

A Case Study on the Implementation of e-District Application in the District of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh



Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj** Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India Rajendranagar, Hyderabad

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LIST OF ACCRONYMS

ICT: Information, Communication & Technology CSC: Common Service Centre LMK: Lok Mitra Kendra NeGP: National e-Governance Plan NeGD: National e-Governance Division DoIT: Department of Information Technology DeitY: Department of Electronics & Information Technology MMP: Mission Mode Project HP: Himachal Pradesh

Executive Summary

The penetrating of Information and Communication Technology in the government setup strengthened the governance process especially in providing services to citizen at grassroots level. In this sequence, the Government of India has launched a Mission Mode Project (MMP), namely e-District application under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) aimed to electronic delivery of identified citizen centric services. It also envisages automation of workflow, backend computerisation and data digitisation across participating departments. The hilly state in northern India, Himachal Pradesh has kick-started e-District application with 11 Departments in the aegis of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India and was conceptualised in the FY 2013-14 to enable seamless service delivery to the citizen. This project has also won the Skoch Order-of-Merits Award & Skoch e-Governance Gold Award 2016. The State Data Centre, HIM State Wide Area Network and Citizen Service Centre namely Lok Mitra Kendras are key pillars of the project. The citizen can avail these service under e-District through multiple channels viz. Lok Mitra Kendra (LMK) or Sugam Centres or Online through web login. The district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh has registered highest number of around total of 1.18 Million applications for availing e-services during April, 2018 to November, 2018. A total of 1.17 Million applications were enrolled through 882 LMKs/CSC which are serving at panchayat level under PPP mode whereas 14.99 Thousand applications enrolled using direct web login indicating a good progression that the people of Kangra, HP have started to adopt the use of e-District application and LMK is serving best to the people.

In Kangra district, four blocks were selected viz., Indora, Baijnath, Lambagaon and Kangra because of highest and lowest level of literacy rate and sex ratio. From the sample size, the majority of beneficiaries i.e. 89 per cent have availed e-Services

through CSCs, 8 per cent through direct web- login, 2 per cent through web-login using Cyber Café and only 1 per cent of them availed e-Services from Department official.

The CSC is acting as a service delivery platform for the rural masses with a good progression. A total of 62 per cent people found LMKs nearby, 66.7 per cent found that they are adhering time limits. The respondents who availed the services through direct web logins found portal 100 per cent responsive and user friendly, 73 per cent showed their trust on the portal in terms of data and its security and 70 per cent responded that the final document is also available at Digilocker which fulfils the face and paper less services. Moreover, 90 per cent are comfortable with the language in which the portal is available. A very less percentage accessed the services through cybercafé where they have rated the internet speed as good and believed that the cybercafé operator charged minimal. The people who availed the services through Departments also found that the process was simple and no bribe was demanded and services were served with in time frame with a good geshttps://meity.gov.in/content/e-district-status accessed on 10.12.2019

ture/behaviour.

Talking to the frequency, majority i.e., 70.4 per cent avail the services whenever it is required and maximum of them availed the services for license, passport and house tax payments. The grievance redressal mechanism is the important aspect of any project/ portal, 83.5 per cent of people believe that in case of any problem, the grievance redressal cell of e-District application will provide the solution. All the respondents rated the overall quality of the services offered at portal as good.

Talking about the block, the Kangra block was selected because of highest literacy rate which is also evident from sample where 87.9 per cent of people are graduate and above. The families who benefited the most are backward and scheduled category and marginal families with income in between Rs. 30,000 to Rs.1,00,000 with 78.3 per cent and 65 per cent respectively. It is also found that only 27 per cent of cultivators got benefited which is the highest in comparison to other sample blocks. Block is having a good Digital penetration as 81.8 per cent were availing internet services and 84.8 per cent of the respondents were having digital devices with majority of smartphone/ phablets. Moreover, 81.8 per cent respondents operate digital devices where 42.4 per cent are at advanced level and 43.33 per cent of the respondents have undergone Digital Literacy trainings. 100 per cent of the respondents knew about e-Services but 39.40 per cent were aware that e-Services were launched under e-District applications and it is surprising that 88.57 per cent respondents still availed these e-Services through Lok Mitra Kendra/ CSCs. Majority of the respondents i.e., 84 per cent found LMK nearby or with in the radius of 2 kms and majority of beneficiaries are satisfied with the services provided by CSCs as 95.1 per cent believes that they will not consume more time in comparison to availing manual services. The respondents who have availed the services by their own found the portal responsive, user friendly and overall quality of the portal as good. However, all of them found they are not getting the updates regularly. This indicates that working of the portal is very good but capacity of the respondents needs to be build.

Lambagaon block is having the highest sex ratio, only 64 per cent of respondents are well qualified and 76 per cent of people are holding BPL ration card which means gender mainstreaming needs to be stressed upon. The scheduled and backward category respondents have maximum availed e-Services by means of e-District portal i.e., 84 per cent. The majority of the beneficiaries have reported their income below Rs. 1,00,000 meaning they have very limited resources but 68 per cent of the respondents belong to petty business or service class. In the block 84 per cent of the people are equipped with digital devices and 84 per cent of them are having smartphones but 68 per cent will know to operate the digital devices and 92 per cent of them operate the basic features only. The data predicts that the capacity of the respondents need to be built at village level. A total of 76 per cent of the respondents are availing the internet services and only 12 per cent of the people are aware that e-Services are launched under e-District application. From the sample size, only 8 per cent of the respondents have undergone Digital Literacy Training and 85.2 per cent showed up their willingness to undergo the training which means massive training programmes need to be organised at grassroots level to build the capacities of the people residing in the block Lambagaon. In Lambagaon 17 per cent people reported that the LMKs are far away from the radius of 10 kms.

The block Indora, which is selected for the lowest sex ratio. In the block 100 per cent of the respondents are educated and 67.9 per cent belong to scheduled/backward category and 17.9 per cent were involved in cultivation with maximum of the respondents in the lowest slab of income i.e., Rs. 30,000 to Rs.1,00,000 and 75 per cent are in the APL category of PDS. Remarkably 100 per cent of the respondents are having digital devices and 100 per cent are equipped with phablet/smartphone where 89.3 per cent know how to operate the devices and out of which 67.9 per cent only operate devices with basic functions. A majority, of 89.3 per cent were availing the internet services. Only 16 per cent of the respondents have undergone the Digital Literacy training where 75 per cent have attended the basic training programmes. The respondents have attended the training programmes in 50-50 per cent from private and Govt. institutions respectively. A total of 85.2 per cent of the people are willing to undergo the training on Digital Literacy whereas 31.6 per cent respondents are willing to attend the advanced level programme. A total of 56 per cent of the respondents found the LMKs nearby within the radius of 2 kms.

The block Baijnath is selected due to lowest literacy rate in the district Kangra, but all the respondents who have availed the services were well qualified. The penetration of the services to the scheduled castes/backward category people is good as 69 per cent of these categories have availed the services. The majority of the respondents are in service sector or run petty businesses and only 3.4 per cent of the respondents are earning income greater than Rs.5,00,000 i.e., the marginal respondents are getting benefited through e-District portal. Close to 27.6 per cent of the respondents belongs to BPL. In the block 79.3 per cent are having digital devices in which 86.2 per cent are operating smartphones & 100 per cent respondents are having less than 2 smartphones available but 51.7 per cent responds that they can operate the basic functions only. The internet subscribers are 86.2 per cent but 48.3 per cent are aware that these services are available on e-District online. 44 per cent of the respondents have undergone the training on Digital Literacy and 60.7 per cent want to undergo the hands-on training. 73 per cent respondents found the LMKs near their work place/ home.

It is evident that, the community has shifted to paperless and faceless services using the e-District and Digilocker portal. The majority of the applications are submitted for Minority Community Certificate 66.7 per cent followed by Backward Area/ Character/ Agriculturist Certificate 60 per cent, Income Certificate 53.33 per cent, Revenue Court Cases Management/ Freedom Fighter Certificate 40 per cent, Bonafide Himachali Certificate 33.33 per cent, Copy of Record of Rights with Digitized Map 26.67 per cent etc. which further indicated that the portal is providing the basic services at the door steps of the citizens without putting any extra pressure on the Government machinery. It is also evident from the figures that the Government officials have also moving ahead to use the portal and verifying the records over the machine.

The CSC/ Lok Mitra Kendra are the foundation pillars established at the Panchayat level which act as an interface between the people and Government. From the sample it is found that the LMK officials are having a good understanding of the application, 80 per cent are having a good computer knowledge and 66.7 per cent found application less complex and 93.3 per cent rated the good flexibility and responsiveness of the portal. Majority of the LMK is happy with the infrastructure but 86.7 per cent face technical issues during providing

the services that means a strong communication should be established between the LMK, DoIT and concerned line departmental officials which helps the LMK officials to serve the citizens effectively and efficiently. It is further suggested that the LMK should be monitored timely, proper capacity building activities are to be carried out with proper HIM SWAN connectivity.

The district administration is the first line of contact to avail any service. With the implementation of e-Governance and other online tools the pressure is also reduced on the Government setup. 84.6 per cent Departmental officials admitted that there is a reduction of footfall in the Government setup and 84.6 per cent officials are completely satisfied with the e-District portal. 46.2 per cent officials admit that citizen may face difficulties in availing services online which means capacity building programmes needs to be executed at field level and portal needs to be simplified in terms of technology and complexity. Moreover, only 69.2 per cent of the officials attended the training programme on e-District portal which means a proper capacity building activities should be carried out at field level.

