

E-GOVERNANCE IN THE COMMISSIONERATE OF COLLEGE EDUCATION RAJASTHAN-AN ANALYSIS

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The National e-Governance Plan (2003-2007) of Indian Government seeks to lay the foundation and provide the impetus for long-term growth of e-Governance within the country. The state government of Rajasthan also established many projects to provide E-governance facilities for every citizen of state. Presently, many projects are ready to initiate in various departments. On the basis of interface between various government officers, faculty members in the Commissionerate of College Education on e-governance the results have been presented. The rationale of this study can be authenticated as under:

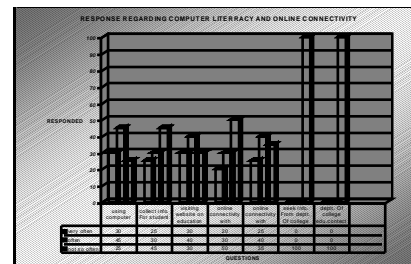
1. To explain the concept of E-governance and agenda of the central government for E-governance in various Ministries/Departments. 2. To highlight few glimpses of e-governance performance in India and Rajasthan in particular. 3. To understand the structure, procedure and functions of The Commissionerate of College Education. 4. To study the use of E-technology in The Commissionerate of College Education. 5. To assess the impacts and impediments in College Education, which are projected in our study result. 6. To identify the thrust areas of intended interventions.

The Commissionerate of College Education was set up in 1958 for the administration and development of higher education in the Rajasthan State. In 1958 there were only 40 Colleges (24 Government, 13 Aided And 03 Unaided) under the Control of the Commissionerate. The Commissionerate is working under the control and administration of the Commissioner of College Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur. The Commissionerate helps the colleges in obtaining development grants from the U.G.C. and also helps in implementing programmes like N.S.S., Scouting, Youth Programmers etc. It also provides grants for organization of the academic conferences and seminars. The deputation to refresher courses and other academic programmes is also done by the Commissionerate. The Commissionerate is having six zonal offices situated at Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota and Jaipur. The Commissionerate has 27 officers and deal with (a) UGC (b) 11 Universities (General Education) (c) 4 Deemed Universities (d) 120 Government Colleges (e) 700 Private Colleges. (f) 71

Aided Colleges. The Principal Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Asst. Secretary and one OSD are administering Department of Higher Education at Secretariat level.

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS-A set of questionnaire containing 25 questions related to different aspects of e-governance was given to the faculty to comprehend the intricacies of role of e-connectivity in improving the quality of education and also in making it more interactive. The research sample included 100 faculty members from various Universities in Rajasthan, which is often considered as a backward State. The basic issues highlighted in the questionnaire can be divided into following heads:

- a. Computer literacy and online connectivity
 - b. Awareness about e- governance
 - c. Impact of e-governance on college education.
 - d. Opinion Based Analysis
- (a.) Computer literacy and Online connectivity

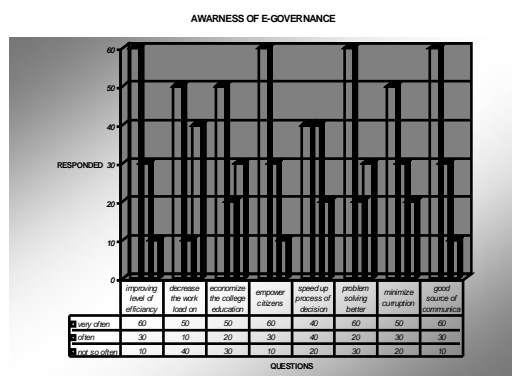


Source: Study Results-It is clear from the above Graph that only 30% faculty members responded in the category of 'very often' whereas 45% are 'often' using computer. However only 25% in the category of 'very often' and 30% in the category of 'often' are using computers for collecting information for the students; 30% responded in the category of 'very often', 40% in the category of 'often' while 30% in the category of 'not so often' to the question of visiting educational websites. The similar trends were noticed for the question on the connectivity between faculty and students as 25% responded in the category of 'very often' and 30% in the category of 'often' where as 50% responded to the category of 'not so often'. This indicates that few are using

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computer to share information on different dimensions of education and in keeping connected to the students. Interestingly only 25% in the category of 'very often' 40% in the category of 'often' and 35% in the category of 'not so often' remain connected with their colleagues. This reflects computers are not the popular medium for contacting colleagues.

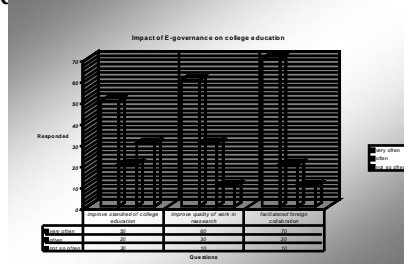
(b) Awareness about E- governance



Source: Study Results-According to the responses gathered through Questionnaire 60% of college faculty 'very often' agreed that e-governance would,

* Improve level of efficiency * Empower students and citizens * Provide better solution to the problems * Act as a good source of communication. * However 50% of the college faculty 'often' agreed that the e-governance will, * Decrease the workload on individual * Economize the college education * Minimize the corruption. 40% interestingly did not agree that e-governance would speed up the process of Department to achieve targets within the time limit.

