

Key Objectives of e-Panchayat

- Automation of internal work flow processes of Panchayats
- Improving delivery of services to citizens
- Capacity building of Panchayat Representatives and Officials
- Social Audit
- Transparency, Accountability, Efficiency and RTI compliance of Panchayats
- Improving Governance of local self-government

Advantages of ICT in Rural Development

- (a) This major technological revolution can significantly influence the development capacity of any society. Their applications to agriculture and rural development are very extensive and pervasive. With telecommunication technology, computers and information processing technology, data and image transfer technology, and interactive technology, ICTs have made a qualitative difference in the way we can generate, disseminate and transfer knowledge and promote development. Increased connectivity and quicker flow of information has opened new frontiers of knowledge.
- (b) ICTs develop in rural communities a learning and innovation capacity that increases the effectiveness of their efforts to solve problems and improve their lives. They empower these communities and increase the effectiveness of their development efforts through informed decision making to achieve the objectives of poverty eradication, food security and sustainable development in rural areas.
- (c) ICTs must be used judiciously as important tools in developmental activities to address the problems of rural development in all sectors of the economy, such as, agriculture, energy, health and sanitation, rural engineering, housing and habitat, etc.
- (d) It is, therefore, necessary, to develop and introduce appropriate of so called green technologies coupled with sound delivery system, which ensures economic and ecological sustainability and optimum use of local resources emphasizing on technology capacity building of rural people.

1.4.6 ICT and Agriculture

- (a) ICTs have played an important role in promoting agriculture during the last several decades. The role of television and radio in rural education and extension services has been well documented. These technologies will continue to play a crucial role in and along with the new ICTs.
- (b) ICTs are profoundly transforming extension services through the use of multimedia technology, distance education technology, as well as through innovative approaches based on interactive knowledge development processes.
- (c) They are having a clear impact on our capacity to monitor the environmental impact on agriculture and degradation of natural resources through remote sensor data. GIS are opening new approaches to regional planning and to the management of natural resources.

Services Offered by ICT in Agriculture

1. Access to information through different types of Agricultural Information Systems (AIS).
2. Monitoring the situation of natural resources and environmental impact through different Information Processing Tools (i.e. analysis of environment deterioration, soil erosion, deforestation, etc.).
3. Education and Communication Technologies that are playing a very important role in generating new approaches to learning and knowledge management.
4. Networking where ICTs can contribute greatly to relating people/institutions among them and facilitating the emergence of 'Virtual Communities of Stakeholders' that generate and exchange information and knowledge among themselves.
5. Decision Support Systems (DSS) through which data and information provide relevant knowledge inputs for informed decision-making. These tools are playing an important role in converting information systems into knowledge systems.
6. The main objective of these ICT applications, from a development perspective, is that of empowering people through knowledge. It means developing in people a capacity to achieve their development objectives and goals through the generation, acquisition and use of knowledge.