e-Governance: A Nepal Perspective

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Abstract:

During last decade the rule of e-Governance have lot of barriers, challenges and risks. In perspective of developing nation these aspects playing important role as compared to developed nation. Nepal is also a developing nation. Implementation of e-Governance in Nepal has its own challenge, barriers and risks. These are various factors that play important aspect in its implementation. Due to it's geographical, global, cultural and political issues, Nepal haven't achieved that mark in e-Government implementation that it can achieve. Nepal is surrounded by two giants of Asia. Thus, researchers have a scope to find the grey area and implementation methodology by which they can recommend government authorities about the challenges, barriers and other factors affecting its successful implementation in order to improve its Government's ranking.

KEYWORDS: e-government, ICT, OSI, EGDI, EGMP, HSI.

1. Introduction:

During last two to three decade, the implementation of e-Government has played very important role in developing nation. Successful implementation of e-Government tends to good governor.

e-Governance deals with the re-forms that are through technology. Today's era is technology driven era, and the development of any nation depends on its governance plan. U.N. has started EGDI (e-Government Development Index) since 2001. This index focusses on online service index, index of Human Capital and index for Telecommunication infrastructure.

E-Governance provides technology driven services or say information sharing between government-business, government- government, government-citizen etc.

E-Governance provide easy way for distribution of government service to citizen. Successful implementation of e-Governance provides an easy way to provide services available to citizen of a nation.

2. e-Governance in Nepal Current Status:

Before discussing Nepal status and process in respect to e-Governance, let's put focus on Nepal's local government architecture. Nepal has six Metropolitan cities known as MahanagarPalika, eleven sub-metropolitan cities, i.e.,UpmahanagarPalika, and 276 Nagar Palika and 460 GaunPalikas, which are also known as Rural Municipality[1-5]. At lowest table administration in Nepal is

covered by Wards and Nepal have approximate 6743 wards. Since 2000, Nepal have taken so many invitations towards implementation of e-Gov. The success of e-Gov implementation depends on context and content of that nation. Nepal belongs to Southern Asian and region, The EDGI rank of Nepal in year 2020 is 132 as compared to 2018 i.e., 117 and 135 in year 2016. The rank clearly shows that there is a huge lack in successful implementation of e-Governance [6].

According to 2020 survey of EDGI, if we compare SAARC nations, the index clearly shows that there is huge downfall in EDGI Rank of Nepal in comparison to othernations [6].

TABLE 1: E-GDI Rank 2020 (SAARC Nation)

NAME	RANK
Sri Lanka	85
India	100
Bhutan	103
Maldives	105
Bangladesh	119
Nepal	132
Pakistan	153

SOURCE: publicadministration.un.org

In comparison to Rank of 2018, it clearly indicates that Nepal has 15 Rank downfall.

TABLE 2: E-GDI Rank 2018 vs 2020 (SAARC Nation)

NAME	RANK in 2018	RANK in 2020
Sri Lanka	94	85
India	96	100
Bhutan	126	103
Maldives	97	105
Bangladesh	115	119
Nepal	117	132
Pakistan	148	153

The 2016 EDGI rank of Nepal was 135 and it shows improvement in 2018 (Rank 117) but in 2020 it was 132.

e-Participation index which shows how citizen of a nation collectively interact with e-services and information exchange.

Nepal ranking was 137 and if we compare it with SAARC nations, it was at least rank. The e-participation index of Nepal in year 2020 shows huge downfall as compare to year 2016 and 2018.

3. Governmentinitiatives:

Nepal has started its journey to worlds introduction to e-gov in word introduction to e-gov in 1971 by introduction IBM140/ System in government section. In 1996, the nation has recognized its science and technology department. During 2008 to 2014, they have started various ICT related projects [7-9].
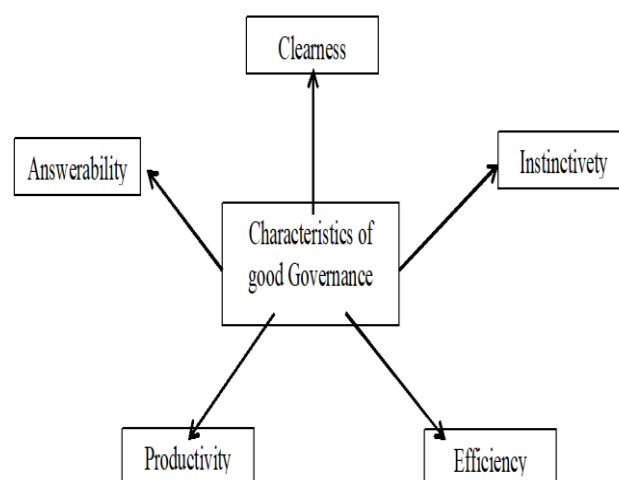

FIGURE 1: Major Characteristics of a good Government

The above figure shows some major characteristics related to good governance.

In 2000, Nepal government has launched its Nation IT Policy. In association with Korea Institute of public administration, Nepal government have launched its e-GMP (e-Governance Master Plan) in 2006.

