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**REVIEW OF LITERATURE** 

**NEED/IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY** 

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

**OBJECTIVES** 

**HYPOTHESES** 

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY** 

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION** 

INDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

REFERENCES

#### APPENDIX/ANNEXURE

It should be in a 8 point Calibri Font, single spaced and justified. The manuscript should preferably not exceed 5000 WORDS.

- 10. FIGURES & TABLES: These should be simple, crystal clear, centered, separately numbered &self explained, and titles must be above the table/figure. Sources of data should be mentioned below the table/figure. It should be ensured that the tables/figures are referred to from the main text.
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- Bowersox, Donald J., Closs, David J., (1996), "Logistical Management." Tata McGraw, Hill, New Delhi.
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#### **DEALING WITH PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF E-GOVERNANCE IN BANGLADESH**

#### KHANDAKER DAHIRUL ISLAM HEAD DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION ENGINEERING SYLHET INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SYLHET

#### MOHAMMAD NAZIMUL HOQUE INSTRUMENT AND CONTROL ENGINEER LAFARGE SURMA CEMENT LTD. SYLHET

#### ABSTRACT

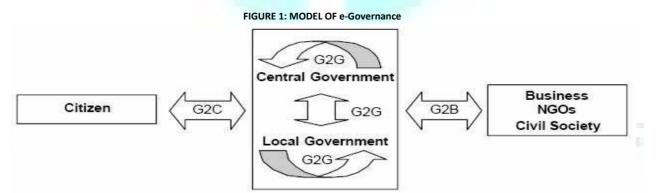
In the recent era, the application of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in the Government of Bangladesh has got a remarkable development, though it still is in its vestigial stage. Reforming public administration organizations and delivering an efficient and cost effective service are one of the staple concerns of Government, since Government has been observing the utmost development in ICT sector around the world for years. E-governance is the effective use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) that tends to improve the system of governance. It is a network of organizations to include government, nonprofit and private sector entities that hopes to provide better services to the citizens. Lately Bangladesh has given high priority in applying e-Governance, as the country realizes it to be the only mean of scattering Information Technology (ICT) in order to get the way of governance reactive, inexpensive, and allembracing. To date, various technologies have been applied to support the unique characteristics of e-government, including electronic data interchange, interactive voice response, voice mail, email, web service delivery, virtual reality, and key public infrastructure. This paper will discuss about the basic problems and visual percepts of e-Governance in Bangladesh.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Information and Communication Technology, e-Governance, network, problems, development.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The word governance derives from the Greek verb **kubernáo** which means to steer and was used for the first time in a metaphorical sense by Plato. It then passed on to Latin and then on to many languages. In current usage, to govern means to steer, to control, and to influence from a position of authority. Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development. Governance is the act of steering social systems. It is a process by which organizations are directed, controlled, and held to account to their society. It relates to decisions that define expectations, grant power, or verify performance. It consists of either a separate process or part of management or leadership processes. These processes and systems are typically administered by a government. It is a collection of systems and processes which are concerned with ensuring the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of an organization. It involves a new fashion of leadership, new mean of debating and deciding policy and investment, new mode of accessing education, new room of listening to citizens and new manner of organizing and delivering information and services. It is the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) to transform the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of informational and transactional exchanges with in government, between govt. and govt. agencies of National, State, Municipal and Local levels, citizen and businesses, and to empower citizens through access and use of information. In other words e-Governance is the implementation and delivery of government services through the information communication technology to provide Transparent, Effective, Efficient, Responsive and Accountable governance to the society [1].



Good governance has eight major characteristics for the effective and efficient governance. They are Participation, Transparency, Effectiveness and efficiency, Responsiveness, Accountability, Equity and inclusiveness [2]. If all these properties revolve around the ICT will explains innovative definition of e-governance as in figure1. This means e-Governance has all the above properties as well as innovative Information and communication Technology for the effective and efficient governance in any sector which assures that corruption is to be minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. It is also responsible to the present and future needs of society. A conceptual model for e-Governance is shown in figure-1 which explains about the interrelation between citizens, government and the services accessed by the citizen's through information and communication technology followed by the major characteristics of good governance.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

- Specific objectives of this research are:
- a. Identification of problems of current system
- b. Challenges to be faced in terms of E-governance
- c. Possible solutions.

