



Analyzing the Impact and Implementation of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana in Gandhinagar

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Abstract

The E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana, an innovative e-governance initiative launched by the Gujarat government in 2008, aims to bridge the urban-rural divide by digitally empowering rural communities. This paper analyzes the impact and implementation of the Yojana, focusing on its objectives, strategies, challenges, and outcomes. The program's primary goals are to enhance transparency, improve the efficiency of public service delivery, and promote inclusive development by providing villagers with access to essential governmental services through high-speed internet-enabled E-Gram Centers.

Key implementation strategies include the establishment of digital infrastructure at the village level, comprehensive training for Village Computer Entrepreneurs (VCEs), and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These centers offer services such as land records, certificates, and online transactions, fostering economic growth and digital literacy.

The analysis reveals significant positive impacts, including streamlined administrative processes, increased transparency, and enhanced community engagement. The initiative has empowered villagers by providing access to educational resources, market information, and e-banking services, thereby promoting financial inclusion and economic development. Socially, it has fostered greater participation in local governance and improved accountability. The program faces challenges such as maintaining and upgrading digital infrastructure, addressing the digital divide within communities, and integrating with other government schemes. Ensuring continuous technical support and targeted interventions for marginalized groups remains crucial.

Despite these challenges, the future prospects of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana are promising. As technology advances and digital governance becomes increasingly vital, the initiative serves as a model for rural development. By continuously adapting to evolving needs, the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana can significantly contribute to shaping the future of rural governance and development in India.

This paper provides insights into the successes and challenges of the initiative, offering a valuable reference for future efforts to harness technology for rural empowerment.

Key word

E-Governance, Digital Literacy, Rural Development, Public Service Delivery, Digital Infrastructure, Inclusive Development

Introduction

In the rapidly evolving digital era, the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into public administration has become a cornerstone for enhancing governance, ensuring transparency, and fostering socio-economic development. One of the most ambitious initiatives in this domain is the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana, a pioneering project launched by the state government of Gujarat, India. This program aims to digitally empower rural communities by providing essential e-governance services at the village level. This paper delves into the impact and implementation of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana, exploring its objectives, execution strategies, challenges, and outcomes.

Background and Objectives

Launched in 2008, the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana seeks to bridge the urban-rural divide by leveraging technology to bring governance and essential services closer to rural inhabitants. The initiative's core objectives are to promote transparency, enhance the efficiency of public service delivery, and foster inclusive development. By connecting villages with high-speed internet and equipping Gram Panchayats (village councils) with necessary digital infrastructure, the program aims to facilitate access to various governmental services, including land records, birth and death certificates, and other essential documents. Additionally, it aims to promote digital literacy and foster economic development by providing villagers with access to information and services that were previously out of reach.

Implementation Strategy

The implementation of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana involves a multi-faceted approach that encompasses infrastructure development, capacity building, and community engagement. The first step in the process was the establishment of E-Gram Centers in each village, equipped with computers, printers, scanners, and high-speed internet connectivity. These centers serve as the nodal points for delivering e-governance services to the local population.

To ensure the effective functioning of these centers, the program includes extensive training for village-level functionaries, known as Village Computer Entrepreneurs (VCEs). These VCEs are trained in basic computer skills, the use of specific e-governance applications, and troubleshooting technical issues. By empowering local individuals to manage and operate these centers, the program not only creates employment opportunities but also ensures the sustainability of the initiative. The program employs a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to track progress and address challenges. This includes regular audits, feedback mechanisms, and the use of performance indicators to measure the effectiveness of service delivery. The government also collaborates with private sector partners and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to enhance the reach and impact of the initiative.

The E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana has had a significant impact on rural governance and development in Gujarat. One of the most notable outcomes is the enhancement of administrative efficiency and transparency. By digitizing records and automating processes, the program has reduced the time and effort required for citizens to access government services. For instance, the digitization of land records has streamlined the process of obtaining land-related documents, reducing the scope for corruption and disputes. The program has played a crucial role in promoting digital literacy among rural populations. By providing access to computers and the internet, the initiative has opened up new avenues for education, information, and communication. Villagers can now access online educational resources, apply for jobs, and stay informed about government schemes and policies.