The index values of the sample has been computed by aggregating the dichotomous replies given by each sample respondent to each of the 13 indicators have been merged into the groups (dimensions) namely Digital penetration, Utility of LMKs and Portal features, found that an average scores of the Digital penetration and LMK utility are 3.34 and 3.47 respectively out of maximum score 4 and whereas for Portal features the average score is 4.41 out of a maximum score of 5 units. This indicates that an average score is close to their respective maxima which further represents that in the perception of the sample respondents, the actual implementation status of e-District portal at Kangra District is very high. On splitting these groups, a graph is drawn which represents a lot of clustering of scores in the high group accounting for 73.9 per cent, followed by the moderate group with 17.4 per cent and low group with hardly 8.7 per cent, to enable comparison across the dimensions, percentage scores are computed, Of the three dimensions, the Digital penetration gets the lowest at 83.5 per cent, followed by LMK utility with 86.7 per cent, and portal features 88.2 per cent. The overall implementation score is 86.2 which presents a high status of implementation of e-portal in Kangra district. The documentation of this success story helps to understand the process of rolling out and may help the administration for the better implementation of the portal especially in other states of India especially in the difficult terrains like North-Eastern States.



Chart Exec_Summ_1: Classification of scores into groups

The exercise serves two purposes- first, going by the total score the 13 indicators obtained, a clear endorsement of the fact that the indicators selected *'reflect the status of implementation'* of e-portal and second, the implementation status can be viewed and also assessed from the view point of three different dimensions which are digital penetration, LMK utility and portal features. The second part would enable the implementing agencies to take appropriate steps in respect of those dimensions which yield lower scores. From this point of view, this exercise is useful for adoption in like situations.

Abstract

Democratic governance mechanisms are becoming more receptive to the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to achieve good governance in its implementation during the last two decades in India. In rural India, with the inception of NeGP initiatives and Digital India, the e-services are maximising and serving at the doorstep of the citizen. It is also not only improving responsiveness of public service delivery mechanisms but also augmenting citizens' participation in governance mechanism especially through Lok Mitra Kendra's/Citizen Service Centre or through web portals. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has launched the e-District application under NeGD initiative. The average scores which were arrived by aggregating the dichotomous replies given by each sample respondent are close to their respective maxima of the Digital penetration and LMK utility which are 3.34 and 3.47 units respectively out of 4 and whereas for Portal features an average computed score is 4.41 out of a maximum score of 5 units which indicates that the actual implementation status of e-District portal at Kangra District was high. Moreover, this implementation has also reduced the footfall in the Government setup. Through this case study, it is intended to study and document the process of implementation and effectiveness of e-District Application in the hilly district of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh which is the largest populated district in Himachal Pradesh.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Background:

e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP) is one of the 31 MMPs under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The e-District MMP aims at electronic delivery of identified citizen centric services at District, Sub-Division and village level. It also envisages automation of workflow, backend computerisation, and data digitisation across participating departments. It integrates various digital database for online verification and complete automation of process. Nationwide, e-District services were launched in 553 out of 672 districts including the 40 districts in pilot phase, whereas Himachal Pradesh rolled out e-District services in all 12 districts. The e-District architecture envisages leveraging of the core NeGP components of State Wide Area Network (SWAN), State Data Centre (SDC), State Services Delivery Gateway (SSDG) and Common Services Centres (CSCs).

The illustration of functional architecture:



Technical Architecture:

The State Data Centre, HIM SWAN and Citizen Service/Lok Mitra Centres are the three pillars of the project. Citizen can avail this service under e-District MMP through multiple channels viz. Lok Mitra Kendra (LMK) Centres or Sugam Centres or Online through web login and from department office.

Himachal Pradesh, India is situated in the Western Himalayas. It is a difficult terrain and people need to travel long distances to avail the services of the public office. On another side, the good literacy rate i.e., 82.80 per cent and a very good telecom density of ~148 per cent helps the government to provide the services at their doorstep. To provide the services effectively and efficiently, the Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011 is in place and the Digital Literacy Mapping of the government employees are in progress to build the capacity.

https://digitalindia.gov.in/content/status-mmps accessed on 3.5.2020

https://youtu.be/96Bg4DSEMFo accessed on 10.12.2019

Furthermore, the Lok Mitra Kendra/Citizen Service Centre are also established at the Panchayat level in the Public Private Partnership mode. The government of Himachal Pradesh introduced e-District application under the aegis of Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), government of India and it was conceptualised in the FY 2013-14 to enable seamless service delivery to the citizen at the district-level. In the state of Himachal Pradesh, the district administration is the primary delivery channel for G2C services. With the concatenation of e in the governance process, the quality of the citizen will increase automatically and helps the administration for data mining with the centralised database for effective planning.

The Department of Information Technology is the nodal agency for the implementation of e-District MMP. Currently, 11 departments have hosted their services online which is further integrated with other databases like eParivaar and Digilocker. To execute, re-engineering of the internal processes have been carried out and the services are to be delivered to common man using the web portal or through the Common Service Centers (CSCs)/Lok Mitra Kendra's. In the F.Y. 2018-19, the district Kangra has registered highest number of 1.44 Million transactions where LMK has delivered the services at ground level with 1.42 Million transactions. Maximum applications pertaining to Department of Revenue were submitted by using web login and LMK/CSC collected maximum of bill payments. These figures have stated that the people of Kangra, HP have started to adopt the use of e-District application and LMK is serving best to the people. This success story will help to understand the process of rolling out, awareness and challenges & enabling factors undergone to execute the application.

1.2 Achievements:

The government of Himachal Pradesh has kick-started e-District application with 11 departments and the project also won the Skoch Order-of-Merits Award & Skoch e-Governance Gold Award 2016.

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

After a rigorous and extensive literature review to cover e-Governance trends both in India and abroad. The E-District portal in India provides citizen centric services and there is very little literature available on this topic. So, an attempt has been made to walk through existing e-governance literature, to find out key factors influencing citizen's satisfaction.

2.1. e-Governance trend in India

According to National e-Governance Plan (NeGP, 2006), Government of India (GoI) aimed to transform all the Government activities from manual to computerised system in order to meet the commitment of providing fully ICT based Government services. To make it happen, GoI has initiated 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) including 10 Central MMPs, 10 State MMPs and 7 Integrated MMPs.

The Department of Electronics and Information Technology, GoI (2012) has detailed e-District projects in the document entitled 'Integrated Framework for Delivery of Services', described holistic views of application including service scope and coverage, business re-engineering process and technical details, like underline network, software, Database, Software delivery model, etc.

With the other State in India, Government of West Bengal also has rolled out the e-District application in Bankura and Jalpaiguri district as pilot in the year 2010. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), West Bengal State Council (2012) has made a rigorous study in Bankura district to analyse the project management technique which has been adopted to roll out e-District project. The study has used Fishbone analysis to find out the root cause of different challenges in terms of process/procedure, people, technology, delay in service delivery and document/guideline.

Another research done by Bagga, R. K. and Gupta Piyush (2009), has identified different approaches to roll out e-governance projects in India. The main focus of the study was to find out the different critical issues, challenges of e-Governance projects and different approaches and methodologies for project assessment.

2.2. e-Governance trend in other countries

The implementation of e-governance projects is getting success in most of the developing countries. In this context, Shirin, M. (2009) explained about the proliferation of e-governance projects in developing countries and their impact on local communities.

In context of e-governance implementation in Sri Lanka, Jehan, S. N., Nishantha, G. G. D., Jehan, S. Q. (2010), have shared their experiences that they have gathered through their practical involvement in different projects. They have highlighted different challenges and probable remedies to overcome all those challenges mainly related to transformation of any public services from manual to automation.

Bhuiyan, M. S. H. (2011) has focused on e-service initiatives taken by Bangladesh government like health service, utility bill payment, public exam result publication, e-ticketing, etc. He has identified that maturity level of various e-Governance projects needs to be improved by introducing sufficient infrastructures, e-payment sys-

tem and digital signature, etc. He has also identified some challenges in his study which are related to the deployment of e-governance services in Bangladesh like top management initiatives, legal issues, inadequate power supply, lack of integrity in public services which involve technical, operational, administrative and political differentials.

In a case study of e-governance project, Kettani, D. and Mahidi A. E (2009) showed that how the government and academic collaboration has overcome lot of challenges like organisational misbehaviour and ills of bad governance in local government in deployment process of Fez e-Government Project (eFez) in Morocco. Authors have concluded that the collaboration in academia, public administration and private sector could provide better transformative capability within Morocco and among other North African countries via the Maghreb Arab Union.

For the implementation of e-governance projects in Nigeria, Mundy, D. and Musa, B. (2010) have enlightened details towards building up an e-Governance framework by benchmarking existing e-Governance projects in Nigeria with the UK e-Governance projects. In this study, authors have identified that Nigerian citizens are very much interested to engage themselves with government activities through online services. Nigerian citizens are very keen to assist government to roll out different e-governance projects and authors also found that the demands of citizens are more than the present facilities provided by the government. In the proposed framework, authors have suggested to appoint a commissioner to oversee the implementation of e-governance projects stage by stage to ensure the policy formulated in federal level are put in place. Authors also included into the framework that IT education is must needed to spread across the state government departments and offices as well as to the civil society.

2.3. e-Governance key factors towards acceptance of e-service

In order to make successful implementation of e-Governance projects, it is very important for GI to measure different success factors of e-Governance projects in India or worldwide which could help government to take corrective action for e-District project also.

In the context of India, Gujarati, D. M., Patil Rakesh S. (2009) has emphasised some major factors which were responsible to make successful implementation and sustenance of different e-Governance projects for social development in rural area.

In related to e-Governance success factors Alomari, M. K., Sandhu, K., Woods, P. (2010) also have emphasised the different factors those are influencing the adoption of e-Governance in Jordan. Using the exploratory factor analysis, they identified the main factors like website design, beliefs, perceived usefulness, complexity, trust in e-Government, and trust in Government.

In the same objectives, Mofleh, S. I. and Wanous, M. (2008) have conducted survey among 660 people in Jordan to identify the important factors that Government should take special care for implementing e-Governance services in Jordan. Using the factor analysis authors have reached to the decision that "Compatibility with e-Government", "Trust in Internet", "trust in Government" might play significant role to make citizens more satisfied to avail e-Governance services. This study also has highlighted that the special concentration to "e-Business activity" and "esociety" would increase the e-Governance demand among common citizens.

