



Bridging Gaps in Indian Federalism: The Role of IT in Promoting Accountability

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ABSTRACT:

Federalism is a type of government in which power is split between the center and its parts, like states or provinces. It is an institutional way to deal with two types of politics: one at the national or central level and the other at the provincial or regional level. Information Technology not only helps the country's economy grow, but it has also made government more responsive and efficient. In recent years, information technology has played a big part in making Indian federalism stronger. The Indian government has been able to improve communication and coordination between the central and state governments thanks to the rapid progress of technology. This has led to better implementation of policies and programs. Digital platforms have made it easier to share data and resources, which has led to more openness and responsibility. The Indian government has used IT to start a number of e-governance projects that make it easier for people to get to public services and information. IT has also made it possible for the central and state governments to share resources and information, which has led to better policy making and implementation. E-governance projects have also helped speed up the bureaucratic process and made it easier for people to get government services. Also, using technology has helped keep an eye on how different departments are doing their jobs and has gotten more people involved in making decisions. IT has a good effect on Indian federalism because it makes the government easier to reach, more efficient, and more accountable to the people.

In conclusion, IT is very important for the future of Indian federalism. The government needs to keep putting money into building IT infrastructure and services. It also needs to deal with the problems that technology brings up, like data privacy and security.

Keywords: Federalism, Citizen empowerment, E-governance, Digital India

Introduction

Information Technology (IT) is very important for India's federalism because it helps the central and state governments talk to and work with each other. IT tools and platforms make administrative tasks easier, make things more clear, and give people access to government services and information. IT has also made it easier for different levels of government to work together, which has led to better decisions and better implementation of policies. The government has been putting money into digital services and infrastructure, such as creating e-governance portals, digital platforms for collecting taxes, and online delivery of public services. The goal of these efforts is to create a more efficient and inclusive system of government that can better meet the needs of India's diverse population.

Information technology (IT) has become an important part of how Indian federalism will look in the future. The growth of technology and its growing impact on society over the past few decades have changed how governments work and how they interact with citizens. This review paper will analyze the role of IT in enhancing Indian federalism and evaluate its effects on various dimensions of governance.

Impact of IT on Indian Federalism

The way that the central and state governments work together and talk to each other has changed a lot in India in the last few years because of information technology (IT). Some of the most important ways that IT has changed Indian federalism are:

Improved transparency

Information technology has made Indian federalism much more open by letting people see government information and services. This has been made possible by the creation of e-governance portals, which let people get information and services from all levels of government in one place. This has made it easier for people to get government information, keep an eye on the status of their applications, and keep an eye on how well their elected officials are doing. IT has also made it possible to digitize government records, which has made it easier to store, access, and manage government data. Digital platforms and online databases have made it easier for people to get information and made it easier for the central and state governments to talk to each

other. This has helped cut down on corruption and make public services work better.

Increase accountability

IT has also had a big effect on how accountable Indian federalism is. Digital tools make it easier for the government to keep an eye on the work of public officials and make sure they are following the rules and procedures that are already in place. For example, digital platforms for collecting taxes have made it easier for the government to keep track of how much money it is collecting and make sure that public funds are being used wisely. Also, the fact that public services can now be delivered online has made it easier for people to get government services and for the government to keep track of and measure how well these services are being delivered. Also, the growth of IT has given people more power and a bigger say in the democratic process. Technology has made it easier for people to get information and have a bigger say in making decisions, which has led to more public involvement and better accountability.

Inter-state coordination

IT has also been very important in making it easier for states to work together and coordinate. Because so many people use technology, it's now easier for government agencies to share data and information. This leads to better decisions and lower costs for running the government. Digital platforms and online databases have made it easier for states to work together and coordinate their efforts, which has led to better decision-making and lower administrative costs. Digital platforms have also made it possible for the central and state governments to work together to deal with national emergencies and crises, like natural disasters and pandemics.

Citizen empowerment

IT Citizen empowerment can greatly improve Indian federalism by making it easier for people to take part in the democratic process and holding the government more responsible to the people. IT can help people get information and services, make it easier for them to work with the government, and make government operations more open and efficient. The Indian government can make the federal structure stronger by using technology to give people more power and encourage a more decentralized and participatory style of government. IT has provided citizens with greater access to information and enabled them to participate more effectively in the policymaking process, increasing public engagement and accountability.

