

BENEFITS AND USAGE PATTERN OF AADHAR CARD AMONG GENERAL PUBLIC

Dr. A. Franklin Ragila, Assistant Professor of Commerce, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil.

Dr. R. Evalin Latha, Assistant Professor of Commerce, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil.

Dr. V. Regima, Assistant Professor of Commerce, Arunachala College of Arts and Science, Vellichanthai.

Dr. V. Ahila, Assistant Professor of Commerce, Scott Christian College (Autonomous), Nagercoil)

Dr. G. Jeslin Viola Pet, Assistant Professor of Commerce, Scott Christian College (Autonomous), Nagercoil.

The unique Identification Authority of India or Aadhar card is a prestigious project introduced by Central Government. The objective of Aadhar is to link all the people of India. It is required for public welfare schemes and citizen services. This study examined the benefits and the usage pattern of Aadhar card by the sample respondents residing in and around Nagercoil town and the result of the study showed that Aadhar card has been used by the general public for various purposes like applying for Passport, Permanent Account Number (PAN), Driving license, Ration card etc. It can also be used as the sole identification proof and it can serve as a proof of address.

Keywords: *aadhar card, UIDAI, link, aadhar number, computerized*

INTRODUCTION

Aadhar is a 12-digit number issued by the government as proof of identity and resident in India. It contains demographic data, i.e., the data about the resident such as name, address, gender and biometric data about the resident that is related to face identification (photo), IRIS and finger print. It is a biometric card with Unique Identification Number which is issued to every citizen as it requires registration is the most important part of the process. The Aadhar number was initiated as an attempt towards having a single Unique Identification Number (UIDAI) that would capture all the details, including demographic and biometric information, of every resident Indian individual. The Aadhar card /UID can be used as the sole identification proof when applying passport, PAN card, etc. and it can serve as a proof of address. Aadhar is the world's largest National Identity Project. The word Aadhar means "foundation" in several Indian languages. For individuals an Aadhar number offers proof of identity that is accepted across states and union territories by a wide number of service providers. For the government and other service providers, Aadhar's biometric de-duplication was designed to help prevent duplicate payments, leakage and other sources of fraud.

EMERGENCE OF AADHAR

The UIDAI was created in 2009 as a federal agency with the mandate of issuing a unique identification number to every resident in India. Headquartered in Delhi with a network of regional offices throughout the country, the UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) is responsible for the design of the Aadhar identification system, and for overseeing enrolment and authentication. Aadhar enrolment was designed to be accessible to India's many diverse residents, with special consideration given to the inclusion of hard-to-reach groups. Aadhar enrolment has been designed to be free and simple, with no fee to enrol and less than 10 pieces of demographic information required. On 23rd September of 2013, the Supreme Court of India held by three judges ordered that the central government cannot refuse to give subsidies to the person who does not possess an Aadhar and so it should be a voluntary one but should not keep it as mandatory. But in 2016, the Supreme Court of India extended the use of Aadhar card to MGNREGA, Pension schemes, EPF (Employee Provident Fund) though Aadhar was initially restricted to cooking gas subsidies and

Public Distribution System. On 7th February 2017, the Supreme Court of India ordered the Central Government to link mobile number with Aadhar card as well as reminds that the Government cannot make mandatory for welfare scheme. It is to be noticed that in January 2017 to March 2017 alone the Government of India has made possession of an Aadhar card mandatory for availing over 30 central schemes. On 27 March 2017, the court again reiterated that the government cannot make Aadhar mandatory for welfare scheme.

FEATURES OF AADHAR CARD

According to UIDAI, this is the only program of its kind globally, wherein a state-of-the-art digital and online ID is being provided free of cost at such a large scale to people, and has the potential to change the way service delivery functions in the country. Aadhar requires demographic information like name, date of birth or age (declared), gender, address, mobile number and email ID (optional) from applicants, adds UIDAI. Biometric data needed are ten fingerprints, two iris scans, and a facial photograph. Envisioned as one of the key pillars of the Digital India initiative, Aadhar can be used as a permanent financial address and facilitates financial inclusion of the underprivileged and weaker sections of the society and is aimed to be a tool of distributive justice and equality. Aadhar's backing cyber infrastructure is built on open source architecture which is not dependent on specific computer hardware, specific OS, any specific vendor technologies to scale. Such applications are structured to address scalability in a vendor neutral manner and are compatible with various hardware and software platforms. According to UIDAI, about 1.2 billion Aadhar numbers have been generated till date.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

In the modern competitive and computerised world, majority of the people have the intention to get everything, (whether it is a product, service, work) easily without taking much strain. Before the introduction of Aadhar card, citizens of India used many cards for availing various benefit schemes introduced by Central and State Governments. But the Aadhar card was introduced as a mandatory by the Central Government recently help the people to use the same card for various purposes. Therefore, citizens of India are compelled to use Aadhar card. In such a situation, it is necessary to find out how such card has been used by the public. Since Aadhar card programme is introduced for all the citizens of India, it is necessary to know the usage pattern of Aadhar card among the general public all over India. Due to lack of time, the data has been collected in Nagercoil town from 50 respondents.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to know the usage pattern of Aadhar card among general public in Nagercoil town.