(c) Impact of e-governance on college education

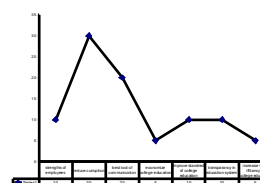


Source: Study Results-According to the above illustration, 50% faculty 'very often' agreed that e-governance can improve the standards of college education but 20% under the category of 'often' and 30% in the category of 'not so often' agreed to this.

Further 60% faculty in the category of 'very often' agreed that e-governance will improve the quality of work in research through frequent exchanges through e-connectivity between faculty and students. However 30% 'often' and 10% 'not so often' agreed to this. 70 % agreed 'very often' that it will facilitate foreign collaboration whereas 20% responded in the category of 'often' and 10% in the category of 'not so often'. The results indicate that impact of e-governance in education sector is more productive and progressive in nature.

(d) Opinion Based Analysis – on this basis a free opinion was invited by the respondents to express their ideas regarding utility of e-governance in college education. According to OBA mostly faculty expressed their opinion on the benefits of e-governance and their suggestions can be summarized as follows:- * Strengths of employees * Reduce corruption * Best tool of communication * Economize the college education * Improve standards of college education * Transparency in education system * Increase the work efficiency in the college education.

This study has revealed many dimensions related to the existing psyche of individual faculty of the colleges in Rajasthan. Mostly faculty has computer literacy but they are not using this technology either to upgrade their knowledge in their respective fields nor are they using it as the source of interaction with the students. Apart from this the Commissionerate of Education is also not updating its site by posting new information therefore mostly faculty do not find it much of use.



Source: Study Results

EPILOGUE: TOWARDS SUMMING UP-The higher education is the essential component of development that calls for mental revolution. The gates of mental revolution can be opened only when a qualitative education is disseminated to every citizen. The greatest irony is that there is lack of preparedness to utilize the technological inputs available and yet we claim to be journeying in the 21st century. The yet another constraint is the devolution of ethics, which has made it more difficult for the system to become and remain transparent thereafter. Out of many efforts it is the higher education, which has to make an extra leap forward to

prepare younger generation in well conversant with the IT applications and also utilizing e- tools for the renewal their knowledge. The response to higher education is slow and therefore an overwhelming response has yet to emerge. Though scenario is changing but pace is not satisfactory. The Government of Rajasthan has taken up the issue of E- Governance, the intentions are clear but lack of available trained people is holding the pace of implementing the programs of e-governance. The government has launched many Web-Portals but without complete information. This half done approach adopted by Government has blocked the free- flow of information. The study results depicted in chapters also substantiate this conclusion. The study results are very revealing and can provide important research inputs to the Government of Rajasthan in the field of higher education.

INFERENCES: The empirical study conducted on the Commissionerate of College Education, Government of Rajasthan is suggestive of certain very interesting trends that are indicative of pointers towards interventional options and therefore can be a good research input for the State Government in the area of higher education. The major inferences from the study can be summarized as under: * As for the computer literacy is concerned mostly faculty members were found to be literate but failed to take academic mileage. * This tool has not been utilized by those who are working employees of this Institution at all levels i.e. Faculty failed in using it as the instrument of disseminating latest information in their respective fields to the students; administrative echelons failed to use this as the tool of passing on the general rules/ notifications/modification to related strata. * The Commissionerate of College Education also did not utilize this as the time saving device so as to communicate with students, faculty and government timely and to capitalize on reducing the time of responding to any query. * The higher education sector also did not thought this to be a device of improving the qualitative research. A qualitative research is essential for the growth of any Nation. * The aptness of this instrument in removing ambiguity has also not been recognized. Mostly undefined domains of decisions due to lack of clarity leads to confusions, which affects the student most vulnerable section of the society. The opinion based analysis as mentioned earlier has helped us to get an inside view of the Higher education sector in general and of the institution in particular. The sharing of the respondents on questions designed to see the truth has led to go into details of Commissionerate of College Education.* Reducing Corruption * Best tool of communication.

* Improving standards of education and transparency in college education & * Efficiency and economizing the college education.

THE THRUST AREAS OF INTENDED INTERVENTIONS-The study reveals that there are four kinds of relationships where computerization will be of great help in developing a productive interface.

These are,

· **Faculty- Institution Relationship** · **Faculty-Faculty Relationship** · **Faculty-Student Relationship** · **Faculty-Qualitative Education Relationship.**

The introduction and proper utilization of computers and other e- tools will enhance every relationship and thereby also facilitating sustenance of qualitative education and preparing future India to take up unseen challenges. It is needless to say that qualitative education will revolutionaries the whole perspective of individual to look at the problems in more inclusive manner. The reformative suggestions are, * Organizing frequent training courses in ICT for the faculty/personnel of Directorate/students. * Constructing Computer Labs for the faculty/ students/others to keep track of the latest researches/ information in the respective fields. * Working out constructive strategy for utilizing research inputs by the governmental agencies so as to respond to the emerging challenges. * Preparing younger generation with right visions to take up the upcoming opportunities so as to contribute to nation building which otherwise will remain illusion. The onus is clear. A right policy is needed which can explore the man-machine interface in the right perspective. Half knowledge is dangerous and can be divisive. A complete knowledge, which is rather an utopian idea but can be attained with more commitment and pursuance of it in right direction. Hence Policy-Changes are needed to bring out changes in the stereo- mindsets.

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