Economic development is another area where the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana has made a significant impact. By providing access to market information and facilitating online transactions, the program has empowered farmers and small business owners to enhance their productivity and income. Additionally, the availability of e-banking services has promoted financial inclusion, enabling villagers to access banking services without the need to travel to distant towns.

The social impact of the program is also noteworthy. The initiative has fostered greater community engagement and participation in local governance. By making information readily available and facilitating communication between citizens and government officials, the program has enhanced accountability and responsiveness. This has led to a more inclusive and participatory form of governance, where villagers have a greater say in decision-making processes.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite its successes, the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana faces several challenges that need to be addressed to ensure its long-term sustainability and effectiveness. One of the primary challenges is the maintenance and upgradation of digital infrastructure. Ensuring consistent high-speed internet connectivity and keeping the hardware and software up to date requires continuous investment and technical support.

Another challenge is the digital divide within rural communities. While the program has made significant strides in promoting digital literacy, there are still sections of the population, particularly older adults and women, who have limited access to and understanding of digital technologies. Addressing these disparities requires targeted interventions, including specialized training programs and awareness campaigns. There is a need for greater integration of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana with other government schemes and initiatives. By creating synergies with programs in sectors such as health, education, and agriculture, the initiative can maximize its impact and contribute to holistic rural development.

Looking ahead, the future prospects of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana are promising. With the rapid advancement of technology and the increasing emphasis on digital governance, the program has the potential to serve as a model for other states and regions. By continuously evolving and adapting to the changing needs and challenges, the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of rural governance and development in India.

The E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana represents a bold and innovative step towards digitizing rural governance and promoting inclusive development. By analyzing its impact and implementation, this paper aims to shed light on the successes and challenges of the initiative, providing insights that can inform future efforts to harness the power of technology for rural empowerment. As the world moves towards a more connected and digital future, initiatives like the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana will be crucial in ensuring that no one is left behind.

Objective

To Evaluate the Effectiveness of Digital Infrastructure.

To Analyze the Socio-Economic Impact.

Research Questions

How effective is the digital infrastructure provided by the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana in improving access to governmental services in rural areas?

What is the socio-economic impact of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana on rural communities in Gandhinagar?

Methodology: Survey Method

Research Design

The survey method chosen for this research paper, "Analyzing the Impact and Implementation of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana in Gujarat," employs a descriptive research design. This design is selected for its effectiveness in accurately and systematically capturing the current opinions, practices, and challenges faced by people's of rural area of Gandhinagar District. The aim is to quantify the prevalence of perspective and identify significant patterns within the data.

Sample Selection

The sample population for this survey consists of 268 people's of Gandhinagar District. A purposive sampling technique will be used to select participants. This approach ensures that the data collected is relevant and comes from informed sources

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument is a structured Statements designed to gather quantitative data on opinions of people

Data Collection Procedure

Data collection conducted electronically via an online survey platform using Google Forms to facilitate a wide-reaching and cost-effective distribution. Invitations to participate will be sent out through Rural networks, social media groups, and professional associations. Participants will be informed about the purpose of the research, the voluntary nature of their participation, confidentiality measures, and the estimated time required to complete the survey.

Data Analysis

Quantitative data form of statements analyzed using statistical software Excel to perform descriptive statistics, frequency analyses.

This survey methodology aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of people's perspectives on E-Gram Vishwagram, contributing valuable insights to the field and informing future practices and research.

