

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58638

Title: Digital Public Infrastructure and Inclusive Growth in India: Assessing Administrative Capacity for Viksit Bharat 2047

Recommendation:

Accept as it is
Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 002

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript titled "**Digital Public Infrastructure and Inclusive Growth in India: Assessing Administrative Capacity for Viksit Bharat 2047**" addresses a highly relevant and contemporary policy issue by examining the role of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in achieving inclusive growth within the framework of Viksit Bharat 2047. The topic is timely, significant, and aligns well with current national priorities concerning digital governance, administrative reforms, and public service delivery. The paper successfully integrates concepts from public administration, digital governance, and development economics while highlighting India's achievements through Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), and other components of the India Stack. The study is well organized with a logical flow from introduction to conclusion, and the objectives are clearly stated. The adoption of a four-dimensional administrative capacity framework consisting of infrastructural reach, bureaucratic competence, regulatory capacity, and accountability embeddedness provides a useful conceptual structure for evaluating the effectiveness of DPI.

The literature review incorporates several recent studies and official government reports, demonstrating that the authors have consulted relevant sources. The manuscript effectively discusses both the achievements and limitations of India's digital transformation by presenting evidence regarding digital inclusion, rural connectivity, gender disparities, authentication failures, and data protection concerns. The use of recent secondary data from authoritative sources such as UIDAI, NPCI, TRAI, DBT Mission,

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MoSPI, NITI Aayog, and government publications enhances the credibility of the study. The conceptual framework is appropriately linked with existing theories of state capacity and administrative governance, making the analytical approach coherent and academically meaningful.

The methodology is appropriate for a conceptual and analytical study based on secondary data. However, the paper would become considerably stronger if the methodology section provided a clearer explanation of how the selected indicators were evaluated within each administrative capacity dimension. Although the paper presents descriptive statistics and policy interpretations, it lacks a systematic analytical technique or comparative framework. Including content analysis procedures, evaluation criteria, or a structured policy assessment matrix would improve methodological transparency. Furthermore, the study could benefit from comparative evidence involving other countries that have adopted Digital Public Infrastructure, thereby enhancing the international relevance of the research.

The analysis section effectively explains India's progress in digital infrastructure while acknowledging important challenges such as digital literacy gaps, gender inequalities, rural internet access, authentication failures, and evolving cybersecurity risks. The discussion appropriately recognizes that technological advancement alone cannot guarantee inclusive development without corresponding administrative capacity. The policy recommendations are practical and directly linked to the findings, particularly those concerning last-mile connectivity, digital literacy, accountability mechanisms, strengthening the Data Protection Board, and cooperative federalism. These recommendations contribute positively to policy discourse and offer useful guidance for future administrative reforms.

Despite its strengths, the manuscript contains several areas requiring improvement. Numerous grammatical errors, awkward sentence constructions, punctuation inconsistencies, and repetitive expressions reduce the overall readability of the paper. Several statistical statements require careful verification, as some numerical values appear inconsistent or are presented with typographical errors. Certain paragraphs are excessively descriptive and would benefit from concise editing. The tables should be reformatted with consistent alignment, proper captions, source citations, and uniform presentation. The reference list should also be carefully reviewed to ensure complete APA formatting, DOI inclusion where available, and consistency between in-text citations and bibliography.

The conclusion summarizes the study effectively by emphasizing that administrative capacity is the critical determinant of whether Digital Public Infrastructure can truly support inclusive growth by 2047. However, it could be strengthened further by explicitly highlighting the theoretical contribution of

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the proposed framework, discussing practical implications for policymakers, acknowledging the limitations of relying solely on secondary data, and suggesting specific directions for future empirical research. Validation of the proposed framework through primary surveys or inter-state comparative studies would significantly enhance the contribution of future work.

Overall, the manuscript presents an important and policy-relevant contribution to the growing literature on digital governance and administrative capacity in India. The conceptual framework is meaningful, the policy discussion is insightful, and the topic has substantial academic and practical significance. With careful language editing, methodological refinement, improved presentation of data, and stronger discussion of theoretical contributions and limitations, the manuscript has the potential to make a valuable contribution to the literature on Digital Public Infrastructure and inclusive governance.