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AADHAAR LINKING: BENEFITS AND CONCERNS

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ABSTRACT
This paper presents a brief review on Aadhaar card, discusses the advantages and concerns of linking Aadhaar card to various systems. Further we present various impacts and effects of linking the Aadhaar. We conducted literature survey based on the various research articles, leading newspapers, case studies and the observations of Supreme Court of India. Aadhaar project is one of the significant projects in India to bring the universal trend of digital innovation. The launch of this project was focused on the concerns and benefits of Aadhar linking to ensure the optimal utilization of technology infrastructure. Towards this there are many issues related to security and privacy of the Aadhaar data need to be addressed.
KEYWORDS: *Aadhaar card, data privacy, data protection*

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Aadhaar project was introduced under the scheme 'UIDAI' (Unique Identification Authority of India) by the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government in year 2009. Aadhaar card contains the

demographic features such as name of the citizen, Father/Mother's name, Date of Birth, Sex, address of the citizen, and biometric features such as photograph, fingerprints and iris (eye) details. The government has made it mandatory for consumers to link many important services with Aadhaar. The latest addition to this list is insurance policies. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India also clarified that it is mandatory to link bank accounts with Aadhaar. The issue is being discussed intensively, with the Supreme Court taking a decision in favor of linking Aadhaar biometrics and the number with a host of services. For all the demographic changes the authentication is being checked through an OTP (One Time Password) sent to the registered mobile number. However, the biometric data can't be changed. But there are many security and privacy issues of the Aadhaar database that need to be addressed.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

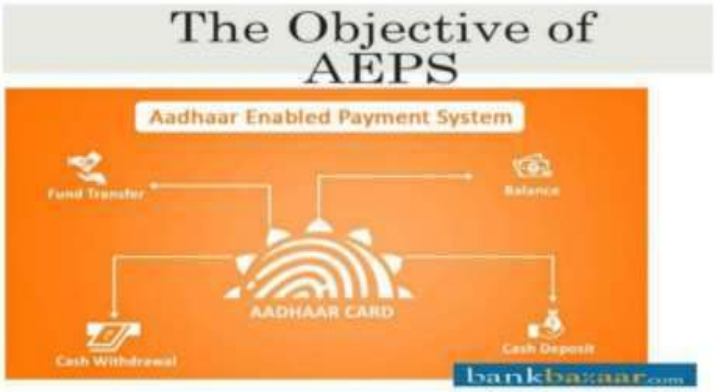
Kuldeep Mathur (2008) in his book '**From Government to Governance: A Brief Survey of the Indian Experience**' provide introduction to the concept of governance and various dimensions of the transformation of the state and public institutions in India. Author explains privatization and liberalization as the new slogans of effective government. He has quoted the World Bank's four components of good governance as: policy, legal framework, accountability and transparency. Policy guidelines public sector management entails civil service reform and private sector initiations. Legal framework for development is about making and enforcing rules that can make a market work, such as private property rights. Accountability aims at strengthening the institutions to hold the government accountable. Transparency and accountability are key words for the programmes that support a free media or help the government publicize statistics, such as publishing the public budget annually.

Bhattacharya, Jaijit (2012) in his book titled '**e-Gov 2.0: Policies, Processes and Technologies**' discusses e-Governance architectural framework as well as people related issues in detail and from an on-the-ground perspective. There are 26 chapters in total spread over 604 pages including chapters on Roadmap to e-Government, PPP for e-Government, Multiple Standards in ICT's, Government Data Centres, Utility Based Computing, Secured Government Information Systems Architecture, GIS, Land Records, e-Agriculture, e-Procurement, e-Police etc. This book deals not only how to change traditional governance but also to leverage the power of IT to come out with new governance solutions.

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The main objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To know the pros and concerns of Aadhaar linking process
2. To know the role of biometrics in Aadhaar card



1.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The secondary data were collected through the exploratory research method. The data were collected from various magazine, websites and journals.

1.5 AFTER EFFECTS

Constitutional validity of Aadhar has been upheld but certain provisions have been erased and some will remain in changed form. Few important change are:

1. No longer mandatory to link Aadhar mobile sim cards or bank accounts
2. Relief from 'harassment' by banks and telecom companies
3. Retention of data for 5 years was found to be unconstitutional and retaining the data beyond the period of 6 months to impermissible
4. Children cannot be denied benefits for lack of aadhar cards
5. Section 47 of the act relating to cognizance of the offense has been struck down, now individuals can also file a case under the Aadhar Act
6. Section 57 of the Act was held to be unconstitutional. Private companies cannot compulsorily demand Aadhar details of their customers

1.6 PROS OF STUDY

1. The Unique Identification Authority of India [UIDAI] helps to clean out the duplications and fakes, and provides accurate data to enable implementation of direct benefits programmes
2. It helps the authority to identify a person in least cost and provides increased transparency to government in implementation of its schemes
3. If bank account is linked with UIDAI, then the consumer earn benefits like LPG subsidy which provides additional layer of security to them
4. Fake bank accounts, unauthorised mobile number and fake insurance policies will be eradicated through the linkage of aadhar
5. The grievance can be handled by authority in following four ways i.e. Voice – 1947, Fax – 080-2353 1947, Letters – PO Box 1947, GPO Bangalore – 560001, Email - help@uidai.gov.in
6. We can always keep our aadhaar in our smartphone with the help of mAadhaar app

1.7 CONCERNS OF STUDY

1. The fundamental objection to this linking of services is that all information on an individual will be available at a single place, which could make surveillance easier and also increase the risks if this information is hacked.
2. The absence of a clear redressal mechanisms for consumers in case of a data leak, misuse or hack.
3. A data privacy legislation and mechanism will not ensure that data remains secure and protected, and that processes are followed.
4.

1.8 RECENT UPDATES

1. According to the interim budget tabled in Parliament on February 1, the budgetary allocation for UIDAI as per revised estimates for the current fiscal ending March 2019 was at Rs 1,345 crore against the original allocation of Rs 1,375 crore.
2. Negligence in maintaining the security of a Jharkhand government web system has resulted in the leaking of personal information and Aadhaar numbers of nearly 1,66,000 government employees in India, TechCrunch reported on Friday.
3. Aadhaar cards of over 30,000 children living in child care institutions have been linked to the Track Child portal in a bid to bolster the information base on the number of children under institutional care amid reports of children going missing from shelter homes, an official said.

1.9 CONCLUSION

Data Privacy and Data protection are rights for every individual residing in this country and every citizen must be aware of that. Every IT technician's main focus is to implement the strongest security which no one can breach. However a Network may not be 100% secure but if one cannot make it 100% secure, there should be a legislation or system to deal with data breach cases. In India some of the Data Privacy and Protection laws are somewhat included under the sections of 'IT Act (2008)', and many are yet to be implemented and are under consideration. We conclude that Aadhaar act there are also some issues need to be understood.

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