

THE STATUS OF COMMUNICATION FACILITIES IN THE STATE OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

This article presents information on The Status Of Communication Facilities In The State Of Rajasthan. It addresses current status of institutions providing services such as traditional, electronic, and document delivery services and facilities like hardware, software and communication resources. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) includes the growing importance of delivery of digital contents and management of electronic resources, integration of database system with the web environment, and managing information system of parent organization. An analytical survey conducted on digital preservation techniques in engineering institutions of state of Rajasthan where the author had examined various preservation technique opted by respective institutions. The authors report that most of the library information centers have basic hardware facility, but the amenities hardly operated due to lack of awareness of LIS professionals on use and operations of hardware.

KEYWORDS: *Communication Resources, ICT Facilities ICT Services, LIS Professionals.*

Introduction

The growth of communication facilities is an integral element in the economic and technological advancement in an economy. Communications have a key role to play in the development process; programmes relating to development activities, particularly in agriculture and rural development, education, family planning, ecological balance and protection of environment, energy management, etc., are proving vital for shaping the course and pace of development in every country. The positive changes which have occurred in selected rural areas are, on the whole, due to geometric growth of communication facilities and power.

Objectives of the paper

The paper seeks to provide information about:

- Status of Post offices in Rajasthan
- Status of Telecommunication facilities in Rajasthan
- Status of Mass communication in Rajasthan
- District wise variations in Communication facilities in Rajasthan

Research Methodology

The present paper is based on secondary data. The results have been derived from average, percentage, time series and correlation methods.

Postal and telecommunication services are instrumental to develop the economy and to provide communication connectivity among various areas, segments and communities in the state. The total number of post offices in the state was 10329 and Telephone exchanges were 2132 at the end of March 2015. The details of the post offices and the telecommunication facilities from 2013-15 are given in table 1.

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Table 1: Post Offices and Telecommunication Facilities in Rajasthan

Item	Unit	2013	2014	2015
Post Offices	Number	10327	10330	10329
Telephone Exchanges	Number	2248	2169	2132
Customer Service Centres	Number	265	265	265
Working telephone connection (All types)	Lakh No.	68.54	68.53	39.91
Public Call Offices				
(i) Local PCO	Number	4915	2400	2007
(ii) STD/PCO	Number	28523	13152	9562
(iii) Village PT	Number	39753	39792	39131

Source: Economic Review 2015-16, Pg.95 and Some Facts about Rajasthan, 2015, Pg.96, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Rajasthan, Jaipur

The detailed description of post offices, telegraph offices and public call offices in Rajasthan may be seen through the following table 2.

Table 2: Post, Telegraph and Telephone and Public Call Offices in Rajasthan

Districts	Post offices	Telegraph & Tele offices	National highway PCO	Local PCO	STD PCO	Total PCO	Post offices/ 100 sq. km.	Post offices/ 10k population
Ajmer	410	2	85	210	2535	2830	4.834336	1.585028
Alwar	484	1	90	278	4290	4658	5.775656	1.318643
Banswara	269	1	54	97	1682	1833	5.948695	1.498412
Baran	197	1					2.817506	1.610003
Barmer	481	2	70	138	1374	1582	1.694438	1.84178
Bharatpur	304	1	102	208	1795	2105	6.00079	1.193
Bhilwara	391	1	96	641	1474	2211	3.739837	1.626016
Bikaner	267	1	12	329	1655	1996	0.882966	1.132007
Bundi	175	1	8	89	666	763	3.029778	1.57801
Chittorgarh	275	1	15	217	1647	1889	3.515725	1.784632
Churu	345	1	133	85	2637	2855	2.493675	1.696378
Dausa	243	1					7.08042	1.487483
Dholpur	288	1					9.495549	2.385816
Dungarpur	297	1					7.877984	2.140757
Ganganagar	329	2	106	155	4405	4666	2.996903	1.674247
Hanumangarh	234	1					2.423364	1.317045
Jaipur	590	1	645	2379	7180	10204	5.294804	0.889883
Jaisalmer	152	1	34	80	771	885	0.395823	2.328371
Jalore	269	1					2.528195	1.469881
Jhalawar	245	1	4	81	663	748	3.93954	1.73548
Jhunjhunu	412	1	0	196	1955	2151	6.950067	1.925226
Jodhpur	402	1	40	476	2893	3409	1.7593	1.092733
Karauli	248						4.4895	1.700568
Kota	186	1	15	305	2690	3010	3.565267	0.95328
Nagaur	543	2	107	285	2618	3010	3.06468	1.638866
Pali	374	2	20	279	2349	2648	3.019294	1.841033
Pratapgarh	138						3.101821	1.590677
Rajsamand	209	1					4.489796	1.810402
S.Madhohpur	214	1	41	255	1774	2070	4.75767	1.601909
Sikar	468	1	34	167	3264	3465	6.052768	1.749355
Sirohi	175	1	264	282	3333	3879	3.407321	1.686793
Tonk	220	1	30	44	1026	1100	3.058104	1.544497
Udaipur	487	1	216	284	3421	3921	4.153872	1.585447