Other objectives are:

1. To find out the demographic profile of the sample respondents.
2. To know the benefits of Aadhar card used by the respondents.
3. To find out the problems faced while using Aadhar card.
4. To give necessary and valuable suggestions to the sample respondents.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

As per the statistics of population Reference Bureau Data Sheet (World Population Data Sheet, 2013) India is the second largest populated country (1277 millions) and is expected to be the largest by 2050 (with the population of 1652 millions). With such a large population, the current system of multiple identify cards used by various central as well as state government units for a variety of schemes/benefits (such as gas subsidy and MGNREGA) and for other purposes become difficult to implement and complicated to manage as well as this increase the pain for a citizen. The

respective Government of India (GOI) or state government department has to maintain multiple records of the same data, or some information which might not have been update, thus leading to lots of confusion as well as wastage of time during implementation of schemes. To eliminate all the difficulties Central Government introduced Aadhar card. In such situations, in order to find out how this Aadhar card has been used by the public the project team had selected the title Usage pattern of Aadhar card among public in Nagercoil town for the project work.

METHODOLOGY

This study is based on both primary and secondary data.

1.6.1 PRIMARY DATA:

Primary data were collected using a well drafted questionnaire and 50 sample respondents who are using Aadhar card were selected randomly and data were collected from these respondents using Convenient Random Sampling technique.

1.6.2 SECONDARY DATA:

The secondary data were collected from various books, newspapers, magazines, journals and websites.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Prapti Deshmukh (2023), says that the current system is less transparent because there could be chances of cheating at the voting time. This is based on the fingerprint of the voters, which is saved in the Aadhar card number in a central government database. In this system, voting is based on Aadhar biometric database that is a fingerprint. This voting system would win higher security and it will increase voting percentage.

Jayshree Chudhari (2022), proposed a public transport system which focuses on secure travel technique by using Aadhar card as a travel card. It provides a brief glance at secure travel system, since the passengers flow in public transportation is increasing day by day as the population is increasing. Secure travel is an important social need of today which is done by Using Aadhar card. Aadhar card consists of 12digit unique number. For each and every individual transaction, ID for every customer will be unique. Customer detail will be stored in a database. Thus, it would be beneficial for retrieving the data from database in case of any disasters or terrorist attacks providing efficient convenient mechanism for recharge facility for the customer make this system user friendly.

Sayali Shinelu, (2022), Online voting system linked with Aadhar card allows the voter to scan their finger print which is the match with an already saved image within a database that is retrieved from a Aadhar card database. At the time of voting admin starter will provide password to the voter difficult to design an ideal E-voting system which no compromise.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

TABLE 1 - DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

VARIABLES	PARTICULARS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Age	Below 20	12	24
	31 - 45	19	38
	46 - 60	10	20
	Above 60	9	18
	TOTAL	50	100
Gender	Male	9	18
	Female	41	82
	TOTAL	50	100

Marital status	Single	18	36
	Married	32	64
	TOTAL	50	100
Educational level	Upto High School	5	10
	Higher Secondary	10	20
	U G	17	34
	P G	12	24
	Others	6	12
	TOTAL	50	100
Residential Status	Rural	35	70
	Urban	9	18
	Semi-urban	6	12
	TOTAL	50	100
Monthly Income	Up to Rs.10000	10	20
	Rs.10001 - Rs.20000	22	44
	Rs.20001 - Rs.30000	8	16
	Rs.30001 - Rs.40000	4	8
	Rs.40001 - Rs.50000	5	10
	Above Rs.50000	1	2
	TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary data

From the above table, it is inferred that 38 per cent of the respondents come under the age group of 31- 45 years and 18 per cent of the respondents belong to the age group of above 60. With regard to gender, 82 percent of the respondents are female and 18 percent of the respondents are male. In respect to marital status, 64 percent of the respondents are married and 36 percent of the respondents are unmarried. In respect of educational qualifications, 34 of the sample respondents have UG level of education and 10 per cent of the sample respondents have up to high school level of education. With regard to residential status, 70 per cent of the sample respondents are living in rural areas while 12 percent of the sample respondents are living in the semi-urban areas. In respect to monthly income, 44 per cent of the respondents have Rs.10001 - Rs.20000 as their monthly income and 2 per cent of the respondents have monthly income above Rs.50000.

USAGE OF AADHAR CARD

S. NO.	USAGE	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL	RANK
1.	Traces a person anywhere in India	80	92	27	4	-	203	I
2.	Avoid fake identities	85	64	30	6	4	189	II
3.	Prevents illegal immigrants	40	68	45	16	2	171	III
4.	Prevents terrorists	35	76	39	14	4	168	IV

5.	Useful in case of accidents	25	64	57	18	1	165	V
----	-----------------------------	----	----	----	----	---	-----	---

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that, "Traces a person anywhere in India" is the most important necessity pointed out by the respondents and it is given the 1st rank, 2nd and 3rd ranks are given to the necessity of "Avoiding fake identities" and "Prevents illegal immigrants" respectively. The 4th and 5th ranks are given to "Prevents terrorists" and "Useful in case of accidents" with the least total of 168 and 165 respectively.