E-governance initiatives

India is using e-governance projects to make government services better and make the country's federal system more open and accountable. The implementation of e-governance initiatives, such as the delivery of public services through digital platforms, has increased efficiency and reduced corruption in government operations. Some of the key initiatives include Digital India: A government initiative aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

National e-Governance Plan (NeGP): National E-Governance Plan (NEGP) is a long-term plan launched by the Government of India aimed at introducing e-governance in India at all levels of government. The plan was first launched in 2006 with the goal of providing all citizens with access to public services through a single-window system. The NEGP covers various e-governance initiatives and projects aimed at improving the delivery of government services, increasing transparency and accountability, and enhancing citizen engagement in the democratic process. The NEGP is divided into two phases: the first phase focuses on the development of infrastructure and the implementation of e-governance projects, while the second phase focuses on the integration of services and systems to provide a seamless experience for citizens.

Digital India: Launched in 2015, Digital India is a government program aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society. The program focuses on providing digital infrastructure, digital services, and digital literacy to citizens across the country. Digital India is a flagship initiative launched by the Government of India aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The initiative aims to provide digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically, and promote the inclusive growth of the country. The key components of Digital India include the creation of a digital infrastructure: This includes the development of high-speed internet networks, national optical fiber networks, and public Wi-Fi hotspots to ensure universal access to the internet.

National Broadband Plan: This plan aims to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all citizens, regardless of location, and to support the growth of the digital economy. The plan is expected to improve inter-state coordination and promote transparency and accountability.

National Portal of India: The National Portal of India is a single-point access to information and services provided by the Government of India. The portal provides a wide range of information and services related to various government departments, such as finance, health, education, and more. The portal also provides access to various forms, services, and information related to the Indian government, such as passport services, visa services, and more. The National Portal of India is designed to serve as a one-stop shop for citizens to access information and services related to the government, reducing the need for citizens to visit government offices in person. The portal is user-friendly, accessible, and easy to navigate, making it simple for citizens to find the information they need and complete transactions online.

E-District: A project aimed at providing citizens with access to government services at the district level through a single-window system. E-District is a project launched by the Government of India aimed at providing citizens with access to government services at the district level through a single-window system. The goal of the project is to simplify the delivery of services to citizens, increase transparency and efficiency in the government, and reduce corruption. The project covers various services such as birth and death certificates, income certificates, caste certificates, and more. The E-District project is being implemented in different states across India, with the aim of rolling it out to all districts in the country. Through this initiative, citizens can apply for and receive government services online, reducing the need for in-person visits to government offices, saving time and effort, and increasing access to services for those who are unable to travel.

E-Kranti: An initiative to transform the delivery of government services through the use of technology. E-Kranti is an initiative launched by the Government of India aimed at transforming the delivery of government services through the use of technology. The initiative is focused on improving the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of government services, while also reducing the burden on citizens to visit government offices in person. Under e-Kranti, various e- governance projects and initiatives are being implemented to streamline the delivery of services across different sectors, such as agriculture, education, health, finance, and more.

MyGov: A platform for citizens to participate in policy making and provide feedback to the government. MyGov is a platform launched by the Government of India for citizens to participate in policy making and provide feedback to the government. The platform provides a space for citizens to share their opinions and ideas on various issues and initiatives, and for the government to engage with citizens and receive feedback. MyGov also includes various features such as discussion forums, opinion polls, and task management tools for citizens to get involved in government initiatives. The goal of MyGov is to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in the democratic process. By providing a platform for citizens to share their opinions and ideas, the government can get a better understanding of the needs and concerns of its citizens, and use this information to make more informed decisions.

National Cyber security Policy: This policy, which was released in 2013, aims to secure India's cyberspace and protect citizens' privacy and security online. It also aims to promote inter-state coordination and improve collaboration between the central and state governments in addressing cyber threats.

Conclusion

In conclusion, information technology has played a critical role in Indian federalism by improving both transparency and accountability in the governance process. The increased transparency, interstate coordination, and citizen empowerment have all contributed to a more effective and efficient government. By providing citizens with access to government information and services and enabling the government to monitor and measure the performance of public officials, IT has helped to create a more efficient and effective governance system. The government should continue to invest in digital infrastructure and services to ensure that the benefits of IT are fully realised in Indian federalism. Overall, the impact of IT on Indian federalism has been largely positive. However, it is important to recognize that there are also challenges associated with the use of IT in governance, such as the need to ensure data privacy and security, and the risk of technology being used to reinforce existing inequalities.

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