

Chapter 5

Cloud Computing for E–Governance

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ABSTRACT

Multidisciplinary experts are required to develop a model for resource management in a country. Various concepts in information and communication technology are required to be applied in designing and developing a model for the management of natural resources. The concepts such as cloud computing along with social media play an important role. Case illustrations are discussed in this chapter stressing the role of cloud computing along with the concepts of collaborative technology in developing models for the benefit of citizens in a country.

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INTRODUCTION

Economic development has helped to raise the standard of living and has also led to mismanagement of natural resources. This has resulted in environmental issues. Wisdom is used in maintaining a balance between the needs of human beings and supplies from natural resources so that the delicate ecological balance is not disturbed. Governments in many countries in their zeal to go ahead with ambitious plans of development, integration of knowledge relating to environmental sciences, economics, space technology and information and communication technologies has escaped the attention of the governments.

The advancements in information and communication technologies have resulted in new concepts being developed in this discipline. Cloud computing is one among the number of other concepts. Cloud computing is a concept generally defined as the clusters of scalable and virtualized resources such as distributed computers, storage, system software and application software which make use of the internet to provide on-demand services to the user.

This chapter explains the components of natural resources and the human activities on natural resources. Further, it recommends a model for making use of space technology and Cloud computing to create a knowledge-based system for natural resources. This model will mainly be useful to the various government departments which are involved in the management of natural resources and environmental issues. Further, it also suggests a model for handling the damage caused by natural disasters.

GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Governments in both developed and developing countries aim at protecting the interests of their people and preserving the resources of their Country. They pass laws to implement their plans. In this process, they also recommend new policies and propose changes as needed in the existing policies and programs.

One needs to be clear about the distinction between government and governance. A quotation going back to 1656 is relevant in understanding the distinction. “Wise princes ought not to be admired for their Government, but governance”. The distinction that is drawn at present briefly runs as follows: While Government refers to actions carried out within a formal legal setting, governance involves all activities of government along with informal activities, even outside a formal government setting that are meant to achieve goals.

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