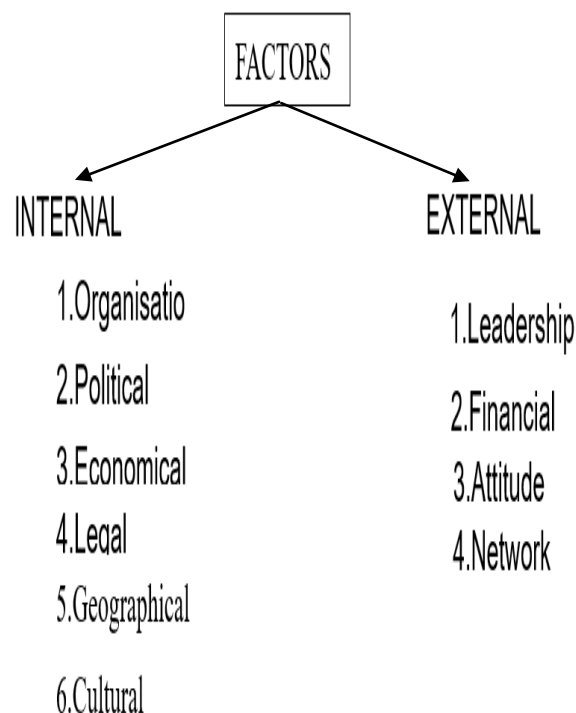During these decade Nepal have also faces many Political Changes.

In 2015,Constitution in Nepal was implemented. In 2010, they have launched their revised IT policy, and in 2011, Telecom Authority of Nepal has launched their master plan for 2011-2020.

After establishing Department of Technology in 2012, in 2013 Nepal Education plan with ICT initiative was launched for 2013 to 2017, and in 2016 they planned their e-Governance policy at local level. Nepal's local authorities has been divided in form of wards.

4. Research Finding:

On the basis of research done in context to Nepal and on the basis of various literaturesurveys, this paper tries to indicate factors those play governing role in successful implementation of e-Governance in Nepal.

Although Nepal government have taken various initiatives to strengthen e-Governance in Nepal, but still, they are far behind in compare to other developing nations. In context to Nepal, research clearly indicates that the factors of successful implementation of e-gov model deals with two major approaches, one in external and other one in internal. Figure mentioned below clearly indicate these aspects. Various research based on different nations including developing nations indicates that's the true successful implementation of any model depends on the successful identification of key drivers that is factors [10-15].

Figure 2: Key Factors

On the basis of surveys data collected from various local administration including administrative department education, agricultural, medical etc. of Nepal. The visualization uses python with its libraries such as Pandas, Matplotlib, Numpy was done [18][19].

The visualization clearly indicates that the leadership capacity as an internal factor is the main cause in context to Nepal for lacking in e-gov implementation while taking above external factors, political factor is the main one that play important aspect[16][17].For visualization data is collected from various local level authorities of some districts in Nepal. Standard data analysis mechanism using python is applied. In last one or two decade, Nepal has seen huge political un-stability, this is clearly indicated by the visualization.
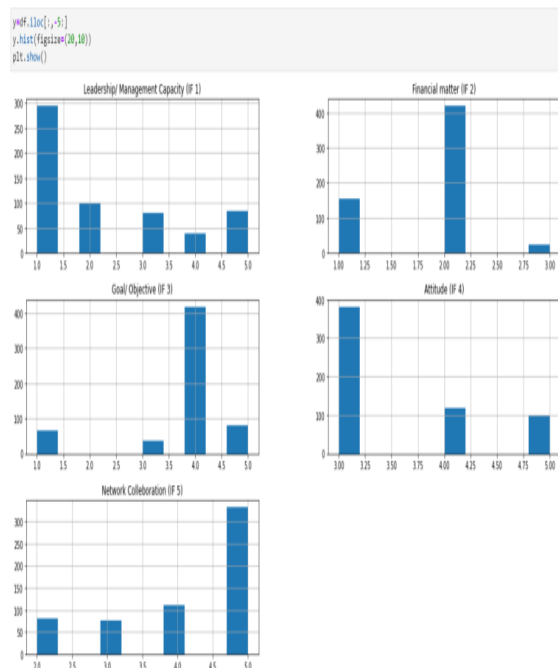
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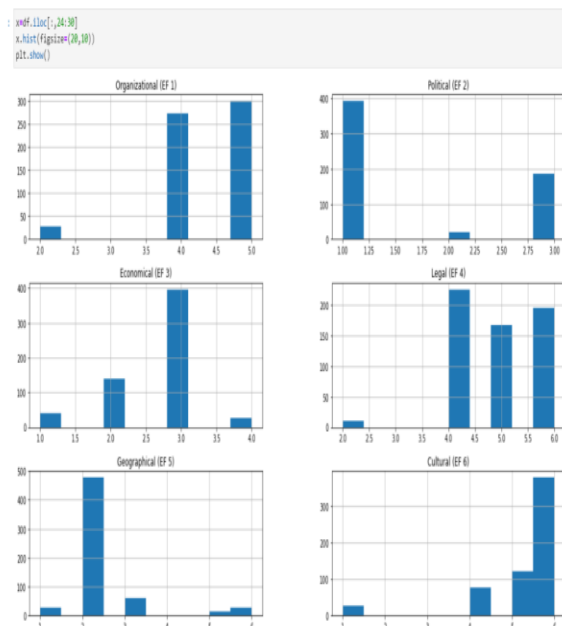**Figure 3: External Factor Visualization**

Figure 4: Internal Factor Visualization

5. Conclusion:

Above study clearly indicates that successful implementation of e-Governance depends on how the key internal and external factors are handled in that nation and what are the initiatives taken by the government. In this study on the basis of EGDI data, this paper try to show Nepal's perspective in compare to other developing nations as well as SAARC Nations. This paper also shows the initiatives taken by government of Nepal Regarding its implementation.

At the end, on the basis of survey data analysis based on key driving factors, this paper tries to focus on key factors affecting its implementation in Nepal.

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