

Case Study on How Automation in Implementing Government Schemes Helps Reduce Corruption

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Abstract: In our research we took the case study of a Government housing scheme implemented by Karnataka's Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited (RGRHCL). The scheme aims at providing housing for the socially and economically backward sections of the society. This scheme chooses beneficiaries (person who gets the benefit of the scheme) that own land but are extremely poor to construct houses for themselves and provide monetary aid to them to construct houses. During the implementation of this scheme, corruption prevails at different levels. Due to this the actual needy people do not receive the required aid. To overcome this drawback Karnataka Government has introduced many automations that have substantially decreased the corruption level and at the same time has led to crores of savings. Our research focuses on these automations which vary from the use of digital signature certificate to using GPS.

Keywords: Government Schemes, Government automations, reducing corruption through automation, digital signature certificate in government, housing department.

I. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we discuss the step by step automations used by RGRHCL to implement their housing schemes. Initially, the choosing of beneficiaries is done by the Gram Sabha (Governing body in village). They choose the beneficiary and take a picture of their site and record the GPS position of the beneficiaries site[1].

This information is uploaded online and sent for approval to the higher authority who access this information and approve it using digital signature certificate. Once approved, short message services are used to inform the beneficiary of the approval. Simultaneously bulk bank accounts are made in the beneficiaries name to transfer the amount.

II. USE OF ANDROID APPLICATION

Each village Governing body is provided with a smart phone. An android application is installed in each of these smartphones. This android application is used to enter details of the beneficiary into the SQL Lite database. The Government body goes to the site of the beneficiary where the house is supposed to be built and takes a picture of the site along with its GPS coordinates using the android application created by RGRHCL.

The initial GPS coordinates act as reference of the progress. The Government releases the funds for building the house in three stages- foundation stage, lential stage and full completion stage. During these three stages corruption was prevalent before introduction of this android application. The beneficiaries would show the houses of other individuals and would claim compensation accordingly. The introduction of GPS doesn't allow the beneficiary to cheat the Government in this way as the GPS location of the place where the picture of different stages of building the house was taken should match the initial GPS coordinates. Second problem that the application solves is that many times the village Government body would delay in selecting the beneficiaries and harass them for money and as the main

Government body sits in the urban areas that are really far away from these remote areas, they were not able to keep a timely check on the implementation of this scheme. However now, the use of the android application helps the higher authority in the urban areas have real time access to the information and keep a check on the village's Governing body.

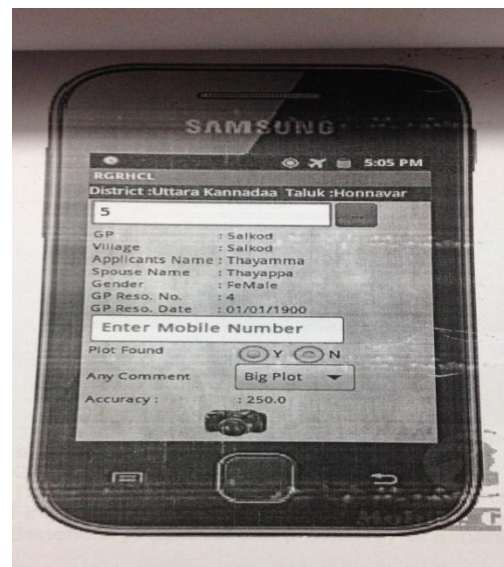


Fig.1. Snapshot of Android App

III. USE OF DSC

The use of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) [2] helps in ensuring that no one tampers with the beneficiary details. Earlier, the beneficiary detail was changed by anyone in the log books where they were maintained. The DSC ensures that only the certified people can access and modify the information and if any discrepancy occurs the Government would know exactly who is responsible as only a few people are authorized to access this information.

IV. OPENING BANK ACCOUNTS

To ensure that the fund is transferred to the right bank account, RGRHCL has leveraged core banking facility. They themselves open several bank accounts in few seconds, populate their database with this bank account details and automatically match them to a beneficiary and send the bank account details directly through SMS's to the phones of the beneficiary. Earlier it was noticed that the bank account details of the beneficiary was changed by some Government officials. They used their bank account details. This atomization doesn't give any scope for such corruption to take place.

V. CONCLUSION

The RGRHCL's scheme has helped in saving crores of rupees for the Government by reducing corruption drastically. The Government should thus use more automation and technology during the implementation of their schemes. Automation reduces the scope of corruption as without automation the number of people involved in enacting the scheme increases and thus the chances of corruption increases as well.

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