In the other study, Nabafu, R. and Maiga, G. (2012) also have followed the similar approaches like factor analysis to find out the important factors which are mostly identified as success factors towards implementing the e-Governance services in Uganda. In this study, the component factor loading has been observed through rotated component matrix based on the collected data from the field survey. Finally, the study concluded with the order of different success factors of implementing e-Governance services as 'reduction on corruption', 'Faster Decision-Making', 'increased transparency', 'Communication', and lastly 'reduction cost'.

It is very important to examine risk dimension as a part of risk assessments of IT project management. To identify the different factors of risk dimension, authors Choudhury R. D., Banwet D. K., Gupta M. P. (2007) have conducted a study on 205 project managers. A factor analysis was performed with the data collected from this survey. After the study, they have identified that 'System Specifications', 'Project Planning', 'Technology and Technical Aspects', 'e-Governance Organization' and 'Stakeholders' are the different five factors involved for risk dimension. Authors also have conducted factor analysis among project performance variables and concluded that 'Product performance' and 'Process performance' are the two factors directly impacting project performance.

2.4 Role of Citizen Service Centre (CSC):

The Citizen Service Centre is actually bridging the digital-divide at grassroots level and providing the services to the citizens at their door step.

In the study, Khare, Aparna & Tiwari, Alok. (2016). CSC 2.0: The Game Changer. Redefining the Delivery of Common Citizen Services (Newsletter Publication). Centre for Electronic Governance IIM Ahmedabad, discussed the framework of three levels of VLE, SCA and SDA. They have also discussed the SWOT Analysis; in the Strength part; they covered Self-sustainability because of entrepreneurship; Improvement in VLE Channels; Efficient delivery of services as it provides one stop shop to avail all services; Removal of touts and unburdening the pressure of Digital Literacy. Whereas, risk of uncontrollability; uncertainty of how they charge due to private vendors; need of status checking facility; and challenges of infrastructure upgradation. The behavior & availability of CSCs in particular area, bad infrastructure, political will and direct web-access are the threats in line to CSC. On another hand, successful establishment of CSC, better & effective service delivery to citizen at their door step will also increase the goodwill of government.

In the study of district level e-Governance initiatives - A Case of Lokmitra in Himachal Pradesh by Amar Jeet Singh came up with the in the district of Hamirpur for the year 2002, where they have questioned the sustainability of the project and lack of proper publicity of the project among the citizens. However, at accountability front of District administration the success rate is 89 per cent.

Chapter 3: Research Methods

3.1 Purpose and Rationale of Study:

e-District Mission Mode Project (MMP) is one of the 31 MMPs under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). e-District MMP aims at electronic service delivery for citizens and it also envisages automation of work flow, back-end computerisation, and data digitisation across participating departments. It integrates various digital database for online verification and complete automation of process. Citizen can avail this service under e-District MMP through multiple channels viz. Lok Mitra Kendra (LMK) Centres or Sugam Centres or Online through e-District portal.

The statistics of district Kangra reveals that 1.19 Million applications are registered using e-District out of 15,00,000 population. It seems to be a paradigm shift from visiting Government offices to LMK/CSC/weblogin. The snippet is as under:



In the case of web logins, the users have filled maximum applications pertaining to Department of Revenue and LMK/CSC has collected maximum of Bill collections. The Digilocker -cloud service is also integrated with e-District application and helps the user to file the application using the portal and access and save the documents at Digilocker platform. The list of services in the application is placed at Annexure 3. This indicates that the presence of Lok Mitra Kendra/ Citizen Service Centre at Panchayat level and citizen centric service provid-

Data accessed on url: http://edistrict.hp.gov.in/pages/staticSite/home.xhtml

ed through e-District portal helps the citizen to avail these services at their door step.

<u>3.2 Scope of the Study:</u>

The study focuses on two main objectives which are mentioned below:

- To study the implementation of e-District application in the district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh.
- To study the digital penetration of services, usage of e-District application at grassroots level and how those services are benefiting the beneficiaries.

Through fulfilling these objectives, the researchers envisage to replicate this best practice in similar situations of the hilly states.

3.3 Data collection:

Present study is based on quantitative as well as qualitative data collected from primary and secondary sources. In the process of developing a methodology and for collecting data for this study, a visit was made to Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh for assessment of the following:

- e-service availability & usage and benefit to citizens.
- Reduction in footfall in government setup.
- Digital literacy.

To understand various technicalities of the success story, data will be collected from:

- 1. Primary data is collected from the beneficiaries, LMKs and department officials by administering the questionnaire tool.
- 2. Secondary sources such as internet and department records.

To achieve the objectives of the study, the data collection tools developed for four categories such as beneficiaries, LMK's, Department Officials and Department of IT officials. The primary data will help in analysing & highlighting issues related to digital literacy awareness & knowledge, ease and convenience to users. As the application is rolled-out in hilly area and if it is found to be advantageous, the same would be recommended for other hilly areas especially North-eastern states of India.

3.4 Sampling:

Since the objective of the case study is to document process, achievements, challenges and also immediate impact, Kangra District was selected due to 100 per cent implementation of e-District Application. In district Kangra, four blocks were selected viz., Indora, Baijnath, Lambagaon and Kangra because of highest and lowest level of literacy rate and sex ratio (details at Table 1). The list of beneficiaries is collected from the Department and LMK officials during last two months whereas the LMK details are available online. Through tracer exercise, the data has been collected from all the selected blocks, a total of 115 beneficiaries, four LMKs from each

Data accessed on url: http://edistrict.hp.gov.in/pages/staticSite/home.xhtml

block (list is placed at Annexure). From all the selected blocks, department officials such as Project Officer, Block Development Officers, Panchayat Secretaries and State IT officer from the Information Technology Department (list is placed at Annexure-2), primary source of information has been collected for this purpose.

Table 1: Selection of Blocks					
Sr. No.	Particulars	Block	Percentage		
1.	Highest Literacy Rate	Kangra	87.39%		
2.	Lowest Literacy Rate	Baijnath	81.49%		
3.	Highest Sex Ratio	Lambagaon	1185 :1000		
4.	Lowest Sex Ratio	Indora	927 :1000		

Data Analysis: Primary Data is collected on the open data platform, Open Data Kit (ODK) hosted at NIRDPR server and data is analysed using IBM-SPSS and MS-EXCEL. The variables which are supportive for the successful and effective implementation of e-District portal are identified from the primary data and calculated the score and classified into three dimensions viz., Digital Penetration, LMK Utility and Portal Features.

3.5 Period of Data Collection:

Primary and secondary data from the selected beneficiaries list has been collected from the department and accordingly the Block and Gram Panchayats have visited to collect the data from them during the period 18th -24th November, 2019 and 16th -17th December 2019 from state level IT department officials. Field visit was conducted as per following travel schedule:



Chapter 4: Analysis and Discussion

<u>Table 2: Details</u>	s of Data Collection	
Date	Place of Visit	Detail of Activities Conducted
18.11.2019 & 19.11.2019	Block Indora, Kangra	Data Collected from Beneficiaries of all the
20.11.2019	Block Bijanath, Kangra	with the Department Officials and State level
21.11.2019	Block Lambagoan, Kangra	
22.11.2019	Block Dharamsala, Kangra	officials of 11 Department.
23.11.2019 &	Block Kangra, Kangra	
24.11.2019		
16.12.2019 &	State level: Department of Infor-	
17.12.2019	mation Technology, GoHP	

Findings

Socio-economic Profile of the Sample beneficiaries

This section presents the analysis and results of the data on socio-economic parameters of the respondent beneficiaries, who availed e-services through e-District Portal.

4.1 Literacy status of the respondents:

The literacy level in the selected blocks viz., in Baijnath 44.80 per cent were graduates and 51.70 per cent were post graduates. In Indora 25 per cent were graduates and 64.30 per cent were post graduates and only three per cent were diploma holders. In Kangra block, 18 per cent were graduates and 66.70 per cent were post graduates and where as in Lambagaon block 60 per cent were graduates and only four per cent people were post graduates. On the whole, in the selected four blocks, the literacy level was above average and the people can adopt the technical skills. From the data of respondents, it is evident that the region having highest sex ratio is having the least graduates and Post Graduates which reflects that female literacy rate should be boosted.

Table 3: Literacy level of the respondents						
Education						
Block	Secondary	PUC	Graduate	Post Graduate	Diplo-	Total
	School	(+2)	Gladdale	1 Ost Ofaduate	ma / ITI	
Baiipath	0	0	13	15	1	29
Daijilatil	0.00%	0.00%	44.80%	51.70%	3.40%	100.00%
Indom	0	0	7	18	3	28
Indora	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	64.30%	10.70%	100.00%
Vanama	1	4	6	22	0	33
Kangra	3.00%	12.10%	18.20%	66.70%	0.00%	100.00%
Lambagaan	1	8	15	1	0	25
Lambagaon	4.00%	32.00%	60.00%	4.00%	0.00%	100.00%
	2	12	41	56	4	115
	1.70%	10.50%	35.70%	48.70%	3.50%	100.00%

4.2 Caste Distribution of the respondents:

In the sample of four blocks of the study, backward category was the major group with 48.70 per cent, followed by Schedules castes 29.60 per cent and General Category 21.70 per cent. The data presents that the e-District portal is catering to the needs of the backward and scheduled category people through direct weblogins or through LMKs at panchayat level. The caste distribution in block wise is as follows:

Table4: Caste Distribution					
Name of the Block					
	General Category	Backward Category	Scheduled Caste	Total	
Daiinath	9	10	10	29	
Baijnath	31.00%	34.50%	34.50%	100.00%	
Indora	9	11	8	28	
	32.10%	39.30%	28.60%	100.00%	
Vanama	3	27	3	33	
Kangra	9.10%	81.80%	9.10%	100.00%	
Lambagaan	4	8	13	25	
Lambagaon	16.00%	32.00%	52.00%	100.00%	
Total	25	56	34	115	
	21.70%	48.70%	29.60%	100.00%	

4.3 Principal Occupation of the respondents:

Table 5: Occupation of the respondents						
	Occupation					
Name of the Block	Cultivator	Cultivator cum agricultural la- bour	Labour (non agricultural)	Petty Business	Services	Total
Pairaath	1	2	4	8	14	29
Baijnath	3.40%	6.90%	13.80%	27.60%	48.30%	100.00%
Indone	5	0	0	15	8	28
muora	17.90%	0.00%	0.00%	53.60%	28.60%	100.00%
V	9	0	0	15	9	33
Kangra	27.30%	0.00%	0.00%	45.50%	27.30%	100.00%
Lengheren	3	4	1	8	9	25
Lambagaon	12.00%	16.00%	4.00%	32.00%	36.00%	100.00%
Total	18	6	5	46	40	115
i otai	15.70%	5.20%	4.30%	40.00%	34.80%	100.00%

Owning petty businesses and service sector were the two occupations which had more presence of about 40 per cent and 34.80 per cent in the district. Whereas cultivator cum agricultural labour and non-agricultural labour were the two occupations which had more or less equal presence of about 5.20 per cent and 4.30 per cent each and 15.70 per cent were cultivators in the entire sample of 115 respondent beneficiaries who availed the e-services from the e-District portal.

