

The Role of A Single National ID at Each Stages of A Citizen's Life Cycle

Lincy P. T.

Assistant Professor, XIME-Kochi

Abstract - A National ID for all citizens of India has long being considered a critical necessity. The current national ID proofs are issued by different departments of India and each one of the national ID cards has different purposes. Too many Identity Cards can serve up a crisis and they are multitude options has made establishing one's identity confusing. The average Indian struggles to prove identity in various circumstances and migrants to India find it difficult to even open a bank account. Multiple national IDs would cause additional burden on the citizen to identify the appropriate ID needed by them not only that it would create multiple centres of national ID, creating additional burden on Central and State Government. The Government has been focusing on inclusive growth and has launched several initiatives at different level to facilitate same. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is a statutory authority established in January 2009 by the Government of India to collect data of Indian residents under the Aadhaar Act, 2016. Aadhaar card is issued to 99% of the population of the country and government of India has taken several initiatives to link Aadhaar with various ID cards and other services. This paper is focusing on how a single national ID or Aadhaar can be linked with a citizen's life cycle.

Key Words: Identity Crisis, National ID, UIDAI, Aadhaar, Citizen's Life Cycle.

I. INTRODUCTION

A national identification number or a single national ID is used by the government of many countries as a means of tracking their citizens, permanent and temporary residents, for the purpose of work, taxation, financial dealings, health care and other purposes. Different countries have different views on the usage of the national identity, although a large number of countries have been in favour of having a national identification system in place. In India, an average citizen has to carry atleast four to five different identities such as voter's ID card, Driving Licence, Passport, PAN card, Aadhar Card to prove his/her identity. Each IDs are issued for different and limited purposes by different authorities of Government of India. Thus, there is a lack of centralized information data system or lack of connectivity to the centralized data base and thus causing redundancy and inconsistent data.

The Government of India has long being considered a National ID for all citizens and residents of India as a critical necessity for country's inclusive growth and development. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established in January 2009 by the Government of India to collect data of Indian

residents under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016. A Unique Identification Number is issued to 99% of the population of the country through Aadhaar card and it can be treated as National ID for the Indian citizen with a centralized database. The Government of India has taken several initiatives to link Aadhaar with various ID cards and other services. The proper execution of the National ID project / Aadhaar by the Government can prove to be useful for execution of various schemes and projects as well as in accessing multiple government and private sector services.

A National ID with multiple purposes would be beneficial for citizens, government and other entities. A single National ID system or Aadhaar would enable to create a one point source of information hub and would include important information about each citizen. The effective centralized information hub enables effective distribution and management of database, access, exchange of information and upgradation of information at each stage of citizen's life cycle. A centralized national ID system can help to clear off redundancies in the existing various ID proof system and save time, resources and energy of the citizens and the country.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Financial Express on 30th June, 2017 reported that in the latest development, the Income Tax Department confirmed that tax payers will have to link their Aadhaar cards with PAN cards in order to file their e-ITR which is mandatory for all individual except whose income less than rupees five lakh per annum and those who are above eighty years of age. Around 1.2 crore assessee already got their Aadhaar-linked PAN, but the number is low as there are over 25 crore PAN card holders, while currently, Aadhaar has been issued to 111 crore people approximately in the country. The Finance Minister had made an amendment in the Finance Bill 2017-18 is that Aadhaar mandatory for filing income tax returns and provided for linking for PAN with Aadhaar to check tax evasion through the use of multiple PAN cards.

Ministry of Electronics and IT, Unique Identification Authority of India stated in circular on 28th April, 2017 that as per Section 4(3) of Aadhaar Act, 2016 "An Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form subject to

authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose.” Therefore, Aadhaar is a legally valid proof of identity.

The Indian Express on 25th June, 2017 reported that Aadhaar is not a valid identification document for Indians travelling to Nepal and Bhutan Said by the Home Ministry. Indians can travel to Nepal and Bhutan-both countries for which they don't need visas--if they possess a valid national passport or election ID card issued by the Election Commission. Moreover, to ease travel, persons over 65 and below 15 years can show documents with photographs to confirm their age and identity. These include PAN card, driving licence, Central Government Health Service (CGHS) card and ration card but not Aadhaar card.

Bloomberg (March, 2017), reported that Paul Romer, the Chief Economist at the World Bank has said a worldwide standardized system on the lines of Aadhaar will benefit everyone on the planet. The system in India is most sophisticated. It is the basis for all kinds of connections that involve things like financial transactions. It could be better for the world if this became widely adopted.