ક્રમાંક	વિધાનો	હા	ના
1	મારા ગામમાં ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર પર આવશ્યક સરકારી સેવાઓનો લાભ સરળતાથી લઈ શકાય છે.	૯૮%	૨%
2	હું ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા સરકારી દસ્તાવેજો (દા.ત. જમીનના રેકોર્ડ, જન્મ પ્રમાણપત્રો) વધુ ઝડપથી મેળવી શકું છું.	૯૯%	૧%
3	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરમાં કોમ્પ્યુટર અને ઇન્ટરનેટ સુવિધાઓ ભરોસાપાત્ર છે અને સારી રીતે કાર્ય કરે છે.	૯૭%	૩%
4	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર પર સેવાઓનો ઉપયોગ કરતી વખતે મને ન્યૂનતમ તકનીકી સમસ્યાઓ (દા.ત. કનેક્ટિવિટી સમસ્યાઓ, હાર્ડવેર નિષ્ફળતા)નો અનુભવ થયો છે.	૯૫%	૫%
5	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરમાં ઓફર કરવામાં આવતી ડિજિટલ સેવાઓએ સરકાર સંબંધિત કાર્યોને પૂર્ણ કરવા માટે જરૂરી સમય ઘટાડ્યો છે.	૧૦૦%	
6	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરનો સ્ટાફ સારી રીતે પ્રશિક્ષિત છે અને ડિજિટલ સેવાઓનો ઉપયોગ કરવામાં અસરકારક રીતે મદદ કરે છે.	૧૦૦%	
7	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર પર ડિજિટલ સેવાઓની ઉપલબ્ધતાએ વ્યક્તિગત અને વહીવટી કાર્યોનું સંચાલન કરવાની મારી ક્ષમતામાં નોંધપાત્ર સુધારો કર્યો છે.	૯૩%	૭%
8	ઇ-ગ્રામ વિશ્વગ્રામ યોજના દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવતી સેવાઓને કારણે હું વધુ સશક્ત અને આત્મનિર્ભરતા અનુભવું છું.	૯૭%	૩%
9	હું ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવતી સેવાઓની એકંદર ગુણવત્તાથી સંતુષ્ટ છું.	૯૯%	૧%
10	ઇ-ગ્રામ વિશ્વગ્રામ યોજનાએ સરકારી સેવાઓની પહોંચમાં સુધારો કરીને મારા સમુદાયમાં સકારાત્મક ફેરફાર કર્યો છે.	૯૮%	૨%
11	ઇ-ગ્રામ વિશ્વગ્રામ યોજનાએ મને નવી આર્થિક તકો શોધવામાં મદદ કરી છે, જેમ કે નોકરી અથવા બજારની માહિતી.	૯૩%	૭%
12	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવેલ સંસાધનો અને સેવાઓને કારણે હું મારી આવક અથવા ઉત્પાદકતા વધારવામાં સફળ રહ્યો છું.	૯૪%	૬%
13	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરે કૃષિ, વ્યવસાય અને અન્ય આજીવિકા પ્રવૃત્તિઓને લગતી મહત્વપૂર્ણ માહિતીમાં સુધારો કર્યો છે.	૯૨%	૮%

14	સરકારી યોજનાઓ અને તકો વિશે અપડેટ રહેવા માટે હું નિયમિતપણે ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર પર ઇન્ટરનેટનો ઉપયોગ કરું છું.	૮૭%	૧૩%
15	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવેલ તાલીમ અને સંસાધનોએ મારા કમ્પ્યુટર અને ઇન્ટરનેટ કૌશલ્યોમાં નોંધપાત્ર સુધારો કર્યો છે.	૮૮%	૧૧%
16	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરમાં તાલીમ મેળવ્યા પછી હું ડિજિટલ સાધનો અને સેવાઓનો ઉપયોગ કરીને વધુ આત્મવિશ્વાસ અનુભવું છું.	૮૭%	૧૩%
17	ઇ-ગ્રામ વિશ્વગ્રામ યોજનાએ ઓનલાઇન સંસાધનો અને માહિતીની એક્સેસ દ્વારા મારા અને મારા પરિવાર માટે શૈક્ષણિક તકોમાં વધારો કર્યો છે.	૯૦%	૧૦%
18	મારા ગામના બાળકો ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરમાં ઉપલબ્ધ શૈક્ષણિક સામગ્રી અને સહાયથી લાભ મેળવે છે.	૮૭%	૩%
19	ડિજિટલ સેવાઓની ઉપલબ્ધતાએ આરોગ્યસંભાળ, નાણાકીય અને અન્ય આવશ્યક સેવાઓની એક્સેસને સરળ બનાવીને મારા જીવનની એકંદર ગુણવત્તામાં સુધારો કર્યો છે.	૮૮%	૧%
20	ઇ-ગ્રામ વિશ્વગ્રામ યોજનાએ મારા ગામમાં સામુદાયિક સુખાકારી અને વિકાસની વધુ સમજણમાં ફાળો આપ્યો છે.	૮૮%	૧%
21	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટરે મારા માટે બેંકિંગ અને નાણાકીય સેવાઓને એક્સેસ કરવાનું સરળ બનાવ્યું છે, જેમ કે બેંક ખાતું ખોલવું અથવા લોન માટે અરજી કરવી.	૮૨%	૮%
22	હું મારા નાણાંનું સંચાલન કરવા માટે ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવતી ઇ-બેંકિંગ સેવાઓનો નિયમિત ઉપયોગ કરું છું.	૧૯%	૮૧%
23	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર દ્વારા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવતી ડિજિટલ સેવાઓએ સ્થાનિક શાસન અને સામુદાયિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં મારી ભાગીદારી વધારી છે.	૪૫%	૫૫%
24	ઇ-ગ્રામ સેન્ટર પર ઉપલબ્ધ સેવાઓ અને માહિતીને કારણે હું મારા સમુદાય સાથે વધુ જોડાયેલ અથવા જોડાયેલી અનુભવું છું.	૫૧%	૪૮%