The lowest literacy rate block was having the highest no. of labourers (non-agricultural) and service class people whereas in the highest literacy block, 27 per cent people were engaged in cultivation process which is the highest cultivation ratio in all the blocks. In Indora, 53.6 per cent people are engaged in petty businesses.

4.4 Income of Beneficiaries

Out of 115 sample size of selected blocks, 65.20 per cent beneficiaries had an average income in between Rs.30,001/- to Rs.1,00,000/- and Rs.1,00,001/- to Rs.5,00,000/- was 33 per cent. Only 1.70 per cent of the sample had income more than Rs.5,00,000. In Lambagaon block, about 96 per cent of the beneficiaries had average income in between Rs.30,001/- to Rs.1,00,000/-. More than 40 per cent of people in block Kangra and less than 40 per cent of people in Baijnath were in income slab of Rs.1,00,000 to Rs. 5,00,000.

This indicates that majority of the people who are in the income slab of Rs. 30,000 to Rs.1,00,000 availed these e-Services from e-District portal either through LMKs/CSCs. This resembles that it actually serves the marginal people at ground level.



Chart 1: Income of the Beneficiaries

4.5 Status of the Beneficiaries

From the selected sample size of the blocks, 61.70 per cent beneficiaries had APL card and followed by 33 per cent had BPL and very less 5.20 per cent had AAY card. Out of these, in Kangra 81.80 per cent, Indora 75 per cent and Baijnath 62.10 per cent had APL beneficiaries and in Lambagaon 76 per cent beneficiaries had BPL cards.

Table 6: Ration card of the respondents				
Name of the Black	St			
Name of the Block	APL	BPL	AAY	Total
Delineth	18	8	3	29
Baijnath	62.10 per cent	27.60%	10.30%	100.00%
Indawa	21	5	2	28
Indora	75.00%	17.90%	7.10%	100.00%
V	27	6	0	33
Kangra	81.80%	18.20%	0.00%	100.00%
т 1	5	19	1	25
Lambagaon	20.00%	76.00%	4.00%	100.00%
Total	71	38	6	115
Total	61.70%	33.00%	5.20%	100.00%

4.6 Usage of Digital Devices

Maximum of the population in the district Kangra had the digital devices where in 100 per cent of the Indora block citizens were using digital devices followed by Kangra block 84.80 per cent, Lambagaon 80.00 per cent and Baijnath block 79.30 per cent respectively. It means the digital devices having penetrated in the selected blocks.

Table 7: Usage of Digital Devices of the beneficiaries				
Name of the	Dig	gital device	Total	
Block	Yes	No	Total	
Baiinath	23	6	29	
Daijilatil	79.30%	20.70%	100.00%	
Indom	28	0	28	
muora	100.00%	0.00%	100.00%	
Vanama	28	5	33	
Kaligia	84.80%	15.20%	100.00%	
Lambagaan	21	4	25	
Lambagaon	84.00%	16.00%	100.00%	
T-+-1	100	15	115	
10(a)	87.00%	13.00%	100.00%	

4.7 Digital vs Analog Devices usage by the Beneficiaries

Among the respondents with digital devices, it was found that 100 per cent of the beneficiaries from the block Indora migrated to smart phone which was followed by Kangra 97 per cent, Baijnath 86.20 per cent and Lambagaon 84 per cent respectively.



Chart 2: Digital Penetration (Digital v/s Analog Devices)

4.8 Operating Digital Devices

From the sample size, 87 per cent of the respondents were equipped with digital devices and 91.8 per cent of these respondents had smart phones. 81.70 per cent of the respondents from the sample size knew to operate the digital devices. A total of 89.30 per cent respondents from Block Indora can operate these de-

vices which was followed by Baijnath 86.20 per cent, Kangra 81.80 per cent respectively. The respondents from Lambagaon need some hands-on training as only 68.00 per cent operate the digital devices.

Table 8: Digital devices operation				
Name of the	Name of the Operation of Digital devices			
Block	Yes	Yes No		
Deiineth	25	4	29	
Daijnath	86.20%	13.80%	100.00%	
Indone	25	3	28	
Indora	89.30%	10.70%	100.00%	
Vanama	27	6	33	
Kangra	81.80%	18.20%	100.00%	
Lambasson	17	8	25	
Lambagaon	68.00%	32.00%	100.00%	
Total	94	21	115	
rotal	81.70%	18.30%	100.00%	

4.9 Level of managing digital devices

The majority of respondents i.e., 63.5 per cent operate the digital devices at the basic level which is higher in the block Lambagaon with 92 per cent. A total of 14.28 per cent of the respondents were operating the device at intermediate level and 22.2 per cent are operating at advanced level which is higher in the block Kangra with 42.40 per cent. Digital devices at intermediate level operations can be done by the blocks from highest to lowest as Baijnath 27.60 per cent, Kangra 15.20 per cent and Indora 14.30 per cent. In Lambagaon no one could operate at intermediate level from the selected sample size. Basic operations of the digital device can be handled more by Lambagaon as 92 per cent followed by Indora 67.90 per cent, Baijnath 51.70 per cent and Kangra 42.40 per cent respectively.

Chart 3: Digital Penetration (Managing Digital Devices)



advance training whereas only 23.50 per cent people will act as master trainers to impart training in cascading mode.

4.10 Avail of Internet Services

Overall, 83.50 per cent of the citizens of selected blocks are using internet services on their digital devices/ smart phones. The highest in Indora block is 89.30 per cent beneficiaries are using internet services followed by Baijnath 86.20 per cent, Kangra 81.80 per cent and Lambagaon 76 per cent respectively.

Table 10: Using Internet Services				
Name of the		Are you using intern	Total	
Block	Γ	Yes	No	20002
Daiinath		25	4	29
Baijnath		86.20%	13.80%	100.00%
Indone		25	3	28
Indora		89.30%	10.70%	100.00%
V		27	6	33
Kangra	Γ	81.80%	18.20%	100.00%
Tambasan		19	6	25
Lambagaon		76.00%	24.00%	100.00%
		96	19	115
		83.50%	16.50%	100.00%

4.11 Awareness of e-Services under e-District Application

Table 11: Awareness level of e-District application				
Name of the Block	Awareness level of e e-District application	Total		
	Yes	No		
Daiinath	15	14	29	
Daijnath	51.70%	48.30%	100.00%	
т 1	14	14	28	
Indora	50.00%	50.00%	100.00%	
Vanama	20	13	33	
Kangra	60.60%	39.40%	100.00%	
Lambagaon	15	10	25	
	60.00%	40.00%	100.00%	
Total	64	51	115	
lotal	55.65%	44.35%	100.00%	

As 100 per cent of the people are aware about the e-Services and they are utilising through LMKs/CSCs. Out of which 55.65 per cent respondents were aware that e-Services are available under e-District application. Majority of the respondents are in the block Kangra i.e. 60.6 per cent which is followed by block Lambagaon i.e. 60 per cent then block Baijnath with 51.7 per cent and block Indora with 50 per cent. The data reveals that

more awareness campaigns, programmes are to be hosted in order to spread the awareness on e-Services launched under e-District Application.

4.12 Capacity Building of the Respondents w.r.to Digital Literacy:

From the complete dataset, only 26 per cent of the respondents (N=30) have attended the training programmes of any level with respect to Digital Literacy/Digital awareness. It is also found that the majority of the participants attended the training programmes in the block Kangra i.e., 43.33 per cent which is followed by block Baijnath for 36.67 per cent, Indora for 13.33 per cent and Baijnath for 6.67 per cent. Overall, 46.67 per cent of respondents received the training of advanced learning which is followed by basic training to 33.33 per cent and intermediate level training for 20 per cent only which means the block having highest literacy learns advance trainings.



Chart 4: Trainings attended w.r.t. Digital literacy

The maximum of 75 per cent respondents from Indora has received the trainings on Basic Computer which is followed by Lambagaon for 50 per cent. The 50-50 per cent respondents attended trainings from Government as well as from private institutions. This implies except Lambagaon people also rely on private institutions. All the respondents from the district have rated the training programmes useful.

Table 12.2: Trainings attended Institution wise (N=30)				
Name of the Block	Institution			
	Govt.	Private	Total	
Baijnath	45%	55%	100%	
Indora	50%	50%	100%	
Kangra	46%	54%	100%	
Lambagaon	100%	0%	100%	
Grand Total	50%	50%	100%	

Table 12.2: Trainings usefulness (N=30)						
Name of the F	Block	Baijnath	Indora	Kangra	Lambagaon	Grand Total
Usefulness	Yes	37%	13%	43%	7%	100%

4.13 Requirement of Capacity Building of the Respondents w.r.to Digital Literacy:

Table 13: Training requirement w.r.t. Digital Literacy					
Name of Block	Yes	No	Total		
Baijnath	60.7%	39.3%	100.0%		
Indora	85.2%	14.8%	100.0%		
Kangra	51.5%	48.5%	100.0%		
Lambagaon	85.2%	14.8%	100.0%		
Grand Total	69.6%	30.4%	100.0%		

An average of 69.6 per cent (N=80) of respondents from the sample size, exhibited their interest to undergo the hands-on training on digital literacy. Out of which, the maximum respondents of Indora and Lambagaon 85.2 per cent are willingness to undergo the training followed by 9.67 per cent of Baijnath and 51.5 per cent with Kangra block.

