Genx and ICT

As Bacon once said "The world is a bubble", and probably it could not have been more aptly assumed. The reason being the bubble has surely burst. The world is advancing as every second passes by. Man has set his eyes on something beyond his own imagination, and it is all attributed to the one word we all are well-versed with-Globalisation, the rapidity in its rise and how it has brought about a revolution in our lives. And perhaps its most vital aspect is the Information Technology boom.

IT sector has contributed in every single aspect of our journey in the last two decades. But its ubiquity has been inventively been used to its fullest. They say that 21st century is recognized as the era of innovation. And maybe that is why having to take the innovative point of view into consideration, I would say that in a country like India, we are yet to capitalise on its inclusiveness.

The Dept. Of Information and Technology (DIT) has definitely played a foremost role in generating the necessity of a technologically sound approach in all that our nation deals with. By itself, the Web and Internet are resources that need to be harnessed upon for the benefit of all and sundry. A section like Rural India, which forms the mainstream of our economic and democratic stability, needs to be seen through this approach. Or let me put it as an e-Approach.

The symbolism and criticality of the "e-"is certainly picking up momentum across the nation. And the Government of India and its states have their emphasis on the Internet Governance Plan, by laying out an e-Infrastructure or a platform, enabling socio-economic development and human centred progress.

The private sectors and the rest of the citizens of the country share a stake in this initiative as well, because that is where our success lies. In order to meet the needs of the plan, an Internet Governance Forum came into existence at the Tunis Meet'05, in order to spread its diversity amongst all, and make it all the more clear. Subsequent meets across the world reached a consensus that Internet is for all and it is required to create opportunities.

Several initiatives under the plan consisted the widespread usage of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) through public-private cooperation, setting up of a National Knowledge Network(NKN), with the aid of premier institutions like the IITs in order to bring in more data under the same sun, and of course promoting areas like health, education, agriculture, finance and social security.

When it comes to rural areas, there is the prime need to foster a sense of awareness amidst people about the importance and benefits of the ICTs. It is not possible to set up a computer in every household, so the every area is provided with kiosks of CSCs (Common Service Centres) in order to provide any of the following requested:

1. In order to book train tickets, one can check for the timings and updates on the IRCTC (Govt. website) and can purchase an e-ticket.

2. Availability of seeds in the market or any iteration in the quality can be seen.

3. Information on the soil conditions provided by the GIS (Global Info. System) in accordance to the texture, topography, moisture content, amount of rainfall and weather report.

4. Telemedicine and e-health provides even the few medicos in the area with valuable incentives to provide the correct health care

needed.

5. The Smart Card Ration Cards that are issued to ensure earnestness in the system, especially for the masses BPL.

But before all this is provided, what is of utmost importance is the need of a multilingual web service i.e. each region has access to all this information and much more in the language that is spoken and understood by the people there. In this way the Govt. would have fulfilled more than half its promise.

The TDIL (Technology Development in Indian Languages) is the ongoing initiative by the IT Ministry. It embarks upon the need to enrich the information with the prospect of distribution of CDs to various states, in the hope that they carry forward the task of revising the mode of language to the state lingo.

Why is this done? In order to make them self sufficient and self reliant.

The concept of e-learning and e-education is being practised globally. In India, initially we pressurized upon right to education for all and now there is a growing need for an e-educational era to add thrust to the system.

The main strategies for its inclusion are:

1. Universality in the access of information
2. Social impact – each one , teach one policy
3. Environmental Awareness
4. Political support
5. Infrastructure that requires timely renewal- setting up area networks
6. Mode of correspondence courses emphasized
7. Remote students should benefit
8. Standardized syllabus and cost effective measures
9. Family support
10. Linguistically sound.

The NSDI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure) that came into scene after the Right to Information Act   Bill was passed, is considered as the storehouse of Information related to everything. Also, the setting up of International Domain Names, upgrading of IPv4 to IPv6 (in order to increase the bandwidth of usage), and above all setting up of a separate World Wide Web Consortium (India Centre) stimulates the project several-times fold.

The e-governance idea is a key token of the Millennium Development Goals(as discussed at the WSIS(World Summit on Information Systems under the UN)) in order to build an Internet Society to manage and administer the E-Gov Plan.

The most important criteria to earn success at the grass root levels is to pick the right people and ways for it. Devolution of powers to the local self-govt. and access to the people via the Gram Panchayats is the primary step to be taken. In this manner, one could decentralize the democracy by the way of publishing, interacting, transacting .Achieving a good governance is done by the following Five point Principle:

1. Security and Trust
2. Good leadership
3. Investing correctly
4. Collaboration
5. Active Civic participation

Social Media too has influenced an individual's life in a big way. It is high time that even Governments (central and state) pitched in and shared information to discuss common causes and the public would be able to assess the situation prevailing in the country.

If this target is achieved, it would mean that in real sense we are a tech-sound nation.

This is a key to empower Rural India and make it an e-Happy sector, to envision a 2020 superpower India.

Courtesy :

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