Note: District Baran, Dausa, Dholpur, Hanumangarh, Jalore, Rajsamand, Karauli also included in Kota, Jaipur, Bharatpur, Banswara, Ganganagar, Sirohi, Udaipur and Sawai Madhopur Telecom District.

Source: 1. Chief Post Master General, Rajasthan Circle, Jaipur.

2. Chief General Manager Telecom, Telecom Circle, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

(Here, the Green coloured cells indicate values above State Average and Red cells indicate values below it)

As we can see from this table, the post office density is quite low in Rajasthan as compared to the national average and the tele density is marginally above the national average, thus signifying that a significant improvement is sorely needed in both these segments.

Also, Jaipur has the highest no. of post offices and is followed by Udaipur and Alwar. Most of the PCOs are situated in Jaipur district, followed by Ganganagar and Alwar.

Status of Telecom in Rajasthan

In any economy telecommunications networks play a crucial role in widening the market and reduction of transaction costs by enabling the ubiquitous and speedy spread of information, and thereby helps in the development process. The government of Rajasthan is actively working on developing the telecommunication networks in the state by providing vertical and horizontal communication corridors to strengthen the administration system. For this it has initiated setting up a Rajasthan State Wide Area Network (RajSWAN) to establish the communication infrastructure in the state. RajSWAN would work for improving the quality of telecommunication services by increasing its efficiency and effectiveness. For proper implementation and execution of this project RajCOMP, as state designated agency has selected Bharti Airtel Ltd, Jaipur in consortium with M/s Bharti Airtel Services Ltd and M/s Trimax IT Infrastructure & Services Ltd and BSNL has been selected as Bandwidth provider for the same. According to TRAI, Rajasthan has nearly 55.42 million wireless subscribers and 0.81 million wire-line subscribers as of May 2015. As of March 2014, the state had about 2169 telephone exchanges and 2275050 broadband subscribers and the state recorded a tele – density of 75.39% as on May 2015.

Mass Communication

News papers and magazines are playing a vital role to give and take information to the people. The district wise distribution of daily, weekly, fortnightly and monthly magazines and news papers may be seen via table 3.

Table 3: Newspapers and Magazines Published in Rajasthan

Districts	Daily	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Total
Ajmer	14	17	30	0	61
Alwar	7	3	9	0	19
Banswara	3	3	0	0	6
Baran	3	1	0	0	4
Barmer	4	4	6	0	14
Bharatpur	3	7	7	0	17
Bhilwara	8	11	12	0	31
Bikaner	10	7	18	0	35
Bundi	3	1	0	0	4
Chittorgarh	2	4	0	0	6
Churu	3	5	4	0	12
Dausa	2	2	0	0	4
Dholpur	2	4	2	0	8
Dungarpur	2	2	0	0	4
Ganganagar	13	15	8	0	36
Hanumangarh	6	7	12	0	25
Jaipur	64	60	107	9	240
Jaisalmer	4	0	2	0	6

Jalore	4	3	1	0	8
Jhalawar	2	2	5	0	9
Jhunjhunu	1	1	4	2	8
Jodhpur	25	17	27	1	70
Karauli	3	0	2	0	5
Kota	18	8	29	2	57
Nagaur	2	2	5	0	9
Pali	6	1	2	0	9
Pratapgarh	1	2	0	0	3
Rajsamand	1	2	1	0	4
S.Madhopur	3	1	5	0	9
Sikar	6	7	3	0	16
Sirohi	3	0	1	0	4
Tonk	2	4	2	0	8
Udaipur	10	5	9	0	24

Source: Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Jaipur and Statistical Abstract, 2015, Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Rajasthan, Jaipur

The above table shows that the highest no. of newspapers and magazines are published in Jaipur district and is closely by Jodhpur and Ajmer.

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