Table 13.1: Training requirement level wise w.r.t. Digital Literacy					
Name of Block	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	Grand Total	
Baijnath	2	4	11	17	
,	25.0%	11.8%	28.9%	21.3%	
Ludava	2	9	12	23	
mdofa	25.0%	26.5%	31.6%	28.8%	
Vanam	4	6	7	17	
Kangra	50.0%	17.6%	18.4%	21.3%`	
Lambagaon	0	15	8	23	
	0.0%	44.1%	21.1%	28.8%	
Grand Total	8	34	38	80	
	10.0	42.5	47.5%	100.0%	

Out of 69.6 per cent respondents who wants to undergo the digital literacy, from the table 13.1 it is depicted that 47.5 per cent of respondents need hands-on training of advanced level which is followed by 42.5 per cent for intermediate training req. and 10 per cent for basic training requirement. Kangra block with 50 per cent and followed by 25 per cent of the respondents requires the basic level of the training on digital literacy. Lambagaon block with 44.1 per cent and followed by Indora 26.5 per cent, Kangra 17.6 per cent and Baijnath respondents requires the training at intermediate level on digital literacy. In Indora 31.6 per cent respondents felt that advance level training on digital literacy is required and followed by Baijnath 28.9 per cent, Lambagaon 21.1 per cent and 18.4 per cent with Kangra respectively.

4.14 Mode of availing services by the Beneficiaries:

The e-Services launched to serve the respondents at their door steps but the web logins alone are not sufficient to serve the people because 18.30 per cent respondents (Table-8) are unable to operate digital devices and majority of the remaining respondents operate at basic level and 69.6 per cent (Table 13) respondents needs hands on training to improve Digital Literacy skills. To penetrate these services in the rural masses the Citizen Service Centre/Lok Mitra Kendra's at panchayat level, services from Departments and Cyber Café will play a vital role.

It is also represented from the sample size where 89 per cent of the respondents availed e-Services through Lok Mitra Kendra/ Citizen Centric Services followed by 8 per cent from web logins and per cent from Cyber Café & by visiting Government Department. The said figures represent that Lok Mitra Kendra's at panchayat level

will



helped the penetration at grassroots level, therefore, their capacity needs to be strengthened and upgraded.

4.15 Distance of LMK from home/ work place of the Respondents:

Since 89 per cent (as per Chart 3) of the respondents are availing the services from Lok Mitra Kendra, it is important that all the Lok Mitra Kendras which are established under PPP at Panchayat level are functional and approachable to all the citizens. During the survey, it is found that maximum beneficiaries have responded that the LMKs i.e., 62 per cent are nearby or less than 2 kms of their home/work place.

Table 14: Distance of LMK from your home / work place (N=102)					
Name of the Block	Near	<2	<10	>10	Grand Total
	by	Kms	kms	Kms	
Baijnath	23%	50%	27%	0%	100%
Indora	32%	24%	44%	0%	100%
Kangra	71%	13%	16%	0%	100%
Lambagaon	4%	29%	50%	17%	100%
Grand Total	35%	27%	33%	4%	100%

	Table 15: LMK Merits (N=102)		
	Particulars	Yes	No
	Consuming more time	4.9%	95.1%
	Rush at LMK	9.8%	90.2%
Further,	Adhering time limit as PSG Act	66.7%	33.3%
cent stat-	Display board with time limits & charges	19.6%	80.4%
cent stat-	Grand Total		100.0%
will not			

95.1 per ed that it consume

more time than availing the services manually from the Government Offices and 90.2 per cent told that there is no any rush in the LMK helping to avail the services in time without delay and 100 per cent believed that the behaviour of the respondents was friendly. In the sample size, 66.7 per cent appreciated the services to adhering the time frame as per PSG (Public Service Guarantee) Act, 2011. But 80.4 per cent have not found any display boards in the LMK which displays the time frame, charges etc.

4.16 Status of Communication devices:

From the sample size only 8.69 per cent of respondents availed the services through web logins and among them 90 per cent of the users are using smart phones where 40 per cent of users having more than 2 smartphones in the family. Whereas only 10 per cent of the users are having feature phone in the family.

Table 16: Status of communication Devices (N=10)					
Block Name	Feature Phone	Smart Phone	Smart Phone >2	Grand To-	
	<2	<2		tal	
Baijnath	0%	100%	0%	100%	
Indora	0%	50%	50%	100%	
Kangra	0%	0%	100%	100%	
Lambagaon	50%	0%	50%	100%	
Grand Total	10%	50%	40%	100%	

4.17 Features of the portal:

Table 17: Features of the portal (N=10)				
Particulars	Yes	No		
Responsiveness of Portal	100%			
User friendly	100%			
Payment Gateway	30%	70%		
Fetching Personal details	60%	40%		
User manual availability	80%	20%		
Getting Process updates regularly	10%	90%		

The respondents who have availed the services through web/self-logins found the portal responsive and user friendly. 30 per cent of the respondents feel that there are some issues in the payment gateway and 40 per cent are unable to fetch their details by adding Aadhaar details (Supreme Court judgment also restricts over this). 80 per cent of people says that the user manual is available on the portal but 90 per cent of the people are not getting the process updates.

Table 18: Integration between Digilocker and e-District portal (N=2)				
Particulars	Yes	No		
Final documents are avail at Digilocker	80%	20%		
Downloaded the document online	70%	30%		
Any problem in downloaded the documents	30%	70%		

The Digital India aims towards faceless and paperless services. In order to proceed with, e-District is providing a platform to file the application using the portal with requisite fee and the final document may be pulled from the Digilocker application which is cloud based service of Government of India.

From the sample of respondents who have availed the services by themselves, 80 per cent are aware that the documents are available at Digilocker and 70 per cent of them claimed that they have downloaded the documents from the GoI: Cloud and they don't face any problem in downloading the final document.

4.19 Language Barrier

Table 19: Language barrier (N=10)				
Particulars	Yes	No		
Comfortable in the language	90%	10%		

90 per cent of the users are comfortable in the language with the highest in block Baijnath with 40 per cent followed by Indora and Lambagaon with 20 per cent and Kangra with 10 per cent. Furthermore, 60 per cent of the people stated that the portal is available in English language and 40 per cent stated that the portal is available in bilingual. 100 per cent of the people rated the portal as "Good".



4.20 Popularizing e-Services

As 100 per cent of the sample size are aware about the e-Services but 55.65 per cent people [Table 11] are actually aware that e-Services are launched under the HimSeva i.e., e-District application of Himachal Pradesh which may also be accessed through direct web-login. This awareness level actually restricts the participants and 89 per cent of total respondents availed these services through Lok Mitra Kendra/ CSCs only. To find out how these 55.65 per cent got aware about e-District application, the Institute analysed the data and found that social gatherings and friends were the major source among the rural masses to popularise the services. This share stands at 60.12 per cent whereas the social media or internet is the second major source to disseminate the information among the rural masses and this has contributed to 19.40 per cent of the total. Short Messaging Services (SMS) contributes to 15.65 per cent and print media contributed to 4.82 per cent. Thus, to popularise the services in the hilly terrains it is observed that awareness programmes were to be launched vigorously in the Gram Sabhas via public gatherings, social media and using SMS services.

Name of the		Came to know about	the e-Services		Total
Block	Newspaper	Social Media	SMS	Friends	
Baijnath	0	4	0	11	15
	0.00%	26.66%	0.00%	73.33%	100.00%
- 1	2	2	2	8	14
Indora	14.28%	14.28%	14.28%	57.14%	100.00%
17	1	2	3	14	20
Kangra	5.00%	10.00%	15.00%	70.00%	100.00%
Lambagaon	0	4	5	6	15
	0.00%	26.67%	33.33%	40.00%	100.00%
Average	3	12	10	39	64
	4.82%	19.40%	15.65%	60.12%	100.00%

4.21 Frequency of Availing e-Services

It is evident from the data that majority of the respondents were availing the services whenever it was required i.e., 70.43 per cent, 15.70 per cent and 13.9 per cent of people use the services once in a month and less than 10 per cent in an annum respectively. The chart 7 illustrates that the block Lambagaon is having the majority of the respondents i.e., 80 per cent who are availing the services when they are required which is followed by block Kangra with 75.8 per cent then block Indora with 67.9 per cent and block Baijnath with 58.6 per cent. It is also found that majority of the respondents are in block Baijnath i.e., 24.10 per cent, who availed the services once in a month followed by block Indora with 14.3 per cent, block Kangra and Lambagaon with ~12 per cent of respondents.

Table 21: How frequ	ent you are using e-Se	ervices		
Name of the Block	Whenever re- quired	Once in a month	< 10 times in a year	Total
Baijnath	17	7	5	29
	58.60%	24.10%	17.20%	100.00%
Indora	19	4	5	28
	67.90%	14.30%	17.90%	100.00%
Kangra	25	4	4	33
	75.80%	12.10%	12.10%	100.00%
Lambagaon	20	3	2	25
	80.00%	12.00%	8.00%	100.00%
Total	81	18	16	115
	70.40%	15.70%	13.90%	100.00%



Chart 7: Frequency of availing services

4.22 Digital Vs Manual in terms of time consuming

Table 22: Time consumed of wrt services					
Particulars	Consumin	Consuming more time			
Name of the Block	Yes	No			
Baijnath	0	22	22		
	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%		
Indora	2	23	25		
	8.0%	92.0%	100.0%		
kangra	2	29	31		
	6.5%	93.5%	100.0%		
Lambagaon	1	23	24		
	4.2%	95.8%	100.0%		
Grand Total	5	97	102		
	4.9%	95.1%	100.0%		

Most of the citizens (N=102) avail the e-services from LMK's and the data reveals that only 4.9 per cent of sample size of district Kangra believes that LMK/CSC's will take more time in comparison to availing services manually. But majority of the people believed that CSC/ LMK will serve them properly at their door step and consume less time in comparison to manual services.