Dass Rajanish and Bajaj R.K. (August, 2008) identified in their Working Paper is that the data about citizen life cycle that can be collated with substantial precautionary measures to maintain privacy and secrecy of the data so that the Government is not perceived to be a big brother breathing down the necks of the citizens can be used for policy planning ultimately ensuring an inclusive growth for all.

III. OBJECTIVES

- 1) To know the widely used existing ID proofs and identify the major challenges of the existing systems in India.
- 2) To identify the role of a single national ID at each stages of a citizen's life cycle.

Widely used Existing ID Proofs in India

Multiple Identity proof cards are being issued to citizens in India. Each of these ID cards is issued by various authorities of different purposes. The widely using ID cards in India are highlighted below:

a) Voter ID Card / Electoral Cards

The Indian voter card is an identity document issued by the Election Commission of India which primarily serves an identity proof for Indian citizen while casting votes in the country. It also serves as age proof and address proof. The electoral ID cards issued to all Indian citizens who have attained the age of 18 years and qualify to be a voter. Bankrupt and mentally retarded people over 18 years

do not qualify vote and therefore, Voter ID Card is not issued to them. The validity of a voter card depends on constituency he or she belongs to. If a person moves his residence from one assembly constituency to another, then he does not remain a valid voter of previous constituency. The voter has to register a fresh as voter in the new constituency. Hence the new card is issued and old card will become invalid.

b) Driving Licence

A Driving Licence is an official document certifying that the holder is qualified to drive motor vehicles. In India, no person can drive a motor vehicle in public place unless he/she holds a valid Driving Licence issued to him, authorizing him/ her to drive a vehicle of that particular category. The applicant should submit residence proof, age proof, medical certificate, learner's license with photograph. After scrutiny of the documents, applicant will be put through the driving test. The person will be tested for driving skills, familiarization with the vehicle, traffic rules and regulations. The validity for a Driving Licence for a non-transport vehicle is 20 years or until the date on which a person attains the age of fifty, whichever is earlier. A person who has attained fifty years of age on the date of issue or renewal of license, the renewal will attain a Driving Licence effective for 5 years.

c) Passport

The Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for issuance of Indian Passport to Indian citizens. Passport is the most acceptable and widely used proof for identification, residence proof and age proof both in India and outside. The passport applicant should submit address proof, proof of date of birth, and other mandatory documents along with the duly filled application form. After the police verification, the report has been submitted; if everything is clear then the passport will be issued.

d) PAN Cards

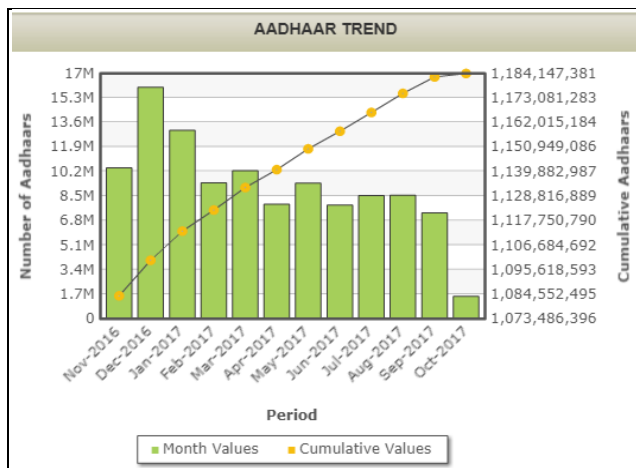
Permanent Account Number (PAN) is an all India, unique number of ten characters allotted by Income Tax Department. It is permanent for the tax payers and does not change with the change of address. A PAN number is primarily being used for filing returns. The applicant of PAN Card should submit proof of identity, proof of address and other required documents along with the photograph and processing fee of Rs.110 for applicant resides in India. The information on PAN card is restricted to name, father's name, date of birth, signature, photograph and PAN number. No other information is mentioned in the PAN card. The ID is permanent and no renewal is required. The Income Tax Department confirmed that tax payers will have to link their Aadhaar cards with PAN cards in order to file their e-ITR which is mandatory for all individual except whose income less than rupees five lakh per annum

and those who are above eighty years of age. Around 1.2 crore assessee already got their Aadhaar-linked PAN, but the number is low as there are over 25 crore PAN card holders in the country, while currently, Aadhaar has been issued to 111 crore people approximately.

e) Aadhaar card

Aadhaar is a twelve digit unique-identity number issued to all Indian residents based on their biometric and demographic data. The data of Indian residents is collected by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), is a statutory authority established in January 2009 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016. Aadhaar is enabling for various services like Government and Non-Government services, subsidy benefits, pensions, scholarships, social benefits, banking services, taxation services, insurance services, education, healthcare, employment, etc. makes it essential to ensure that Aadhaar data of the resident stored in the CIDR is accurate and up-to-date.

Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric ID system, with over 1.184 billion is the total number of Aadhaars issued as on 13 October 2017. As of this date, over 99% of Indians aged 18 and above had been enrolled in Aadhaar.

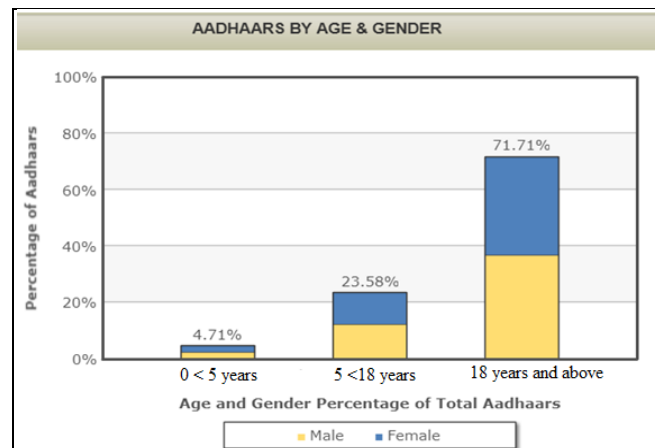


Source: Unique Identification Authority of India, Aadhaar Data Portal

The Home Ministry clarified on June 2017, that Aadhaar is not a valid identification document for Indians traveling to Nepal and Bhutan. The advisory assumes significance as Aadhaar is mandatory for a host of things, including government subsidies on LPG and other social welfare schemes.

The Government of India in a notification dated 16 December 2010 recognizes the letter issued by Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) containing details of name, address and Aadhaar number, as an

officially valid document. It neither aims to replace any existing identity cards nor is it a cognizance of citizenship.



Source: Unique Identification Authority of India, Aadhaar Data Portal

Ministry of Electronics and IT, Unique Identification Authority of India issued a circular on 28th April, 2017 that as per Section 4(3) of Aadhaar Act, 2016 “An Aadhaar number in physical or electronic form subject to authentication and other conditions, as may be specified by regulations may be accepted as proof of identity of the Aadhaar number holder for any purpose.” Therefore, Aadhaar is a legally valid proof of identity. Aadhaar is issued to ninety nine percentage of population of the country having a Unique Identification Number for each citizen; therefore, it can be treated as National ID for Indian citizens.

Major challenges of current system in India

The major challenges of the current system can be summarized as follows:

1) Multiple Enrolments

The current national ID initiatives issued by different departments of India and each one of the national ID cards has different purposes. Multiple national IDs would cause chaos and additional burden on the citizen to identify the appropriate ID needed by them not only that it would create multiple centres of national ID, creating additional burden on Central and State Government.

2) Inconsistencies

If multiple national IDs are created, it would lead to multiple national ID system. This could lead to redundancies, inconsistency in date, etc. as no standard has been set for a national ID.

3) Lack of awareness on using web portals

The Government of India initiated various web portals for connecting with the people for their various requirements including ID cards. But, the usage of

these web portal is not much familiar to the common man and thus again they have to be depended on various government authorities.

4) Long Queues

The Government of India established various web portal and minority of the population is make use of these

facilities. But the major size of the Indian population, still depending on the earlier system. They come to the government departments directly and compel to stand in long queues. In India, the large population still stand in long queues is challenging and cumbersome. This would lead to wastage of time, resources and money.