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#### 3. METHODOLOGY

Step-by-step methodologies of the research are:

- a. Extensive study on respective field
- Through deeper study of the current field has favored a lot in doing research. It is knowledge that helps understanding different situations.
- b. Field survey
- This survey helped analyzing various information regarding e-Governance.
- c. Statistical analysis
- d. Regional comparison of the implementation of e-Governance.

#### 4. MISCONCEPTIONS OF E-GOVERNANCE

- a. E-Governance is not a process that intends to change the system of government and interpersonal relationships.
- b. E-Governance is not a way that limits to computerize the governmental system only.
- c. E-Governance is not about to convert all the paper based documents to e-document.
- d. E-Governance is not to put the security and confidentiality of the government into danger.

#### **5. COMPONENTS OF E-GOVERNANCE**

It needs to have the clear concept of e-Governance first. For the betterment of understanding, it needs to go through the various components of e-governance. There are three major components of e-Governance, introduction of which are stated below:

#### 5.1. Government to Citizen (G2C)

G2C is the communication link between a government and private individuals or residents that is it involves interaction of individual with the government. Such G2C communication most often refers to that which takes place through Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), but can also include direct mail and media campaigns. G2C can take place at the federal, state, and local levels. G2C stands in contrast to G2B, or Government-to-Business networks. As an example, a candidate is willing to download an application form for a government job from a relative site.

#### 5.2. Government-to-Government (G2G)

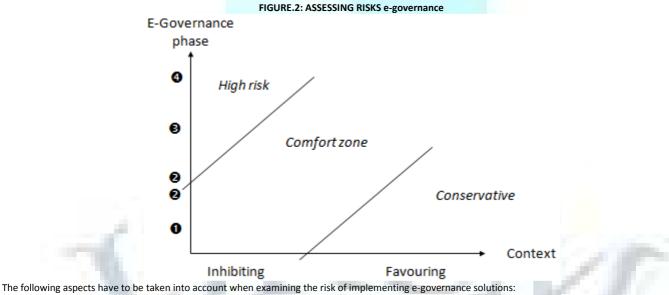
G2G stands for Government to Government, describing internal or external Government to Government data communications. G2G is the online non-commercial interaction between Government organizations, departments, and authorities and other Government organizations, departments, and authorities. Its use is common in the UK, along with G2C, the online non-commercial interaction of local and central Government and private individuals, and G2B the online non-commercial interaction of local and central Government and the commercial business sector.

#### 5.3. Government-to-Business (G2B)

**Government-to-Business** is the online non-commercial interaction between local and central government and the commercial business sector, rather than private individuals (G2C), with the purpose of providing businesses information and advice on e-business 'best practices'.

#### 6. SUCCESS FACTORS OF E-GOVERNANCE

A lot of retardants exist against the success of e-governance in developing countries. It is difficult to identify main one, because a number of aspects appear as basic predicament of Good Governance. Those work as a collection, for which it is really tough to identify the main inhibitor. The risk of implementing e-governance is thus a fact and is unavoidable. Only the solution is in a certain phase and in the context of possible success (and fail) factors.



- Political stability (elections, democracy)
- Level of trust in Government (perception of service levels)
- The importance of Government identity (fragmentation or integration)
- Economic structure (education, agriculture, industry or service)
- Government structure (centralised or decentralised)
- Different levels of maturity
- Constituent demand (push or pull)

#### 7. E-GOVERNANCE IN BANGLADESH

High level of internet penetration is a must for the development of ICT. The latest statistics (ITU 2007) revealed that internet penetration is only 0.3% in Bangladesh, whereas the rate is 7.3 and 5.3% respectively in India and Pakistan [3]. According to ITU 5,570,535 Internet users as of Dec, 2011; 3.5% of the population. Following is the table showing Internet Usage and Population Statistics:

#### VOLUME NO. 3 (2013), ISSUE NO. 07 (JULY)

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TABLE 1: INTERNET USAGE AND POPULATION STATISTICS						
Year	Users	Population	% User	GDP (\$)	Source	
2000	100,000	134,824,000	0.1 %	N/A		
2007	450,000	137,493,990	0.3 %	466	ITU	
2009	556,000	156,050,883	0.4 %	574		
2010	617,300	158,065,841	0.4 %	624		
2011	5,501,609	158,570,535	3.5 %	700		

Note: Per Capita GDP in US dollars, source: International Monetary Fund.