4.23 Types of e-Services

Table 23: Types of e-Services					
	Types of e-ser	vices			
Have you availed any e-Services	Birth/Death Certificate	Licenses/ Passport	Tele- phone/ Electricity Bill Pay- ment	House Tax pay- ment	Total
Voc	4	49	11	51	115
1 05	Yes 3.50% 42.60% 9.60% 44.30% 100.00%				
Total	4	49	11	51	115
	3.50%	42.60%	9.60%	44.30%	100.00%

A total of 44.30 per cent of the citizens of the Kangra District availed the e-District platform for payment of House taxes and followed by 42.60 per cent for applying the License/ Passport services. However, 9.6 per cent for telephone or electricity bill and 3.5 per cent of people have availed the services for Birth/Death certificates.

This indicates that majority of the common citizen centric services which were hosted by the district administration were now available at e-District portal. The respondents are availing these services through nearby Lok Mitra Kendra or through direct web-logins/Departments easily by round the clock. It is also evident that there are no paying bribes to middle men for availing these e-services and nor anybody demanded bribe for the services. This also increases the transparency in the service and reduces turn-around-time of the services with an accountability.

Table 24: Paying of Bribe						
Re- sponse	Paid any bribe charges for middle man for helping to avail e-Services	Have they demanded any bribe for the services				
No	115	115				
	100%	100%				

4.24 Role of Cyber Café:

Table 25: Cyber Café features (N=2)						
Block Name	Good Internet Co	onnection speed	Charge for serv	availing e- ices	Grand Total	
	Excellent	Good	High	Minimal		
Baijnath	0	100%	0	100%	100%	
Grand Total	0	100%	0	100%	100%	

Cybercafé also plays a vital role in availing e-Services through e-District portal. However, only 1.74 per cent of the people (only 2 citizens) availed the e-Services from the cybercafé, where 100 per cent of the respond-

ents claimed that the internet speed is good and 100 per cent claimed that the cybercafé people charged minimal rates.

4.25 Services availed from Departmental Officials

From the complete sample size, only one person availed the e-Services from Department office. The respondent availed the e-Service easily and the behavior of the official was good enough and no bribe was demanded. The respondent found it was easy to fill the form and the services were provided within the time frame.

Table 26: Services from Departmental Officials (N=1)					
Services from Department Officials	Yes	No			
Availed e-Services easily by the Department Officials	100%	0%			
Is form filling easily	100%	0%			
Behavior of Departmental Official- Good	100%	0%			
Bribe demanded	0%	100%			
Whether services provided within time limit	100%	0%			

4.26 Grievance Redressal System

In the sample size, 83.5 per cent of people believe that in case of any problem, the Grievance Redressal Cell of e-District application will provide the solution and 16.5 per cent of people believe that they will not provide the solution.

Chart 8: Grievance Redressal Mechanism



4.27 Features of Application:

The portability of the application is important and the trust of the respondents on the portal is considered to be the success factor of the portal. From the overall sample size, 93.9 per cent of the respondents stated that the responsiveness of the portal is good, 73 per cent showed their trust on the portal in terms of data and its security. To maintain this trust, the web portal should have SSL certification and two-way authentication. The respondents believed in the portal and rated the overall quality of the services offered at the portal were good. This trust acts like a catalyst in managing the change in the society.

<u>Table 2</u> 7: Features of Application (N=10)					
Particulars	Good	Poor			
What is the responsiveness of the portal	100%	0%			
How would you rate the data security of the Portal	73.00%	27.00%			
What is the internet connection speed at cyber cafe	86.10%	13.90%			
How is the behaviour of departmental officials	100%	0.00%			
Overall quality of the services offered at portal	100.00%	0			

4.28 Gender Perspective:

Table 28: Gender Perspective							
	Female	Female	Female (in	Male		Male (in per-	To-
Particulars	Count	Total	percentage)	Count	Male Total	centage)	tal_Count
Education (Graduation and							
above)	12	35	34%	48	80	60%	60
Penetration of Digital De-							
vices	29	35	83%	71	80	89%	100
Digital Literacy train-							
ings_undergone	6	35	17%	24	80	30%	30
Hands on requirement w.r.t.							
Digital Literacy	32	35	91%	48	80	60%	80
Awareness level	9	35	26%	35	80	44%	44
Availing services through							
LMK/ CSCs	32	35	91%	70	80	88%	102
Availing services through							
direct web login	1	35	3%	9	80	11%	10

It is analysed from the given sample size that only 30 per cent of female candidates have availed e-district services where 34 per cent of female respondents were graduate and above in comparison to 60 per cent of male respondents. It was also found that the penetration of digital devices was less among females in comparison to male respondents. Moreover, only 17 per cent female have undergone any type of Digital Literacy training programme and 91 per cent exhibited their interest to undergo hands-on training. It is also found that in comparison to male respondents, females were less aware i.e., only up to 26 per cent female respondents know that these e-Services were available under e-District portal.

These all indicators pushed the female beneficiaries to avail e-District services from CSC/LMKs, in the sample study, 91 per cent female respondents availed these services through LMK only and only 3 per cent availed using direct web-login.

This implies that gender mainstreaming is the important factor which needs to be considered as the saying "सक्षक्त नारी सक्षक समाज." The digital literacy and awareness especially for female needs to be built at ground level with the support and help of Ministry of Rural Development, GoI and Department of W&CD.

4.29 Overall Analysis

Taking the direction of these indicators into consideration, an index/score has been computed which reflects the extent of implementation of e-District Portal. It may be added that the index values have been arrived at by aggregating the dichotomous replies given by each sample respondent to each of the 13 indicators.

Table 29	: Composition of the	dimensions
S.No.	Index Name	Indicators in the dimension
1	Digital Penetration (4)	Usage of Internet Services , Connected with Social Media, Operation of Digital device and Holding of Digital device
2	Utility of LMKs (4)	Consume less time at LMK, No rush at LMKs,LMKs adhere time frame wrt PSG Act 2011 and No extra charge for service provided
3	Portal Features (5)	Getting of process updates of the portal, No issues in Payment Gateway, Documents available in Digilocker portal, fulfilment of user requirement and Simplification of form

Based on the nature of the indicators, they have been merged into the groups (dimensions) namely Digital penetration, Utility of LMKs and Portal features. The following tables show the composition in terms of indicators of each dimension.

Table 30: Block wise break-up of the average scores - Dimension-wise						
Name of	Digital Penetration	LMK Utility	Portal Features	Total score		
the Block	(out of 4)	(out of 4)	(out of 5)	(out of 13)		
Baijnath	3.34	3.59	4.41	11.34		
Indora	3.68	3.18	4.07	10.93		
Kangra	3.27	3.55	4.42	11.24		
Lambagaon	3.04	3.56	4.76	11.36		
Total	3.34	3.47	4.41	11.22		

The average scores of the digital penetration and LMK utility are 3.34 and 3.47 respectively, where the maximum score is 4 and whereas for Portal features the average score was 4.41 out of a maximum score of 5 units. This indicates that the average scores are close to their respective maxima which further shows that in the perception of the sample respondents, the actual implementation status of e-District portal at Kangra District was very high. (Based on the 13 indicators considered)

The total score on the 13 indicators is split into three groups viz., low, medium and high where low group means a score less than or equal to 8.0, moderate 9 to 10 and high includes those cases where the score value is greater than or equal to 11. Following this grouping, a graph is drawn which shows that there is a lot of clustering of scores in the high group accounting for 73.9 per cent, followed by the moderate group with 17.4 per cent and low group with hardly 8.7 per cent.

Chart 9: Classification of scores into groups



As each dimension is dependent upon varying number of indicators, to enable comparison across the dimensions, percentage scores are computed, of the three dimensions, the digital penetration gets the lowest at 83.5 per cent, followed by LMK utility with 86.7 per cent, and portal features 88.2 per cent. The overall implementation score is 86.2 which shows a very high status of implementation of e-portal in Kangra district .

The exercise serves two purposes- first, going by the total score the 13 indicators obtained, a clear endorsement of the fact that the indicators selected '*reflect the status of implementation*' of e-portal and second, the implementation status can be viewed and also assessed from the view point of three different dimensions which are Digital penetration, LMK utility and Portal features. The second part would enable the implementing agencies to take appropriate steps in respect of those dimensions which yield lower scores. From this point of view, this exercise is useful for adoption in like situations.

Citizen Service Centre: Lok Mitra Kendra (LMK)

The Lok Mitra Kendra's are the outreach layer to deliver the e-Services at their door steps. In order to identify the pros and cons of the LMK, four LMKs in each block has been selected and a total of 13 LMKs were interviewed and administered the questionnaire accordingly.



From the sample dataset N=13), it is found that the LMK officials needs to be trained over the portal and functionality of the government machinery for the effective use. Moreover, there should be a proper dialogue with the Department of Information Technology specifically in the case when one application is not processed in the certain time period. Moreover, a proper commission-based system and network connectivity over the HIMSWAN (Himachal State Wide Area Network) encouraged the LMKs to serve the public using e-District portal. The figures stated that 80 per cent of



LMK officials are having a good computer knowledge and opinioned that the interface of the portal is also user friendly. A total of 66.7 per cent of the LMK officials believed that the processes are not complexed and 93.3 per cent believed that responsive time is good. Overall, they rated the flexibility of the application up to 93.3 per cent.

Table 31: LMK features					
Particulars	Good	Poor			
LMK Respondent Computer Knowledge	80%	20%			
User Interface Portal	80%	20%			
Process Complexity of the portal	66.7%	33.3%			
Response Time application	93.3%	6.7%			
Responsive time uploading downloading application	66.7%	33.3%			
Rate of technical maintenance	66.7%	33.3%			
Rate of Flexibility application	93.3%	6.7%			

In detail, only 73.3 per cent are satisfied with the infrastructure of devices and its maintenance, 80 per cent are satisfied with network speed, 53.3 per cent of the LMK people did not take any backup of the system database and 86.7 per cent LMKs admit that complaint register is not prominently displayed. Majority of the LMK officials i.e., 86.7 per cent face technical issues while providing the e-Services to the common man which means a

fast and reliable dialogue is required between the LMK, DoIT and concerned line departmental officials. As 53.3 per cent LMK officials told that no departmental official or person concerned will ever monitor their progress.