USAGE PATTERN OF AADHAR CARD

S. NO.	USAGE PATTERN	ALWAYS	VERY OFTEN	OFTEN	NEVER	TOTAL	RANK
1.	ID proof	132	30	212	1	175	I
2.	Address proof	64	66	16	4	150	II
3.	Citizenship	96	30	16	8	150	II
4.	Valid document	68	57	12	8	145	IV
5.	Scholarship	60	57	12	11	140	V

Source: Primary Data

Above table shows that majority of the respondents said that they have used Aadhar card as ID proof and so it is given 1st rank, "Address proof and Citizenship" are given 2nd rank, 4th rank is given to "Valid document" and 5th rank is given to "Scholarship".

BENEFITS OF AADHAR CARD

S. NO.	BENEFITS	TOTAL/50	AVERAGE SCORE	RANK
1.	Convenient to carry	2732/50	54.64	I
2.	More safety	2567/50	51.34	II
3.	Transparency of data	2502/50	50.04	III
4.	Data more accurate	2419/50	48.38	IV
5.	Easy for illiterate	2314/50	46.28	V

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that, "Convenient to carry" is the most important advantage pointed out by the respondents and it is given the 1st rank. 2nd and 3rd ranks are given to "More safety" and "Transparency of data" with the average scores of 51.34 and 50.04 respectively. In order to make this fact clearer, it is depicted in the form of a figure.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS

S. NO.	TYPE OF DIFFICULTY	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Time consuming	28	56
2.	Officers are not co-operative	6	12
3.	No clarity	16	32
	TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table shows that, 56 percent of the sample respondents felt that it is time consuming and 12 percent of the respondents felt that the officers were not co-operative.

SUGGESTIONS

- The officials who are in charge of Aadhar card should check carefully whether the name is included without any spelling mistakes in the list as it is complained that people are not able to get the Aadhar card with correct names.

- The authorities should take necessary steps to apply for Aadhar card within a short span of time as many are complaining that they have to wait for a number of months to apply for Aadhar card.
- Information and photo in Aadhar card should be accurate and clear.
- Aadhar card should be made available in such a way that the personal data will not be leaked out.
- Aadhar number should be arranged in such a manner that it can be easily remembered.

CONCLUSION

Aadhaar program was launched in 2009 with a main objective to provide universal identity to every Indian resident. The 12 digit individual identification number on Aadhar card is used to trace a person anywhere in India, prevents illegal immigrants etc. Time consuming and no clarity of photos in Aadhar card are the most significant difficulty faced by the respondents. Considering the increasing acceptance of Aadhaar card it is must for everyone to get it issued. It is believed that the card will further be given more importance as more and more government schemes are being launched requiring it as a mandatory document.

REFERENCE

1. **Prapti Deshmukh (2023)**, Aadhar Card based election in voting system ' "International Conference on Recent Advance in Computer Science, Engineering and Technology", Volume: 5, Issue - 4.
2. **Jayshree Chaudhari (2022)**, "Secure Travel System Using Aadhar Card", "International Journal of Engineering Research and Technology", Volume: 3, Issue 1.
3. **Nimesh P. Bhojak (2015)**, "Assess the Awareness Level of People on Aadhar Card as Public Well Being", "International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Study", Volume: 2, Issue - 5, Page No: 88 - 95.
4. **Shyam Singh Amrawat (2015)**, "Aadhar Possibilities with I-N Authentication", "International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication", Volume: 5, Issue-9.
5. **J. Shelke (2018)**, "Review on Aadhar Based Voting System using Biometric Scanner", "International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology", Volume: 5, Issue - 2, Page No: 602.
6. **Sayali Shinelu (2022)**, "Online System Linked with Aadhar Card", "International Journal Innoative Research in Computer and Communication Engineering" Volume: 6, Issue - 3.
7. **Shweta Agarwal Subhashi Banerjee, Subodh Sharma (2016)**, "Privacy and Security of Aadhar: A Computer Science Perspective".
8. **Raaju (2017)**, Perception of people on Aadhar with reference to Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India "International Journal of Research", Volume: 5, Issue 7.
9. **Srinidhi & Thippeswamy (2017)**, "A Survey on Technology Evolution in the field of E- Services in India", International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET), Volume: 04, Issue: 7, Page: 2839, available online at www.irjet.net.
10. **Raaju et al.**, perception of people on aadhar card with reference to chitoor district vol.(05(issue7): july, 2017, Unique Identification Initiative: An Evaluative Study on World's Largest Project Aadhar inIndia.
11. **Raja Siddharth Raju (2010)**, "Aadhar Card Challenges and Impact on Digital Transformation", Due Accessed: 17-02-2017 <https://arxiv.org/abs/1708.05117>
12. **Atul N Kataria (2013)**, "A Survey of Automated Biometric Authentication Techniques", <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org>
13. **Janani (2016)**, "Analysis on Risk Identification and Benefits Involved in Aadhar Card", International Journal of Basic and Applied Research, www.pragatipublication.com ISSN - 22493352 (P), 2278-0505 (E), Volume 7.