Findings

The findings of the present study reveal a **predominantly positive perception** of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana among respondents in Gandhinagar, indicating strong acceptance, awareness, and perceived effectiveness of the scheme. However, variations across certain statements also highlight specific **implementation gaps and operational challenges**.

Overall Positive Perception

For **Statements 1 to 10**, an overwhelming majority of respondents expressed affirmative responses, with **Yes responses ranging between 97% and 100%**. This strongly indicates that respondents largely agree that the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana has:

- Improved access to government services at the village level
- Reduced the need to visit government offices
- Enhanced transparency and efficiency in service delivery
- Strengthened digital connectivity and administrative outreach

In particular, **Statements 5 and 6**, which recorded **100% Yes responses**, reflect unanimous agreement among respondents, suggesting that certain core aspects of the scheme—such as availability of basic e-services and usefulness of e-Gram centers—are universally acknowledged and highly effective.

High Acceptance with Minor Concerns

Statements **11 to 21** continue to show a strong positive trend, with **Yes responses ranging from 87% to 99%**. Although slightly lower than earlier statements, these results still demonstrate a high level of satisfaction. The marginal increase in **No responses (7% to 13%)** suggests that:

- A small section of respondents may have experienced occasional service delays
- Technical or connectivity issues may persist in some areas
- Awareness or user-friendliness of certain advanced services may still require improvement

Statements **14, 16, and 21**, where Yes responses are around **87%–92%**, highlight areas where implementation is effective but **not entirely uniform**, indicating scope for administrative refinement and capacity building.

Areas of Significant Concern

A notable shift in response patterns is observed in **Statements 22, 23, and 24**, which indicate **mixed or predominantly negative perceptions**.

- **Statement 22** shows only **19% Yes and 81% No**, clearly reflecting a major concern among respondents. This suggests serious dissatisfaction or lack of awareness regarding a specific aspect of the scheme—possibly related to advanced digital services, grievance redressal, or backend integration.
- **Statement 23**, with **45% Yes and 55% No**, reflects divided opinion, indicating inconsistency in implementation or uneven service quality across different locations.
- **Statement 24**, where responses are nearly balanced (**51% Yes and 49% No**), suggests ambiguity or uncertainty among respondents, possibly due to limited exposure, inadequate training, or insufficient communication regarding that particular dimension of the scheme.

These findings highlight that while **basic service delivery is strong**, certain **systemic, technical, or policy-level issues** continue to affect full utilization and satisfaction.

Interpretation of Findings

Overall, the data suggests that the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana has been **successfully implemented in Gandhinagar in terms of infrastructure, accessibility, and basic service delivery**. The consistently high positive responses for most statements demonstrate that the scheme has largely met its primary objectives.

However, the sharp decline in positive responses for a few statements indicates **implementation gaps**, particularly in:

- Advanced or specialized services
- Awareness and training
- Integration with other digital governance platforms

These gaps underscore the need for targeted interventions to enhance **service consistency, user experience, and digital literacy**.

Conclusion

According to the statement 1 to 10 which are the responses of research question 1 shows that there are around 95% people agrees to the statements. That means the digital infrastructure provided by the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana in improving access to governmental services in rural area is very effective. The remaining statements belongs to research question 2 in which there are 90% of the people agrees to the statements, which suggests that there are socio-economic impacts of the E-Gram Vishwagram Yojana on rural communities in Gandhinagar. Very less number of people agrees with the last three statements which means that majority of people don't know the use of e-banking services provided through the E-Gram Center to manage the finances, through the use of digital services people have not increased participation in local

governance and community activities, also people are less connected and engaged with community because of the services and information available at the E-Gram Center.

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