar Gram Panchayats. According to the 2011 census total population of Karunabari block is 1,50,684. Total male population of the block is 76,546 and female is 68,199. Schedule Tribe and Schedule Caste population of the block is 11,105 and 7,963 respectively[21].

Karunabari block is a peaceful area with inhabitants of different communities- Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Many ethnic groups like- Mising, Deori, Kacharis etc. are living harmoniously in the block. Maximum of them are economically backward and poor. Unemployment is a major problem of people in the block[21].

The paper is an attempt analyzes the Challenges of Digital India programme in Karunabari Block. A total of 125 respondents are taken interview with well designed questionnaires to enquiry the implementation of Digital India programme. After examination following results are found-
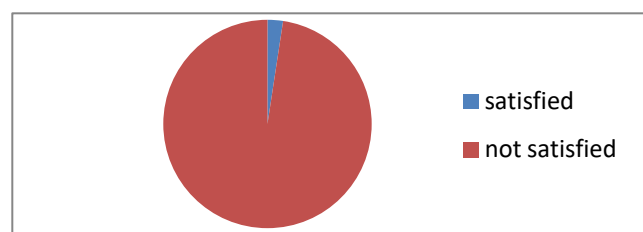
1. Electricity Problem

The Indian government says it has reached a key milestone: Every one of country's 600,000 villages now access to electricity. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said on twitter, *"I am delighted that every single villages of India now has access to electricity"[19].*

Yet expert says that millions of Indian remains in the dark. "***In reality, a large chunk of the population still lacks reliable access to power***", said **Shilan Shah**, a senior Indian economist at Capital Economics. For those that are connected, there is also the significant issue of reliability of supply[19].

Karunabari block is not an exception to it. It is found that although electricity infrastructure is available to the villages of the block but power supply is not sufficient. In the chart -1, it is mentioned that, out of the total respondents 97.6% of respondents said that they are not satisfied with power supply. Rest of 2.4 % satisfied with the electricity supply. They have to remain in dark up to 15-18 hours every day. This is major challenge in enjoying digital accessibility.
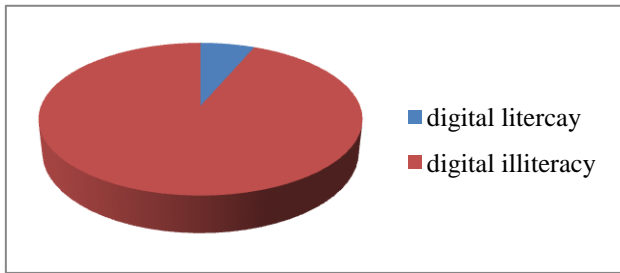
Chart-1: Percentage of Electricity Problem

Electricity Issue: Karunabari Block

1. Digital illiteracy

Digital illiteracy is also major problem in succeed of Digital India programme in the Karunabari block. It is also found that though more than 90% of households have internet accessible smart phones and only 6.4% people can take the digital services. Remaining 93.6 percent of people don't know how to take the digital services.
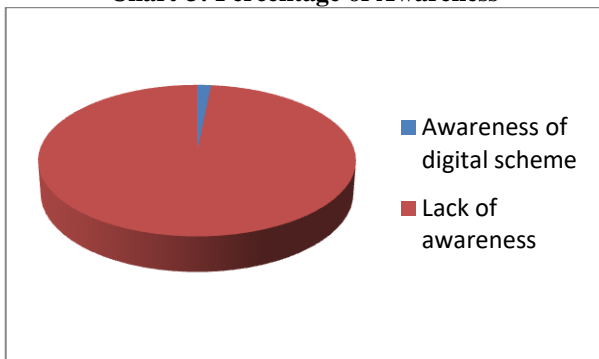
Chart-2: Percentage of Digital Literacy

Digital Literacy Issue: Karunabari Block

2. Lack of Awareness

Digitalization which is the need to today's world is the result of innovation and technological advances. Each and every country is aiming to attain digitalization to empower society in a better way. Digital India is a flagship programme launched by the Government of India to transform India in a digitally strengthened and knowledge economy.
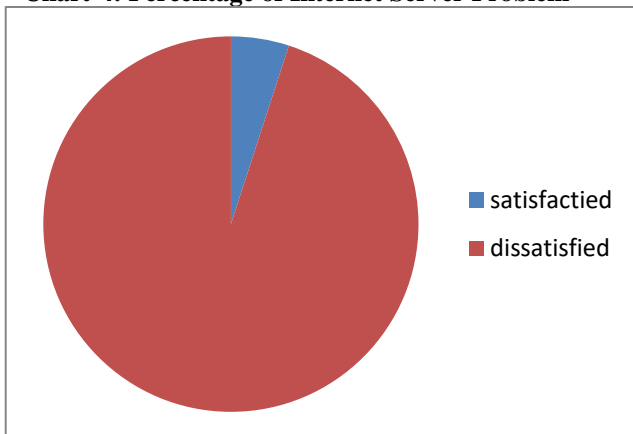
Chart-3: Percentage of Awareness

Lack of Awareness: Karunabri Block

This drive came as a dream programme of Indian government to remodel India digitally. This goal would be very difficult to achieve unless there is awareness amongst the people[20]. In the chart-3 it is resulted that 98.4% of total respondents are not aware about the digital services provided by the government and they don't have knowledge of digital service concept. Remaining 1.6%, basically from young generation aware about some digital schemes, which is very unsatisfactory for implementation of Digital India Scheme.

Chart-4: Percentage of Internet Server Problem

Internet server problem: Karunabari Block

3. Internet server problem

Internet server problem is a major challenge in achieving the aim of Digital India programme in Karunabri block of

Assam. All the villages of the block have common internet server problem. In addition voice network service also not sufficient in the villages of the block. In the chart-4, it is shown that more than 95% of respondents are facing same network service problem in voice calling. Rest of 5% are not getting network problem as they live near the network tower. It is seen that majority of people facing common internet server problem which is major challenge of digital India scheme in Karunabari Block.

V.   CONCLUSION

Digital India innovatives of Government of India has certain prospects due to digitalization e-governance services to citizen maintain transparency, prevention of corruption, record maintenance at affordable cost with effectiveness. There are good number of facilities in terms of agriculture, banking, finance, insurance and service of health care. ICT integration of all these sectors with partners guarantees the special sectorial benefits of digitalization of digitalization. Employment opportunities to youth in IT and ITES in customer relationship management, enterprise resource planning, product development, cloud computing storage services, mobile application development and data analytics boost the income level contributes GDP. If India able to eradicate all the challenges in rural as well as urban areas in implementation of Digital India scheme then India definitely transform from developing nation to developed nation with knowledge economy.

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