Comparison of Widely used ID Proofs in India					
	PAN Cards	Passport	Voter ID Card	Driving Licence	Aadhaar Card
Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •10 digit Alpha-Numeric Number •Name of the holder •Father’s Name •Photo •Date of Birth •Signature of the Holder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of the Passport Holder •Passport Number • Address • Date of Birth •Father’s name • Mother’s name • Spouse’s name • Validity Date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo of the vote ID holder • Name • Father’s Name • Date of Birth • Permanent Address 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • License No. • Name of the Father •Permanent Address •Date of Birth •Date of Issue •Validity Date •Signature of license holder 	Demographic contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Address • Date of Birth • Mobile Number • E-mail address • Relationship status Biometric Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iris • Finger Prints • Facial Photograph
Extent of Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tax Payer Identification •Acts as Identity Proof •Useful for Accessing Financial Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts as international identification proof •Acts as Identity and Address Proof •Proof of citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used during voting • Proof for Identification • Proof of Address 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle Licence applicable across the country • Proof of Identity and Residence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aadhaar based direct benefit transfer • Proof of Identity • Proof of address • Useful for attaining government and non-government services

5) Exploitation by intermediaries

There are number of intermediaries and agencies are supporting the people for getting ID cards and other documents from various departments of the Government but they are charging high service charges and exploiting the people.

6) High Cost

If multiple ID cards are created it would lead to incurrence of huge cost on infrastructure, human resources, distribution and management, etc.

An average Indian citizen has to carry at least four to five identities to prove his identity. The limitation of the existing IDs is that they serve different and limited

purposes, there is a lack of a centralized information data system except Aadhaar or lack of linkage with Aadhaar to the other IDs and thus causing redundancy and wastage of resources.

The Role of a single National ID/ Aadhaar at each stage of a citizen’s life cycle

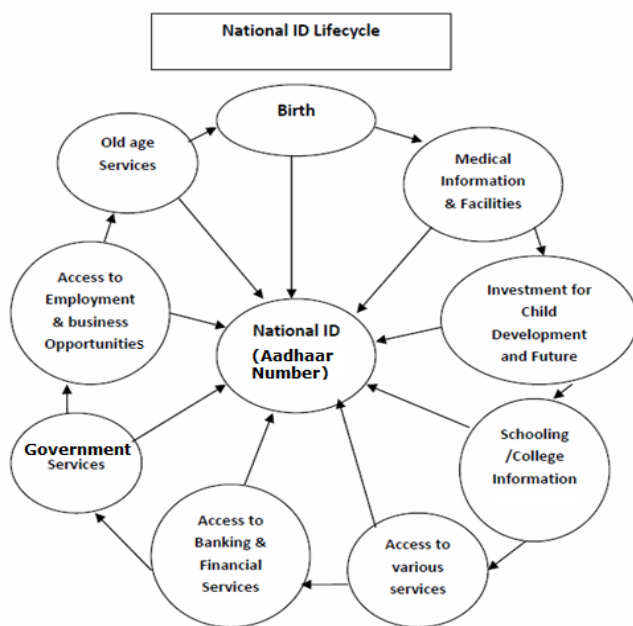
The need of synchronizing of ID cards for a large country like India becomes more crucial because the provision of multiple services to a large population by government and private organizations in a hectic task and is accompanied by many hurdles.

A single document with multiple information integrated to strengthen national security and social security for citizens,

a useful means for citizens to access multiple government and private services and benefits, and an easier and safe means for entities to offer services, employment, etc. Tactical ways could be created to verify the genuineness of a citizen and his identity proof. Disbursement of subsidy should be such that it is recorded at the point of transaction and is immediately captured in a large centralized database, thereby creating a permanent audit trail.

A national ID with multiple usages would be beneficial both for citizens and government and other entities. Creation of a national ID system would enable to create a one point source of information hub and would include important information about each citizen. The creation of a centralized information hub enables effective distribution and management of the database, access and exchange of information and upgradation. A centralized national ID system can help to clear off redundancies in the existing multiple ID proof system and save time, resources and energy of the citizens and country.

A national ID is required at each stage of a person's life from day of birth till death. A national ID card should be in a format of the citizen is updatable at the each stage of life. The following figure explains where national ID would be required at various stages of a citizen's life. In India, Aadhaar is issued 1.184 billion people as on 13th October, 2017. 99% of Indians aged 18 and above had been enrolled in Aadhaar as of this date. Aadhaar can act as National ID for Indian citizens and it should be linked with citizen's life cycle and with all existing ID proofs in India.



How National ID can be linked with the Citizen Life Cycle

Birth: Once the child is born, the process for acquiring his/her national ID begins. Once the national ID is issued to the child, it would help him/her in acquiring birth

certificate, getting the child's name in the registered in the ration card, etc. Aadhaar can act as national ID for a new born. The biometric information of a new born baby can be updated after 5 years.