Honorable Prime Minister herself has put great emphasis on identifying challenges in the implementation of nation-wide E-Governance and on initiating pilot projects in various sectors of the government through a project called the Support to ITC Task Force (SICT). Ministry of Finance has customized software for budget planning, sensitivity analysis, impact analysis, financial projections and various reports. Besides this, National Board of Revenue is computerizing the revenue budget procedure. The following area are also noted:

- Both Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchange are highly computerized and networked, allowing citizens to trade with much more ease than before. a.
- Ministry of Science and ICT creating web-sites containing information about various ministries. h.
- Ministry of Communication provides online searchable database of contractor's tenders and created a Project Monitoring System for tracking progress of c. the projects.

The Southern Asian region remains far below the world average and is the lowest ranking region in Asia. The Maldives (0.4491) continues to lead this region, followed by Sri Lanka (0.4244) and Iran (0.4067). Bangladesh has improved on its web measurement in the enhanced and interactive stages [4]. The following table draws out the facts:

TABLE.2: E-GOVERNANCE READINESS FOR SOUTH ASIA					
Country	2008 Index	2005 Index	2008 Ranking	2005 ranking	
Maldives	0.4491	0.4321	95	77	
Sri Lanka	0.4244	0.3950	101	94	
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	0.4067	0.3813	108	98	
India	0.3814	0.4001	113	87	
Pakistan	0.3160	0.2836	131	136	
Bhutan	0.3074	0.2941	134	130	
Bangladesh	0.2936	0.1762	142	162	
Nepal	0.2725	0.3021	150	126	
Afghanistan	0.2048	0.1490	167	168	
Region	0.3395	0.3126			
World	0.4514	0.4267			

e-Governance is a way to solve the social as well as economical problems exist in the developing countries like Bangladesh. If a small fraction is spent on technology, namely to streamline the processes, it will really boost the domestic tech industry [5]. The above table represents the growth of acceptability of e-Governance in Bangladesh is quite improving.

#### 8. CHALLENGES OF E-GOVERNANCE IN BANGLADESH

Corruption in the public sector has significantly fallen in Bangladesh once it tempts to adopt electronic system in its many working areas. A survey in India shows that the states, where e-governance has been established even partially, the corruption rate has dramatically come down. The survey found that in Kolkata and Mumbai, due to adoption of e-Governance, the corruption rate declined, in some of the public sector organizations, to 19 per cent and 18 per cent compared to 51 per cent and 38 per cent respectively in 2000. In Bangladesh, computerization of Railway Reservation System, black-marketing of tickets has significantly gone down [6].

Limited time to plan

b.

- Lengthy process for Legal Framework to support E-Governance
- Insufficient telecom infrastructure to support E-Governance
- Unaffordable Internet services for private sector & citizens
- Limited ICT human capacity to support E-Governance

For a least developed country (LDC) like Bangladesh, funding is the main challenge. E-Governance is very capital intensive and no donor or consortium of donors can fully fund for the establishment of e-Governance. Private sector is a major beneficiary of e-Governance through increased access procurements and eservices. So they can play a major role in funding for yielding facilities in subsidizing e-Governance products.

#### 9. E-GOVERNANCE: MAJOR CHALLENGES WITH PROBLEMS IN BANGLADESH

Most of the people are poor in the countries like Bangladesh. The overall infrastructures here are not up to the mark. Under this critical condition, it is very difficult to render government services to the people. In the following sections a number of reasons for this are stated:

Poverty: Internet access is too expensive for the poor in developing countries like Bangladesh. The setup cost becomes too high in suburb areas in Bangladesh. Installing the necessary telephone lines needed for internet or email access is equally unaffordable in most poor countries. Here, each telephone connection likely cost as much as BDT30,000 in urban areas and BDT70,000-80,000 in villages, which is unaffordable by most of the low income families. It is also very expensive to gain internet access in Bangladesh. It is seen that it costs about BDT25 per hour in cities and BDT150 per hour in rural areas

TABLE	TABLE 3: ICT USAGE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES				
Countries	PC/100	Telephone/100	Internet/100		
Bangladesh	0.4	0.625	0.3		
India	2.76	3.37	6.93		
Canada	94.58	55.48	76.77		
UK	81.21	55.43	66.15		
USA	79.89	55.35	71.94		
Australia	75.70	47.05	54.19		
Singapore	72.61	41.91	69.99		
New Zealand	54.15	40.83	80.41		

Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators 2008 and http://www.btcl.gov.bd/profile/profile.htm Technical Illiteracy: There is general lack of technical literacy as well as literacy in countries like Bangladesh, the correlation between education level and use of electronic means or Internet and other ICT means are quite significant, for instance about usage of ICT is given above in the table (Table.1) [7].

