

# ***Role of Information Technology in Indian Banking***

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## **Abstract**

*Liberalization and Information technology has attracted many foreign banks to India, thereby opening up new markets, new products and efficient delivery channels for the banking industry. In the development of Indian Economy, Banking sector plays a very important and crucial role. With the use of technology there had been an increase in penetration, productivity and efficiency. It has not only increased the cost effectiveness but also has helped in making small value transactions viable. It also enhances choices, creates new markets, and improves productivity and efficiency. It has been noticed that financial markets have turned into a buyer's markets in India.*

*Commercial Banks in India are now becoming a one-stop Supermarket. The focus is shifting from mass banking to class banking with the introduction of value added and customized products. Technology allows banks to create what looks like a branch in a business building's lobby without having to hire manpower for manual operations. The branches are running on the concept of 24 X 7 working, made possible by the use of Tele banking, ATMs, Internet banking, Mobile banking and E - banking. These technologies driven delivery channels are being used to reach out to maximum number of customers at lower cost and in most efficient manner. The beauty of these banking innovations is that it puts both banker and customer in a win- win situation. Effective use of technology has a multiplier effect on growth and development.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Information technology has basically been used under two different avenues in banking. One is communication and connectivity and other is business process reengineering. Information technology enables sophisticated product development, better market infrastructure, implementation of reliable techniques for control of risks and helps the financial intermediaries to reach geographically distant and diversified markets.

Information technology has changed the contours of three major functions being performed by the banks viz. access to liquidity, transformation of assets and

monitoring of risks. Further, information technology and the communication networking systems have a crucial bearing on the efficiency of money, capital and foreign exchange markets.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Banks need to optionally leverage technology to increase penetration, improve their productivity and efficiency, deliver cost-effective products and services, provide faster. Efficient and convenient customer service and thereby, contribute to overall growth and development of the country. It highlights

that technology allows transactions to take place faster and offer unparalleled convenience through various delivery channels.

The ultimate performance of a bank depends upon the satisfaction of its customers. In the emerging competitive and technological driven era, banks have to strive hard for retaining and enlarging their customer base.

Information technology holds a promise to change the face of banking in the next few years. New entrants are looking to leverage their existing strengths in the Indian banking arena. The opportunity available to these entrants through leveraging their understanding of technologies and markets they operate in, promises innovative business models with a focus on delivering customer value.

It has identified the factors that discriminate the three groups of banks. Customers in developing economies seem to keep the "technological factors" of services such as core service and systematization of the service delivery as the yardstick in differentiating good and bad service while the "human factors" seem to play a lesser role in discriminating the three groups of banks.

### **3. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY**

The customers have high expectations and have become more demanding now as they are also more techno-savvy as compared to their counterparts of the yesteryears. They demand instant, anything and anywhere banking facilities. Though Reserve Bank of India has formulated many policies on adoption of I.T. in the overall working of the commercial banks in India, yet there is an urgent need to address the issues involved in this respect to compete with the banks at international level. As such there is a great need to

focus more on this aspect. The present study helps a lot in this regard.

### **4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study has following objectives :

- ❖ To find out the progress of computerization in all the public sector banks of India.
- ❖ To analyse the banking innovations after computerization of public sector banks of India.
- ❖ To identify challenges in the implementation of I.T. solutions in the public sector banks of India.

Indian banking industry, today is in the midst of an IT revolution. A combination of regulatory and competitive reasons has led to increasing importance of total banking automation in the Indian Banking Industry. The bank which used the right technology to supply timely information will see productivity increase and thereby gain a competitive edge. To compete in an economy which is opening up, it is imperative for the Indian Banks to observe the latest technology and modify it to suit their environment. Information technology offers a chance for banks to build new systems that address a wide range of customer needs including many that may not be imaginable today.

### **5. ELECTRONIC PAYMENT SERVICES - E CHEQUES**

Nowadays we are hearing about e-governance, e-mail, e-commerce, e-tail etc. In the same manner, a new technology is being developed in US for introduction of e-cheque, which will eventually replace the conventional paper cheque. India, as harbinger to the introduction of e-cheque, the Negotiable Instruments Act has already been amended to include; Truncated cheque and E-cheque instruments.

## **6. REAL TIME GROSS SETTLEMENT (RTGS)**

Real Time Gross Settlement system, introduced in India since March 2004, is a Interlink Research Analysis system through which electronics instructions can be given by banks to transfer funds from their account to the account of another bank. The (RTGS) Real Time Gross Settlement system is maintained and operated by the RBI and provides a means of efficient and faster funds transfer among banks facilitating their financial operations. As the name suggests, funds transfer between banks takes place on a 'Real Time' basis. Therefore, money can reach the beneficiary instantaneously and the beneficiary's bank has the responsibility to credit the beneficiary's account within two hours.

## **7. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)**

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) is a system whereby anyone who wants to make payment to another person/company etc. can approach his bank and make cash payment or give instructions/authorization to transfer funds directly from his own account to the bank account of the receiver/beneficiary. Complete details such as the receiver's name, bank account number, account type (savings or current account), bank name, city, branch name etc.

should be furnished to the bank at the time of requesting for such transfers so that the amount reaches the beneficiaries' account correctly and faster. RBI (Reserve Bank of India) is the service provider of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

## **8. AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE (ATM)**

Automatic Teller Machine is the most popular device in India, which enables the customers to withdraw their money 24 hours a day 7 days a week. It is a device that allows customer who has an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) card to perform routine banking transactions without interacting with a human teller. In addition to cash withdrawal, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) can be used for payment of utility bills, funds transfer between accounts, deposit of cheques and cash into accounts, balance enquiry etc.

## **9. POINT OF SALE TERMINAL**

Point of Sale Terminal is a computer terminal that is linked online to the computerized customer information files in a bank and magnetically encoded plastic transaction card that identifies the customer to the computer. During a transaction, the customer's account is debited and the retailer's account is credited by the computer for the amount of purchase.

## **10. TELE BANKING**

Tele Banking facilitates the customer to do entire non-cash related banking on telephone. Under this devise Automatic Voice Recorder is used for simpler queries and transactions. For complicated queries and transactions, manned phone terminals are used.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

Indian public sector banks that hold around 75 % of market share do have taken initiative in the field of IT. They are moving towards the centralized database and decentralize decisions making process.

Awareness and appreciation of IT are very much there. What is needed is a 'big push' the way it was given in the post nationalization period for expansionary activities. IT and India have become synonymous. Whether India becomes a destination for outsourcing or it becomes a development centre is matter of debate. As far as banking industry in India is concerned it can be said that although the

Indian banks may not be as technologically advanced as their counterparts in the developed world, they are following the majority of international trends on the IT front. The strength of Indian banking lie in withering storms and rising up to the expectations from all the quarters catching up with all the global trends is a matter of time.

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