Medical Information: If National ID/Aadhaar is created, it could enable to send information on medical facilities needed by the child, create medical history of the child, etc. and thus it could help as an easy reference for the health service providers and the child's parents.

Investment for child's future: The National ID system/Aadhaar would enable parents to start investing for their child's studies and for fulfilling future needs during the growing years by accessing investment provisions offered by banks and other financial institutions.

Schooling and college information: The progress of child's personal, medical and educational information could be updated in the Aadhaar. As per the progress, the citizen and his guardian could be intimated about schools, colleges, courses available, alternative source of education, etc.

Access to Various services: There are number of services accessed and used by citizens each day. To access these services, it would be required to produce identification proof, residence proof and citizenship proof in order to overcome fraud or any discrepancies. A national ID/Aadhaar could play vital role being a single comprehensive ID proof, which could serve multiple services.

Access to Financial Services: A child enters in adult stage, he would be required to access financial services from banks or other financial institutions either for investments and to take educational loan for higher studies or for an entrepreneurial ventures. If he/she is having a national ID/Aadhaar could be helpful for obtaining these facilities because the ID explains his entire personal and educational background to the concerned financial service institutions.

Government Services: if all kinds of government services are linked with this national ID /Aadhaar number, it could be better for citizen as well as the government as a whole to issue voter's ID card, Driving Licence, Passport, Pan Card, employment in Government organizations, employee's provident fund, etc. Now, the government initiated to link PAN number with Aadhaar number and also link with bank accounts of the holder. The similar kind of initiative could be done for linking Aadhaar with all existing ID proofs.

Access to Employment and Business Opportunities: A national ID / Aadhaar helps citizens to get employment opportunities in government and private organizations. It gives authenticity and act as identification and proof of residence.

Old age services: A national ID/ Aadhaar could enable the senior citizens in easily accessing services required by them like pension fund, banking and postal services, medical services, tax exemption facilities, concession in transportation charges, etc.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Government of India established Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric Identification system with over 1.184 billion people as on 13th October, 2017, as of this date with over 99% of the country's population having a unique identification number and thus it can be used as a single National ID for the citizens in the country. Aadhaar is enabling for various services like Government and Non-Government services, subsidy benefits, pensions, scholarships, social benefits, education, healthcare, banking services, taxation services, insurance services, employment, etc. makes it essential to ensure that Aadhaar data of the resident stored in the CIDR is accurate and up-to-date. All identity systems have potential benefits as well as consequential dangers. This may include the failure of systems, unforeseen financial costs, increased security threats and some unacceptable imposition on citizens. The success of national ID system/ Aadhaar depends on a cautious, sensitive and cooperative approach involving all key stakeholder groups including risk assessment and regular review of management practices.

The established national ID system/Aadhaar would be integrating with all existing ID proofs systems in India. This initiative will involve huge investment in terms of time and effort; however the benefits that will be reaped can be significant. The data about citizen's life cycle can be collated with substantial precautionary measures to maintain privacy and secrecy of data can be used for policy planning and ultimately ensuring an inclusive growth for all. The Aadhaar card would be linked to Voter's ID can eliminate bogus voters. It would become impossible for a multiple card holder to make its illegal use as registration requires voter ID card holder to be physically present and produce Aadhaar card for linking it to the polling booth officer. Banks are accepting Aadhaar card for opening a bank account and for other various banking transactions, thus applicants no need to produce a bunch of documents to the banks. Securities and Exchange Board of India is now accepted Aadhaar as a proof of address for investing in stock market.

The benefits of a single National ID system are;

1. The core benefits of a single National ID system are synergy effect of a single standardized document, assist counter terrorism, illegal immigrants, and integration of existing identification systems.
2. The secondary benefits like prevention of fraud and tax evasions, financial savings for the government.

3. Other benefits are uses for other private organizations like banks for maintaining credit history, it can be used by hospitals to maintain medical records, etc.

Aadhaar can be considered as National ID for the citizens and it must be getting issued to everyone. Aadhaar should be connected with citizen's life cycle; so as to it start with when a baby born and it should be updated in each stage of his/her life. It would enable to maintain a better identity system in India as a whole. Not only that, the Aadhaar system should be linked with all existing ID proof systems in India to bring everyone under the purview of a single Identification system.

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