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- c. Dominance of English Language: The potency of English on the internet tightens the access of non-English-speaking population. It is found that of all the web pages in the world, about 84 percent are in English followed by 4.5 percent in German, 3.1 percent in Japanese, 1.8 percent in French, 1.2 percent in Spanish, 1.1 percent in Swedish, 1 percent in Italian and less than 1 percent in all other languages [8]. Due to such overwhelming dominance of English over these communication channels, computers and the internet are quite useless in villages, and the use of local languages does little to alleviate the problem due to the poor literacy level mentioned earlier.
- d. Unawareness: There is general lack of awareness regarding benefits of e-governance as well as the process involved in implementing successful G-C, G-G and G-B projects. The administrative structure is not geared for maintaining, storing and retrieving the governance information electronically.
- e. Inequality: Inequality in gaining access to public sector services between various sections of citizens, especially between urban and rural communities, between the educated and illiterate, and between the rich and poor.
- f. Impediments for the Re-Engineering Process: Implementation of e-governance projects requires lots of restructuring in administrative processes, redefining of administrative procedures and formats which finds the resistance in almost all the departments at all the levels.
- Besides the above, the following issues are also too significant in consideration to the challenges of establishing e-governance:
- Inadequate ICT infrastructure within the government
- Govt. officials are very less in accessing ICT
- Mare application of IT system
- Lack of incentive structure of government officials
- Absence of the participations of society, public and private sectors
- Deficiency of adequate training program
- Less competent IT maintenance
- Insufficiency of sustainability of IT system
- Frequent and atypical transfer of government functionaries
- Few ownership if IT system

The psychology of government servants is quite different from that of private sectors. Traditionally the government servants have derived their sustenance from the fact that they are important repositories of government data. Thus any effort to implement Documents Management and workflow technologies or bringing out the change in the system is met with resistance from the government servants.

#### **10. PROSPECTIVE FACILITIES**

- a. e-Governance will able to provide the government services to the common man in a very cost effective manner.
- b. The citizens of Bangladesh could access number of facilities and information from one stop shop at a very nominal cost by using e-Governance.
- c. Online availability of complete vehicle information will help selling and purchasing of vehicle, transfer of vehicle, address modification etc. this process would become very fast and easy.
- d. Collection of fee and taxes of registration, license, and permit would be fast and efficient also. Thus e-Governance would minimize the corruption.
- e. Farmers will be benefited through providing the appropriate price for their crop. This would minimize the role of mediators and yield very fast and easy access of various types of forms, land records etc.
- f. Villagers could participate in the decision making of various functioning bodies for their welfare through e-governance.

#### **11. SUGGESTIONS**

It is a must to build a superb consensus with all interested people to get champions in all sectors. The private sector can play an important role in this respect. They have sufficient funds and are able to influence different stakeholders along with the government itself to support E-Governance. It needs to pay close attention to the various office of the government like the office of the President, Ministries of Telecom, and Education etc. for emphasizing the organic or functional relation among the parts as a whole. Today, public servants must have to be encouraged and trained well in order to be familiar with the tools and languages of ICT. Such initiatives of the Bangladesh government must have to take, so that the commitment of political leadership and the enthusiasm of private entrepreneurs too are met with the public demands. Infrastructure development and met the transfer of technology must have to be done throughout the country in order to disseminate technological along with general knowledge. And remote areas of the country should be given highest priority.

#### **12. CONCLUSION**

Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has not been able to develop its poor infrastructure. Moreover it has to fight against poverty, illiteracy problems, corruption and many other problems. Though Bangladesh has taken a number of e-governance projects. Effective promotion schemes by the government will also a boosting factor to provide quality services to their citizens, which means there is huge potential for the development of e-governance in various sectors. It can be said that e-Governance is the key to the "Good Governance" for the developing countries like Bangladesh to minimize corruption, provides efficient and effective or quality services to their citizens. This paper concludes that e-government preparation in Bangladesh is still in its primary stages. It has not yet fulfilled what actually the time demands due to technical, infrastructural, and political obstacles. A well-coordinated effort of political leadership, bureaucrats, and private entrepreneurs could surely facilitate the desired development in the ICT sector. This will help accelerate the implementation and presence of e-government in Bangladesh.

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