

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-130

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Overall Evaluation

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 relationship between India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), administrative capacity, and inclusive growth. The study develops a four-dimensional framework comprising infrastructural reach, bureaucratic competence, regulatory capacity, and accountability embeddedness to assess India's preparedness for achieving the goals of Viksit Bharat 2047. The paper is well organized, supported by recent government reports and academic literature, and presents a balanced discussion of both the achievements and challenges of India's DPI ecosystem. The proposed framework adds conceptual value to the existing literature by shifting the focus from technological infrastructure to administrative capability. However, the study remains conceptual and descriptive, with limited empirical validation of the proposed framework. Strengthening theoretical justification, empirical evidence, and comparative analysis would further enhance the paper's scholarly contribution. Overall, the manuscript is suitable for publication after minor revisions.

Strengths

1. Timely and Policy-Relevant Topic - The study addresses an important national and international policy issue concerning Digital Public Infrastructure and inclusive development. The topic aligns with current discussions on Digital India and Viksit Bharat 2047.

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- 2. Novel Conceptual Framework** - The proposed four-dimensional administrative capacity framework provides a useful lens for evaluating the effectiveness of DPI beyond technological achievements.
- 3. Comprehensive Literature Support** - The manuscript incorporates recent government reports, official statistics, and peer-reviewed studies. The discussion integrates literature from public administration, governance, digital economy, and development studies.
- 4. Balanced Discussion** - The paper acknowledges both the remarkable achievements of India's DPI ecosystem and its persistent challenges, including digital exclusion, gender gaps, rural connectivity, and administrative shortcomings.
- 5. Practical Policy Recommendations** - The recommendations regarding digital literacy, administrative capacity building, grievance redressal, cooperative federalism, and data protection are practical and well aligned with the study findings.

Areas for Improvement

- 1. Strengthen Theoretical Contribution** - The manuscript should better position the proposed framework within existing theories of administrative capacity and digital governance. The originality of the framework should be discussed more explicitly.
- 2. Empirical Validation** - The proposed four-dimensional framework would benefit from empirical testing through case studies, surveys, or comparative state-level analysis rather than remaining entirely conceptual.
- 3. Comparative Perspective** - Including comparisons with digital public infrastructure initiatives in countries such as Estonia, Singapore, or Brazil would strengthen the international relevance of the study.
- 4. Expand Methodological Discussion** - The methodology section should clearly explain how secondary data were selected, synthesized, and evaluated to improve transparency and reproducibility.
- 5. Improve Presentation** - Minor grammatical errors, repetitive statements, and formatting inconsistencies should be corrected. Some tables could be improved through clearer presentation and interpretation.
- 6. Limitations** - The paper should explicitly discuss limitations related to the exclusive reliance on secondary data and the rapidly evolving nature of India's digital governance ecosystem.