

# Sustainable Rural Development through ICT & e-Governance in India

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**Abstract**—India is a country of villages and to improve and sustain the overall prosperity, growth and development in the global competitive regime, Government has introduced National E-governance plan (NeGp) that seeks to lay the foundation with various projects, starting from the grass-root levels, and provide impetus for long-term e-governance within the country. In this direction rural e-Governance applications implemented in the recent few years have been demonstrating the importance of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in the concerned areas of rural development. Indeed, some of the schemes introduced in rural India have improved the government services immensely. At the national level E-governance projects like State Wide Area Network (SWAN), Management Information System (MIS) on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Online Income Tax, Online Central Excise, Unique ID and E-office has accelerated growth of respective areas and contributing to country's economic development. Similarly, at state level the various rural E-governance projects such as Bhoomi Project, Samanya Mahiti in Karnataka; Akshaya Project in Kerala; SETU Project in Maharashtra; Gyanganga, Swagat, Mahiti Shakti in Gujarat; Online Land Records in Tamilnadu; E-seva, Online Complaint Registration, Prajavani in Andhra Pradesh; e-Gazette in Bihar and Information Village Research Project in Pondicherry, etc. are some of the important projects that have been providing excellent services and saving time and money of people as well as of government and are contributing their might to the socio-economic development of rural India. In this context, this paper presents a brief review of these technologies, the rural ICT projects and the relevant issues associated with the use of ICT for rural e-Governance applications, and suggest that the Public Private Partnership (PPP) approach could be more effective to achieve sustainable economic development.

**Keywords:** E-Governance, Information Communication Technology (ICT), PPP for E-Governance, State Wide Area Network (SWAN), Sustainable Rural Development.