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TITLE OF THE PH.D THESIS- "E-GOVERNANCE AND E-HEALTH INITIATIVES IN RURAL AREAS: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF TAMIL NADU AND HARYANA".

KEY WORDS: E-GOVERNANCE; E-HEALTH; GOOD GOVERNANCE; INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY.

E-Governance can be defined as using the ICTs tools in the functioning of the government, which not only includes public services to the citizens, but also means interaction between G2C (Government to Citizen); G2B (Government to Business); G2G (Government to Government). Within the field of e-governance, comes the concept called E-Health which also make use of ICTs and can be defined as providing various healthcare services through electronic means, especially over the internet. The term E-Health was hardly in use before the year 1999. Thus, the various e-governance initiatives have been taken in India and some countries at global level, makes one point very clear that the introduction of e-governance did not mean mere introduction of computer or other IT component, but it has to be comprehensive enough to be an end in itself. And now seen, as a key element for country's governance and administrative reform agenda.

The area of study in this thesis is comparative study of two States, one is Tamil Nadu, where Ariylaur district was selected, and within this district two villages called Thirumanur and Kilalpalhur was further selected. The second State is Haryana, where Gurgaon district was selected, and within this district two villages are selected, they were Dhankot and Chandu. The above mentions two States have lot of importance to country's growth and development. Both the States have initiated a number of initiatives in the field of e-governance and e-health. Thus, to analyze the impact of various e-governance and e-health initiatives on people living in rural areas, an exploratory cum descriptive research design has been followed. Also, the three methods of data collection were followed: firstly semi structured questionnaire; secondly semi structured interview and thirdly observation method which was a structured one. Although, whatever has been the success of some of the e-

projects, there also exist some important challenges or problems which comes in roadblock of rural development, not only in above mentioned two States. But, also generally applicable throughout the country. Some problems which identified and came out from this study are: Service delivery centres from away from the home; computer education; lack of basic infrastructure from roads, electricity; good hospitals, schools and colleges; public transport etc.

However, still whatever be the problems associated with above two States of Tamil Nadu and Haryana, e-initiatives have been taken by them as brought the changes in rural areas and people living in it. One thing has to be kept in mind that e-governance and e-health initiatives have been taken for the welfare of the people in the State of Tamil Nadu and Haryana especially in the case of rural areas, has to go long way, as currently only few initiatives are present, and there is need to implement many more initiatives which can be provided by CSCs at the door steps of the rural people, in near future, with the intention of rural development.