



**IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DIGITAL INDIA
LAND RECORDS MODERNIZATION PROGRAMME
(DILRMP) OF**

LAKSHADWEEP

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Impact Assessment of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) of Lakshadweep



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impact assessment study of Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) was commissioned to Centre for Development Communication & Studies, Jaipur to study the implementation of the DILRMP in UT of Lakshadweep and assess the performance of various activities taken up under the erstwhile NLRMP (National Land Records Modernization Programme) and present DILRMP and identify the constraints in implementation of the various components of the programme. The aims of the study were: a) the performance of various activities taken up under the erstwhile NLRMP and present DILRMP. b) to identify constraints in the implementation of various components of the programme. c) to identify good practices and the gaps in achieving objectives of the Programme, and d) to suggest appropriate changes in the guidelines/ instructions or otherwise to improve the effectiveness of DILRMP.

To assess the progress, 04 islands namely, Amini, Kadmat, Kavaratti and Agatti were covered for the study in the UT of Lakshadweep. From the selected islands, 1000 land parcels were selected by using stratified random sample for assessment of real time mirror status. Secondary sources of information were also collected from different level to understand the project implementation status.

In the UT of Lakshadweep, the process of computerization of land records has been started with support from Government of India since 2002 under the programme of Computerization of Land Records (CLR) & Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records (SRA&ULR) and NLRMP (later renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) in 2016).

The study in the UT of Lakshadweep has been concluded with 1008 samples comprising 907 respondents and 101 respondents (who have recently transacted their land records) to understand the ground scenario. In Lakshadweep the process of records updation is not reported as a regular feature.

The study comes out with the finding that the UT of Lakshadweep has taken up the programme of NLRMP/ DILRMP with full commitment, professional approach and perspective planning. We can appreciate many good goings in terms of proper planning, setting-up system, process and management. Full-fledged office has been set-up for DILRMP in the UT in the office of District Collector, UT of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti Island with dedicated officials and functionaries. The NIC (National Informatics Centre) is undertaking the responsibility of settling up the system and overall management of computerized system in the UT. Full time Additional District Magistrate supported by Assistant settlement officer, Block Development Officer BDO, Survey Superintendent, revenue inspector and deputy surveyor is posted at the Office of the District Collector, UT of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti Island. The UT has developed functional website for land revenue system, registration etc. namely Collab Land (FMB digitization), LRIS (textual data) and PEARL (registration) with support from NIC. The UT is working towards major shift in terms of making land records updated and transparent and made online tehsil-wise/Island - wise. Land record is available online in Lakshadweep where citizens can check their details of land parcels.

At sample tehsils/islands, Land Record Computerization Cell is functional at every tehsil/island/SDO for issuance of registered deed/patta/ and certificates namely, legal heirship

certificate, encumbrances certificate, evaluation certificate, diversion certificate, possession certificate, ownership certificate etc. to the citizens who come for legal paper of land at SDO. Full time DC/ SDO/ SRO supported by Revenue inspector, Deputy Surveyor, Gumustha/Amin and Chainman are posted at Tehsil/Island Offices in each of the 04 sample tehsils. The 04 sample tehsils/islands are equipped with computers, scanners, printers and necessary logistics as per DILRMP/NRLMP provisions. The sample tehsils are working towards major shift in terms of making land records updated and transparent and made online tehsil-wise.

The land records were not updated after 1972 as survey-settlement operations were not carried out. The land records in the sample tehsils/islands were not updated online. 74.3 percent sample respondents reported that time taken to complete the entire process of record updation/ registering deeds in the sample tehsils is less than a week, whereas 25.7 percent sample respondents opted for one week. 100 percent sample respondents reported that they had to visit more than once but less than five times to get their deed registered at SDO/DC office.

The sample respondents opined that no additional cost involved for record updation in the office of DC/SDO except the fee of non-judicial stamps. 100 percent sample respondents reported that they did not pay any additional cost for registration, apart from stamp fee & some other official charges.

In Lakshadweep, the land records and spatial maps were made online based on ownership of last survey which was completed last in the year 1972. Currently for mutation of the land, buyer has to submit an application to the SDO along with all documents. The SDO publishes in newspaper to get no objection from citizens on the claimed parcel of land. The time period for objection is given about 15 days. If there is no objection, then mutation is done. The process is very long, cumbersome, time consuming & costly. Before registering of property, citizens are usually published the buyer-seller agreement in the newspaper to get no objection. It proves that the titles of land are not clear and disputes are very common phenomenon.

The current RoR and spatial map are not updated online in the UT Administration land records. The Survey and Boundaries Rules, 1960 of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands talk about survey and re-survey has to be done in every 20 years. But in the UT, since 1972, no survey and re-survey was done causing fear and litigations amongst citizens. The survey and resurvey is yet to be initiated in all the 10 villages of Lakshadweep district of the UT. An agreement has been done in the UT with the survey of India to undertake survey and re-survey. The Cadastral survey is yet to be initiated in all the 09 tehsils/islands (100 percent) & in 10 villages (100 percent).

The system of online mutation is yet to be taken up. Issuance of Digitally Signed RoR was not initiated in the sample villages. The sanction for Modern record Room (MRR) was yet not given in 07 tehsils (78 percent). Integration of cadastral maps with RoR, real-time Updation of RoR & maps and verification of spatial data are yet to be initiated in 10 villages (100 percent). Also, the system of RoR linkage with Aadhaar is yet to be initiated in the UT.

In respect to capacity building and training, 60 percent officials and staff were trained on the components of land records modernization.

However, in Lakshadweep the pace of modernization of records and bringing them to an online platform has been found slow. But in terms of expenditure it has made expenditure of about 85.1 percent of the released amount by the Department of Land Resource, Government of India. Therefore, it is high time for the administration to act for proper utilization of funds in terms of efficient and effective execution.

Based on the study findings, policy recommendations are as follows:

- Requirement of modern survey, data generation and map updation, textual RoR data link with spatial data via GIS platform should be initiated at the tehsil level.
- Implementation of online mutation and updation of records
- There is greater need for integration of tehsil office with revenue records and the records of urban local body.
- Policy decisions should be made to fill the vacancies of revenue officials on urgent basis against the sanctioned posts.
- Linking of registration department with others viz. banking institutions/ revenue courts/civil courts should be started at the tehsil level.
- Establishing Modern Record Room at every level should be faster.
- Periodical review and responsibilities of the officials should be more institutionalize.

ABOUT THE B. N. YUGANDHAR CENTRE FOR RURAL STUDIES

The B. N. Yugandhar Centre for Rural Studies (BNYCRS) is a Research Centre of the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. It was set up in the year 1989 by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, with a multifaceted agenda that includes the contemporaneous evaluation of the ever-unfolding ground realities pertaining to the Land Administration and Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India. Sensitization of the officer trainees of the Indian Administrative Service in the process of evaluating the land administration/management and poverty alleviation programmes through exposing them to ground realities; setting up a forum for regular exchange of views on land reforms, socio-economic development and poverty alleviation amid academicians, administrators, activists, planners, stakeholders and concerned citizens and creating awareness amongst the public about the various programmes initiated by the Government of India through non-governmental organizations are also important objectives of the B. N. Yugandhar Centre for Rural Studies. A large number of books, reports related to land reforms, poverty alleviation programmes, rural socio-economic problems etc. published both externally and internally bear testimony to the excellent quality of the Centre. Over the years, the Centre has widened its activities involving conducting research studies, training programmes and workshops/ seminars and provide policy suggestions.

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