INTRODUCTION

The concept of e-governance in the modern times refo-
cuses on the fundamental role of government as the
institution of transformation of society. To understand
the intricacies of e-governance it will be pertinent to
examine the concept from an ecological perspective. The
system of governance in order to meet the challenges
must equip itself with the mechanisms of managing the
pressures generated from different subsystems. The in-
terrelationship and interdependence of these subsystems
explain the operational reality of bureaucratic systems in
relation to societal transformation. In last few decades,
the history of humankind has seen the enormous growth
of technology and its utilization for creating a better
global society, by disseminating the knowledge down to
common person and transcending the geographical bound-
aries. The accessibility of knowledge is not confined to
any nation. Thus, the whole world has to acquire a bigger
vision of coexistence with divergent societal patterns in
future, because it is the source of developing shared
visions. The present analysis focuses on the normative
aspects of e-connectivity, specifically,

1. It proposes a conceptual framework to understand
the futuristic operational dynamics of ecology of e-
governance;

2. It proposes how the interactions of various compo-
nents of e-governance, can help in evolving a uni-
versal society with ethical axis to create a better
world;

3. It suggests that the whole world eventually has to
move in the direction of evolving a global society by
inculcating universal values of coexistence with divergent ethos. Hence, the need to transform the
society cannot be subdued; and

4. It focuses on striving a balance between techno-
ological and human aspects by bringing out philo-
sophical core at the centre to evolve global society.

BACKGROUND

The era of information technology has opened many
vistas of understanding human dynamics from different
perspectives. The thinkers have shown a great concern to
view the repercussions of electronic connectivity on
society, culture, polity, and economy. To name a few, for
instance, Daniel Bell explores the dimension of knowledge
and technology in relation to the emergence of the new
class structure of postindustrial society (Bell, 1996).
Manuel Castells has discussed the formation of Network
Society, which elaborates the economic, social, and cul-
tural changes that are occurring around the world due to
computerization (Castells, 1996, 1997, 1998). An interest-
ing aspect related to changing relationship is also exam-
ined by Mark Poster, who is keen on constructing corre-
lation of human-machine imbrications due to exposition of
communication machines (Poster, 2000). Raising the ques-
tion of evolving alternative theories, Frank Webster ques-
tions the technological determinism by evolving the theo-
ries of Information Society looking closely at the different
approaches to informational development (Webster, 2002).
Maintaining the continuity of the discussion, futuristic
social transformations can also be viewed from ecological
perspective. This needs identifying various components of
e-governance and interplay to shape future society with
universal areas of normative structuring.

ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF
E-GOVERNANCE

The concept of ecology in governances refers to the
understanding of the interrelationship and interdepen-
dence of bureaucracy with its environment. To understand
its ecology, it would be pertinent to identify various com-
ponents, substantiated by elaborations regarding how
these components interact with each other to deliver the
output in to society: (1) technological component focuses
on electronic dimension, (2) social component focuses on
egalitarian dimension, (3) cultural component focuses on
ethical dimension, (4) political component focuses on en-
actment dimension, (5) psychological component focuses
on extensional dimension, (6) service component focuses
on empowerment dimension, (7) administrative component
focuses on enforcement dimension.

The “E” in the aforementioned dimensions empha-
sizes the role that can be played by e-connectivity that
metamorphoses into respective components.
**Technological Component:** This relates to educating people who are in the bureaucracy or outside its periphery regarding the use of electronic means to develop better connectivity within and with the system. It requires use of technology (a) in developing the database, (b) in networking to facilitate the communication, and (c) in creating e-knowledge workers to increase the potentiality. This focuses on the “e” of electronic knowledge and its proper utilization.

**Social Component:** The fundamental duty of any government is to educe a society, based on the principles of equality and justice. A society, which is classless having no distinction between haves and have-nots, where nobody is marginalized from the main stream, and is committed to provide a respectful essence of life to its people without any discrimination of caste or race, must be set up. This is possible only when people are aware of their rights and duties on the one hand, and know about the governmental policies made for them on related issues on the other, hence a vigilant society can be evolved where they can raise their voices by questioning the governmental decisions. This would help in attaining the “e” of egalitarian society with thrust on equality.

**Cultural Component:** With the advent of the era of knowledge explosion there is a need to reorient some of the value patterns without eroding the fundamental normative structure of any social system. The need to create value patterns conducive for e-governance to operate focusing on work ethos therefore cannot be denied. Thus to work out the ethical framework is the key to move further by discarding obsolete sets of values that come in the way of potential utilization. Thus, “e” of ethical framework has to be the focal point in constructing a morality-based system.

**Political Component:** The political system is essential aspect of governance. It holds responsibility of rationalizing various operative frameworks by enacting laws. This helps to maintain and sustain the cohesive force that is required by society to integrate its people and abide them to follow a uniform policy to fulfill their targets. This refers to the importance of “e” of enactment of laws to stop society from disintegration.

**Psychological Component:** Evolving balanced society requires psyche to facilitate formation and inculcation of right type of attitudes in the people. It is prerequisite for efficiency. Apart from this, readiness to connect to people, to listen to their queries, to look for solutions, to improve communicative skills, and so forth, will be necessary elements for behavioral modifications. Hence, personality adjustments must be carried out to cater to the needs of common people. This specifically relates to “e” of extension of self to have constructive collaborative social relationships.

**Service Component:** The ultimate function of any welfare government is to serve. As a provider of good services to its people, it has to assimilate the basic needs and expectations of common person in to the documentation of policy, which then has to be implemented in the right spirit. This develops a constant pressure on the government to respond to public demands as this leads to the realization of power they can exercise on government to maintain impartiality, integrity and transparency in its functioning. This explains “e” of empowerment of people in any system.

**Administrative Component:** Administrative component is inevitable because it is through this component that policies are translated into action. How to enforce decisions effectively need to be worked out keeping in view, the modifications and adaptations required. Thus, a responsive system can only be there when system is open to respond to the changes, this explains the “e” of enforcement of carrying out its decisions.

To get an insight into the mechanism of functioning of various components there is a need to identify at least two parameters each, so that variations can be measured and recycled into society.

- **Political parameters**
  1. Identifying areas for which integrated cyber laws are needed
  2. The contents of laws

- **Administrative parameters**
  1. Evolving unified machinery connected with networks
  2. Registering and solving people centered problems

- **Social parameters**
  1. Ensuring people’s participation in governmental policies
  2. Enlarging the domains of making choices by people.

- **Cultural parameters**
  1. Designing universal value systems and
  2. Inculcating the designed values at various levels of operations.

- **Psychological parameter**
  1. Restructuring the attitudes of individuals and
  2. Readiness to connect to people
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