Table 31.1: LMK features		
Particulars	Yes	No
Whether the portal easily fetch the data using Aadhaar services	66.7	33.3
Whether citizen are comfortable in providing the Aadhaar details	86.7	13.3
Do you know about the PSG Act 2011	6.7	93.3
Are all services listed in the eDistrict are under PSG Act 2011	100	0
Whether the services are provided at LMK adhere time frame wrt PSG		
Act 2011	100	0
Whether the pendency auto escalated to senior level	53.3	46.7
Have you undergone any training on e-District application	26.7	73.3

From the sample size, 86.7 per cent of the beneficiaries were comfortable in providing the Aadhaar details but only 66.7 per cent LMKs stated that it fetched the data easily. LMKs are not aware about Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011, as majority of the group were unaware about it. A total of 53.3 per cent LMK officials believed that the pendency was auto escalated to senior level. A total of 73.3 per cent of the LMKs have not received any training on the e-District application and 26 per cent of the officials thought that there is no grievance redressal system adopted by the e-District portal. This clearly indicates that the capacity building of the LMK officials needs to be built on the digital literacy as well as on the e-District portal.

Table 31.2: LMK features			
Particulars	Yes	No	
Are you satisfied with the infrastructure of devices and its maintenance	73.3	26.7	
Are you satisfied with internet speed	80	20	
Did you take up any back up of the system local database	46.7	53.3	
Did you face any technical issues in providing the e-Services	86.7	13.3	
Is man power is sufficient at LMK	86.7	13.3	
Is there any grievance redressal system is adopted for eDistricit application		26.7	
Is the complaint register prominently displayed at the LMK	13.3	86.7	
Is any Department Officials will monitor the progress of LMK	46.7	53.3	

After analysing the data, it was found that the major services which were availed from the e-District portal were: Minority Community Certificate 66.7 per cent followed by Backward Area/Character/Agriculturist Certificate 60 per cent, Income Certificate 53.33 per cent, Revenue Court Cases Management/Freedom Fighter Certificate 40 per cent, Bonafide Himachali Certificate 33.33 per cent, Copy of Record of Rights with Digitised Map 26.67 per cent etc., which indicates that the portal is providing the very basic records at the

door step of the citizens without putting any extra pressure on the Government machinery. It is also evident from the figures that the Government officials have also initiated the use of portal and verifying the user's record over e-District portal. Further, after interacting with the LMKs it is also found that sometime LMKs are also requesting the Government officials to look/monitor the portal.

Table 31.3: LMK services	
Services	
Minority Community Certificate	66.67
Backward Area Certificate	60.00
Character Certificate	60.00
Agriculturist Certificate	60.00
Income Certificate	53.33
Revenue Court Cases Management	40.00
Freedom Fighter Certificate	40.00
Bonafide Himachali Certificate	33.33
Copy of Record of Rights with Digitized Map	26.67
Application for work under MGNREGA	26.67
Copy of Land records	26.67
Domicile Certificate	20.00
Renewal of Contract Labour License	20.00
Application for contract Labour License	13.33
Indigent Certificate	13.33
Widow Re-Marriage	13.33
Copy of Pariwar Register	13.33
CM Bestowing Plan	13.33

Department Officials

The Departmental officials are the key persons who actually verify the record which are submitted either by the Lok Mitra Kendra or by the selfweb login. These verified records will further take the shape of document.



This service works face less and paper less where the applicant can apply through e-District portal and final documents are available at Digilocker -cloud platform. The Institute has also collected the data from departmental officials.



Table 32: Departmental Officials			
Question	Yes	No	
Whether e-services are compatible in smart phone	100	-	
Whether there is any difficulty to avail e-Services by citizens	46.2	53.8	
Have you organized any Digital Literacy Training Programme?	46.2	52.0	
In collaboration with other Institutes like: HIPA/ PRTI etc	7.7	55.8	
Are citizens being aware about these e-services	53.8	46.2	
Have you conduct any awareness programmes	92.3	7.7	
Are you aware about PSG Act 2011	84.6	15.4	
Have you undergone any training on e-District application	69.2	30.8	
Any computer trainings are imparted to the officials	92.3	7.7	
Any computer trainings are imparted to the LMK	53.8	46.2	
Any SoP is provided by the department to work with eDistrict application	61.5	38.5	
Is there any mechanism to redress the grievances	84.6	15.4	
Whether there is a reduction in footfall?	84.6	15.4	

From the sample of the respondents, 100 per cent officials said that the e-District portal is compatible in the smart phones. A total of 46.2 per cent officials admitted that citizens face difficulties in availing the services online which means capacity building programmes needs to be executed at field level. However, 46.2 per cent Departments organised digital literacy programmes either by self or in collaboration with other institutes. As per data collected, only 53.8 per cent stated that citizens were aware about e-Services and 92.3 per cent department officials stated that they have conducted the awareness programmes. A total of 84.6 per cent of department officials were aware about PSG Act, 2011. A total of 69.2 per cent of the respondents attended the training programmes on e-District portal and 92.3 per cent respondents have undergone the training on Computer Literacy, 61.5 per cent officials stated that Standard Operating Procedure are provided by the Department to work in/on e-District application.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism has been adopted in the e-District application and 84.6 per cent respondents confirmed that with the implementation of e-District application there is a reduction of footfall in the government setup. A total of 84.6 per cent of the respondents were completely satisfied with the portal and 76.9 per cent were satisfied with the overall experiences of the portal. In respect to portability and flexibility of the portal 84.6 per cent were satisfied whereas only 53.8 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the efficiency with which the problem was dealt. This clearly indicates that the e-District portal is success but during discussion it was also found that the capacity of the officials needs to be built on e-District portal and change & behaviour management programmes are to be organised.

Table 32.1: Departmental Officials		
Particulars	Completely satisfied	Partially Satisfied
How satisfied are you with the Portability and flexibility of the portal	84.6	15.4
How satisfied are you with the efficiency with which problem was dealt with	53.8	46.2
How satisfied are you with eDistrict Portal whole	84.6	15.4
After considering your experiences with all the above aspects of the e-District Portal how satisfied are you	76.9	23.1

Chapter 5: Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations 5.1 Salient Findings & Key Success Factors

The study involved a survey of four blocks in the district Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

- As per the census records, the State literacy rate is 82.8 per cent, as per TRAI, the tele-density is 148 per cent and as per e-PDS.HP 13.42 per cent were BPL families in the district of Kangra of Himachal Pradesh. In the sample size of four blocks, 84 per cent were graduates & above and 80 per cent+ respondents from all four blocks were equipped with digital devices. A majority of 83.5 per cent of the respondents were availing internet services. This represents a very strong digital penetration in the state.
- A majority of 81.7 per cent of the respondents knew how to operate the digital device but 77.75 per cent of them operated at basic/intermediate level. It is also found that only 26 per cent of them have undergone digital literacy programme and 69.6 per cent exhibited their interest for hands-on training in digital literacy. In proportion to this the very less beneficiaries i.e., 8 per cent availed e-Services through direct web login. This represents that the capacity building training programmes needs to be hosted at ground level which help in the benefit of the rural people for availing e-Services.
- 100 per cent of beneficiaries of sample size were aware of e-Services but 55.65 per cent were aware that these e-Services are launched under e-District application. The friends, social gathering and social media were major sources of penetration with 60.12 per cent & 19.4 per cent respectively. It also represents that more awareness programmes need to be launched through Gram Sabha like public gatherings and using social media extensively.
- The Citizen Service Centre, in the state is known as Lok Mitra Kendra which are established at Panchayat level under the PPP mode. The CSCs are the channel between the e-Services and citizens, in the sample size, 89 per cent of the respondents availed these services through CSCs only. The beneficiaries were happy with the services of CSC as 95 per cent found that they are delivering the services without consuming much time and 66.7 per cent stated that they serve with in the time frame. It is also found that 80 per cent of the beneficiaries have not found any display board and majority of LMK i.e., 53.3 per cent stated that no monitoring was there. The Department of IT needs to ensure sustainability and transparency of the CSCs. Moreover, the motivational factors are to be increased with more technical support and training to CSCs.
- The trust of the citizen on the portal is the major factor. In the analysis it was found that 73 per cent of the respondents who have availed the services through web login trusted the data security of portal. The portal is continuously integrating with new databases and services in that order, the SSL certification and two- factor authentication needs to be incorporated in the application.
- The application helps in data management and planning & management of schemes as reported by State Department of IT which also helps for data mining. Integrated service will also reduce the cost for availing the services. Creating a win-win situation for both the government machinery and to the citizen. It is

also found that the 84 per cent of Departmental officials admitted that with the launch of e-Services there is a reduction of footfall in the government setup.

- The users found the application user-friendly, responsive and rated the application good. Moreover, 100 per cent of the departmental officials rated the overall quality as good. The Department of IT is also planning to fuse the latest technologies to increase the outreach of the application in the rural masses. It resembles that in near future people will avail the services in a paperless and face less manner.
- For the progress of any district, the up-liftment of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes is must. From the collected data it is evident that 78.3 per cent i.e., the majority of the sample belongs to these sections this directly represents their upliftment of scheduled/backward category using e-Services.
- The sample size, also represented that majority of the beneficiaries belongs to marginal families i.e., 65 per cent are in the income slab of Rs. 30,000 to Rs.1,00,000 only meaning e-Services are actually serving the people who need it most and can't afford to visit Tehsil/Sub-Division/district offices for these services.
- The cybercafé available in the district is charging a minimal fee and the connection speed is also good helping the people to avail the e-services as per their needs.
- The ministry and department has to work on gender mainstreaming as only 30 per cent female respondents have availed these services and only 17 per cent have undergone training on digital literacy whereas 91 per cent exhibited their interest to undergo digital literacy training.

