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Analysis of Aadhaar: Identity verification

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Abstract

The increasing Indian population, migration from neighboring countries as well as numerous variants of identity cards like ration cards, and voter ID cards forced the Government of India to form the 'Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)'. The primary responsibility of the UIDAI is to issue a Unique Identification Number (UID) or Aadhaar number to Indian residents which can be used for all the government transactions/benefits schemes like gas subsidy, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). This study conducts a systematic review of the materials/articles available through secondary sources such as newspapers, research papers, and government reports on the Aadhaar project. This has been categorized as a developmental project in the study due to the high uncertainty associated with it in various dimensions.

Keywords

UIDAI, REPOSITORY DATA, DIAMOND FRAMEWORK

Introduction

To empower residents of India with a unique identity and a digital platform to authenticate anytime, anywhere. To provide for good governance, efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits, and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of State to residents of India through assigning unique identity numbers. To develop a policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to residents of India, who request for same by submitting their demographic information and biometric information by undergoing the process of enrolment. To develop policies, procedures, and systems for Aadhaar holders for updating and authenticating their digital identity. India 2009 introduced Aadhaar, a digital identity system for the country's nearly 1.4 billion. Aadhaar, which means "foundation" in Hindi, would provide a single, secure ID number that could be used to access all sorts of government and business services. In the first five years, UIDAI enrolled 600 million Indians; more than twice that number participate today. As per the statistics of the Population Reference Bureau Data Sheet (World Population Data Sheet, 2013), India is the second largest populous country (1277 million) and is expected to be (such a large population, the current system of multiple identity cards used by various central as well as state governments units for a variety of schemes/benefits (such as gas subsidy and MGNREGA) and other purposes becomes difficult to implement and complicated to manage as well as this increases the pain for a citizen.

Challenges in front of UIDAI Aadhaar is considered a successful project. The identity cards have minimal data on them that includes name, gender, digital image, date of birth (DoB), residential status, and both thumbprints. After data collection, it was integrated with government databases. The system underwent a highly focused and exhaustive one-week 'trial-by-fire' testing before. There are major issues of sensor noise and poor image quality in the large-scale deployment of Automated Fingerprints Identification Systems (Vatsa, Singh, Bharadwaj, Bhatt, &

Mashruwala, 2010). Thus, critical techniques during enrolment should be consistently followed for good-quality capturing of fingerprint images. Further, in India, where a large population belongs to rural

areas, the presence of scars, warts and deteriorating patterns in the fingerprints will lead to changes in biometrics over time. A major concern with the implementation of a biometrics-based Unique Identity System is Information Security. Furthermore, GoI lacks to some extent public trust and confidence, and the residents have a fear of coming into the radar of the government with UIDAI. Besides this, there are also some conflicts being reported to exist within government mechanisms. The Registrar General of India is against data collection mechanisms through private organizations, and at the same time, the Ministry of Home Affairs is not ready to accept the data if proper processes are not followed. The scaling needs of the UID project are unprecedented.

KS PUTTASWAMY VS YOU

Aadhaar case

While the first petition challenging Aadhaar was filed in 2012, the process for this case was kicked off by an October 2015 judgment by the Supreme Court. This judgment allowed the use of Aadhaar in several government schemes but maintained specifically that the “purely voluntary nature” the then attorney-general Mukul Rohatgi denied citizens had a fundamental right to privacy. For almost two years thereafter, the matter remained in limbo until Chief Justice Dipak Misra set up a nine-judge bench in July 2017 to decide the ‘right to privacy’ question. A month later, the bench ruled that Indians enjoy a fundamental right to privacy, a right that is protected under Article 21 of the constitution.

Points arose by opposition

- A. There is a huge risk of privacy and involvement of third parties.
- B. Monopoly of Aadhaar
- C. It violates the 2016 Aadhaar Act which made Aadhaar use voluntary rather than mandatory.
- D. Not filing a legal case by an individual makes Aadhaar unreliable.

(solely analysis by reading newspaper article, the hindu; (27 August Puttaswamy’ and the fading promise of a right ; 26 August privacy no longer supreme), Indian express, when privacy was made supreme).

Current status of the project

Since 2009, the respective government in every financial year has allocated a budget for the Aadhaar Project. Up to August 2014, the government has spent ` 49.06 billion on the Aadhaar project (The Economic Times, 2014, September 10). In the financial year the projects their projects allocated ` 20.00 billion to enroll the remaining population, UIDAI can generate 1.3–1.4 million Aadhaar numbers per day, taking the figure to generate 0.40 billion Aadhaar numbers. The

government has set a new target to enroll 1.00 billion individuals by March 2015 (The Economic Times, 2014, September 10) with increased budget allocation. The central government has also decided to incorporate biometric-based attendance which will be linked to the Aadhar card. At the end of June 2020, the total number of Aadhaar card holders above 18 years of age was 125.87 crore, which is now standing at 129.48 crores. (UIDAI), the total number of Indian adult population holding an Aadhaar card as of 21st June 2021 has touched 99 percent of the net Indian adult population.

Here is the analysis of various risks of the Aadhar policy 1.

Technical risk:

Aadhaar uses biometric data and there is a risk of changing biometrics with age, In India, a large section of society's manual workforce might lead to changes in fingerprints. Also, there might be errors in data recording and data compilation. If a person's information is wrongly recorded, there must be some mechanism to correct it. But, seeing the scalability of this project as well as time limitations (enhance in priority matrix), it becomes difficult to take all the complaints for data correction. Biometric measures might have a de-duplication mechanism but they were not tested properly. There were some questions raised on various media platforms over the verification of all Aadhaar card holders (Biometric Technology Today, 2010). It is also a

challenging task to store, monitor, and check..

2..External risk has been classified into two subcategories, that is, privacy risk and political risk. Many citizens have concerns regarding the information security and object sharing of biometrics across different platforms and a similar observation was also made by our Honorable Supreme Court (Forbes India, 2013, October 5). National Informatics Centre claimed that there might be issues regarding the privacy and security of UID data (The Economic Times, 2011, December 10).

3. Project management risk

The large-scale deployment of the UIDAI project involves a major risk of constant scope changes concerning the list, which might be an error in the existing database. There are multiple stakeholders involved in the implementation phase increasing the risk of working together to complete it.

4. Organizational risk

There is a shortage of competent manpower to take care of and operate a large number of issues established across the country. Due to the political risk identified above, there is a chance that the state government might/might not depute sufficient manpower to carry out the desired activities. More than 3000 Aadhaar cards issued by UIDAI have photos of trees, animals, or buildings in place of the photos of individuals (Brindaalakshmi, 2019). And request with Banaras Hindu University's public administration department, We concluded that mandating aadhar could risk elite businessmen but the UIDAI initiative for a more secure process for verification of identity is

necessary, Aadhaar is accessed by a huge population hence, the upgrade is preferable to rule it out of function. The data of all Aadhaar holders are safe and secure in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR) of UIDAI. The Aadhaar database in CIDR has never been breached in all these years of its existence. Moreover, UIDAI has published guidelines in this regard which are available on its website. Penalties for any security violation will be severe and include penalties for disclosing identity information. There are civil and criminal penal consequences for unauthorized access to CIDR –including hacking, and penalties for tampering with data in the CIDR. (source internet

which was 7 out of 20.

(Survey under BHU department with students of political science and public administration)

Source/reference

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Consultation

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Student survey of BHU (department of political science And public administration).