

E-Government Initiatives in Nepal:

Although Nepal is a poor third world country, it has taken remarkable steps in the field of ICT. Changes can be seen in the way people communicate and the way businesses are done. Telecommunication facilities have improved remarkably. People have access to the Internet and computer devices, which get faster every year. The Government of Nepal is keen and committed to promote e-Government for implementation of various G2G, G2C and G2B projects in various areas.

Several E-Governance applications are being introduced. Records are being digitized. Portals/Websites are built and made available.

Examples:

- 1) The daily updates of Corona Virus cases statistics are posted on the Ministry of Health and Population's website.
- 2) Payment of taxes can be done online through Inland Revenue Department's Taxpayer's Portal. See: <https://it.ird.gov.np/taxpayer/app.html>
- 3) The payment of Electricity, Internet bills can be done through e-payment portals like e-sewa and khalti app. It can be considered as G2B service provided by financial governing body i.e. Nepal Rastra Bank to these businesses.

Other steps taken are described below.

Steps taken:

E-Governance Master Plan (e-GMP) was introduced by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to help improve the task of e-Governance.

10-year Master Plan: Initiated by Nepal Telecommunications Authority

ICT Policy was introduced.

The governing body for ICT related things is the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Here is the link for Ministry of Communications and Information Technology's website: <https://www.doit.gov.np/en>

And, here are the initiatives that are being undertaken by the MoCIT:

E-village: E-Village means access of information technology to the rural level by development, extension and promotion of areas including public services (e-service), education, health, agriculture, tourism, and local development. The main purpose of this program is to raise the level of life and economic development of the rural areas through the rapid development of the information and communication technology to minimize the growth of digital divide between city and rural area.

To implement E- Village program, the Department has provided the Desktop Computer, Laptop, Printer, Photocopy, Scanner, Projector, Ext. Hard Disk, Sound System, Switch, Modem, Solar Power Backup, E-Village Portal, E-School MIS Software, Digital Contents (Teaching / Learning Audio-Visual Contents), including hardware, software and digital content.

G-cloud: Free Cloud service for Government bodies.

Training Programs: Training and Awareness programs in different fields of ICT, especially in Cyber/Information Security.

E-School: An application that use for storage of study- related information created in schools. It is available to users over internet and it allows authorized persons to view the part of the information that they have the right to access. This brings an opportunity to communicate more frequently and easily.

Mobile Apps: MoCIT has also released various useful mobile apps like Hospital Information, School/College Information, Government bodies' information etc.

Conclusion:

These are the different initiatives taken by the government to establish E-Government in Nepal. But the road to e-Government is not easy and straight. There are no doubt ample opportunities for national development through e-Government promotion. There are also several hurdles, problems and challenges which must be overcome for successful accomplishments of Nepal's e-Government vision.