5.2. Recommendations:

From the sample size, it is clearly evident that the District Kangra is having a good literacy rate and 87.9 per cent of people are well qualified. In the block Lambagaon only 64 per cent people are graduates/postgraduates/technical diploma holders and 76 per cent of people are holding BPL ration card which means block having highest sex ratio need to stress upon the education level and gender mainstreaming. The majority of the respondents are from Backward Class or Scheduled Caste i.e., of 78 per cent, indicating a very good reach and awareness. The majority of the beneficiaries have reported their income in between Rs.30,000 to Rs.1,00,000 meaning they have very limited resources. Highest literate block Kangra is having 81.8 per cent of APL cards and 27 per cent of respondents are engaged in cultivation which is the highest no. of cultivators in comparison to other sample blocks. In the district, 87 per cent respondents were equipped with digital devices out of which 91.8 per cent were using smartphones where 83.5 per cent of the respondents were using Internet services and 18.26 per cent knew how to operate digital devices at intermediate or advanced level. District is having a very good tele density and internet subscribers. The district is having a very good awareness level i.e., 55.65 per cent, but due to the lack of digital awareness and capacity building they are availing the services through Lok Mitra Kendras. A majority of the 89 per cent of the respondents have availed e-Services through LMKs and only 8.38 per cent have availed the services through direct/web-logins. In this scenario, awareness workshops and capacity building programmes on e-District portal, change & behavioral management training programmes

help the people to get motivated and avail the e-services 24x7. Further, helps in reduction of footfall in the government setup for efficient and effective working. It is also suggested that the persons who can handle the devices at advanced level may act as master trainers at the ground zero.

In Himachal Pradesh, the CSC/Lok Mitra Kendra's were established at Panchayat level using PPP and 89 per cent of the sample size availed e-services through these centers. Majority of the respondents i.e., 53.9 per cent availed e-services for bill/tax payments and the rest of the respondents i.e., 42.6 per cent availed e-service for license. The people exhibited their trust on CSC/LMKs as 95.1 per cent LMKs served the services without consuming more time than manual services and 66.7 per cent appreciated for adhering to the time frames. Maximum LMKs/CSCs are available nearby or with in the radius of 10 kms which means they are delivering the services at the door-steps of the citizens. A majority of 90.2 per cent stated that there was no rush and they are available to them. The display boards with the services and service charge needs to be installed in the LMKs for the better service delivery and these LMKs will be functional and approachable to all the citizens at normal rates.

All the respondents rated the e-District portal as "Good Quality Portal" and 83.5 per cent of people will believe that in case of any grievance, the GRM cell will provide the solution. Moreover, all the respondents marked the portal as trustworthy and 95.7 per cent of the people admitted that the said portal is fulfilling their needs. To go with this confidence, the government has to add more services on this platform with proper data security and the same may be linked with Digilocker and other services with proper SSL certifications.

Training is the key component of any project, in the sample size only 26 per cent respondents attended the training from Govt/private institutions, where 46.67 per cent have attended the training on advanced level and 69.6 per cent people required hands on training. It is suggested that the State ATIs/ SIRDs or local administration may organise the training programmes at Block/Village level where 47.5 per cent seeking advanced hands-on training and 42.5 per cent were seeking hands on training on intermediate training requirement.

Some respondents in the district availed these e-services form the web logins and all of them found the portal responsive and user friendly. A majority of the 70 per cent of them found no issues in the payment gateway but 40 per cent of them are unable to fetch their details from the unique id and 90 per cent of them have not received proper application updates on their phone. It is therefore, suggested that proper database integration with unique ids and other database may be carried out with proper updates via SMS etc.

It is evident that, the community has shifted to paperless and faceless services using the e-District and Digilocker portal. The majority of the applications are submitted for Minority Community Certificate 66.7 per cent followed by Backward Area/Character/ Agriculturist Certificate 60 per cent, Income Certificate 53.33 per cent, Revenue Court Cases Management/Freedom Fighter Certificate 40 per cent, Bonafide Himachali Certificate 33.33 per cent, Copy of Record of Rights with Digitized Map 26.67 per cent etc. which further indicated that the portal is providing the basic services at the door step of the citizens without putting any extra pressure on the Government machinery. It is also evident from the figures that the Government officials have also started to use the portal and verifying the records over the machine.

The Lok Mitra Kendra are the foundation pillars established at the Panchayat level which act as an interface between the people and government. From the sample it is found that the LMK officials are having a good understanding of the application, 80 per cent are having a good computer knowledge, 66.7 per cent found application less complex and 93.3 per cent rated the good flexibility and responsiveness of the portal. Majority of the LMK is happy with the infrastructure but 86.7 per cent face technical issues during providing the services that means a strong communication should be established between the LMK, DoIT and concerned line departmental officials which helps the LMK officials to serve the citizens effectively and efficiently. It is further suggested that the LMK should be monitored timely, proper capacity building activities are to be carried out with proper HMSWAN connectivity.

The district administration is the first line of contact to avail any service. With the implementation of e-Governance and other online tools the pressure is also reduced on the government setup. A majority of 84.6 per cent Departmental officials admitted that there is a reduction of footfall in the government setup and 84.6 per cent officials were completely satisfied with the e-District portal. Close to half that is 46.2 per cent officials admitted that citizens face difficulties in availing the services online which means capacity building programmes needs to be executed at field level. Moreover, only 69.2 per cent of the officials attended the training programme on e-District portal which means a proper capacity building activities should be carried out at field level.

5.3 Conclusion

e-District portal is great success in the state of Himachal Pradesh as 84.6 per cent departmental officials admitted that there is a reduction in the footfall in government offices which reduces the pressure on government machinery and people were completely satisfied with the e-District portal. The Lok Mitra Kendra's are the foundation pillars established at the Panchayat level which act as an interface between the people and government and 89 per cent respondents have availed the services through LMK only. This pushes the PPP mode and enables the beneficiaries to avail the services at their door steps. 66.7 per cent of LMK officials found application less complex and 93.3 per cent rated as flexible and responsive portal. A total of 87 per cent respondents were equipped with digital devices and 83.5 per cent were internet subscribers in the sample size which means the digital penetration is good among society but 69.6 per cent required the hands-on training on digital literacy. These training programmes may be executed with state SIRD/ PRTI/ETC in cascading mode at panchayat level. This represents that the capacity of the respondents has to be built on digital literacy enabling them to avail the services. It is also strongly recommended from the above-mentioned enabling factors that the said model may also be implemented in the North- Eastern states of India with almost the same hilly terrain as of Himachal Pradesh. This helps the community to avail the services at their door step round the clock.

5.4 Suggestions:

It is evident from the factor analysis that the average scores are close to their respective maxima's i.e., Digital penetration and LMK utility are 3.34 and 3.47 respectively out of the maximum score of 4 whereas for Portal features the average score as 4.41 out of a maximum score of 5 units which represents actual implementation status of e-District portal at Kangra District is high.

From the sample size, only 26 per cent beneficiaries have attended any training programme on Digital Literacy and 69.6 per cent showed their interest to undergo hands-on training. Moreover, awareness level has to be built among the rural masses as only 53.8 per cent departmental officials claimed that the citizens were aware about these e-Services. It is also suggested that for gender mainstreaming, the role of the female needs to be encouraged at the village level.

The users who availed the services themselves rated the overall quality as 100 per cent and 73 per cent rely on the data security but 90 per cent users admitted that they have not got the process updates regularly which means the portal needs some more technical enhancements.

The 93 per cent of LMK officials found the application flexible and 80 per cent of them found it user-friendly but 86.7 per cent have some technical issues while filling the application. And 66.7 per cent got the technical maintenance over the portal which means a technical upgradation is required.

A total of 76.9 per cent departmental officials are completely satisfied with the e-District portal and 84.6 per cent of officials admitted that this portal helps them to reduce the public footfall in the government setup and the citizens are now availing these services at their doorstep round the clock. It is therefore, strongly suggested that this portal and model may also be replicated in the North-Eastern states of India to deliver the citizen centric services at their doorstep round the clock considering the difficult terrains of Himachal and North-Eastern states.

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Annexure -1: Enlisted Services in the application:

S. N o.	Name of Depart- ment	Service Name
1	Panchayati Raj Depart-	Birth Registration & Certificate
2	ment / Urban Develop-	Death Registration & Certificate
3	Banchavati Bai Donart	Marriage Registration & Certificate
4	ment	Copy of Pariwar Register
5	Rural Development De-	Application For BPL Certificate
6	partment / Urban De-	Application for Registration under MGNREGA
7	velopment Department	Application for Work under MGNREGA
8		Registration of Shops And Commercial Establishment
9		Renewal of Shops And Commercial Establishment
10		Registration of Establishment Employing Contract Labour
11		Application for Contract Labour License
12		Renewal of Contract Labour License
13	Department of Labour	Application for Registration of Employing Migrant Workmen
14	& Employment	Application for Registration of Motor Transport Worker Registration
15		Application for Renewal of Motor Transport Worker Registration
16		Migrant Workmen Contractor Licence Registration
17		Migrant Workmen Contractor Licence Renewal
18		Registration of Establishment Under the Building and Other Construction Workers
19		Revenue Court Cases Management
20		Application for Agriculturist Certificate
21		Application for Backward Area Certificate
22		Application for Bonafide Himachali Certificate
23		Application for Caste (SC/ST) Certificate
24		Application for Character Certificate
25		Application for Dogra Class Certificate
20	Revenue Department	Application for Ereedom Eighter Certificate
28		Application for Income Certificate
29		Application for Indigent (Needy Person) Certificate
30		Application for Legal Heirs Certificate
31		Application for Minority Community Certificate
32	_	Application for OBC Certificate
33		Application for Rural Area Certificate
34		Application for Sr. Citizen ID Card
35	Women & Child Welfare Department	Application for Disability ID Card
36		Beti Hai Anmol Yojna
37		CM Bestowing Plan (Mukhya Mantri Kanyadaan Yojana)
38	SC, OBC and Minority	Mother Teresa Asahay Matri Sambal Yojana
39	Affairs Department	Widow Re-Marriage
40	Revenue Department	Panch Praman Scheme
41	Electricity Department	Electricity Bill Payment



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