Government of Punjab | DIGIT Powered by eGov

UX Case Study

mCollect in Punjab

A short case study highlighting how mCollect was contextualised as a digital product and the impact it has created for the local government and its citizens in Punjab

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Background

We as citizens have experienced the gruesome process of waiting in a queue to avail a service at the local municipal office. This experience itself tests the patience of an individual and moreover can be frustrating if the outcome doesn't match the expectations.

A common man expects good governance, be it in any form. The government in return is constantly making efforts to provide simple, moral, responsive and transparent governance to its every citizen.

The recent advances in the field of Information and Communication Technology has provided a huge opportunity for governments to transform their processes and service delivery.

Within Municipal Domain, we have witnessed the implications of digital governance with major revenue services (like Property Tax) being implemented to facilitate ease of doing transactions for its citizens and in return, streamlining the revenue collection. But can we say this for other services as well? What if there exists an opportunity that the local governments can leverage upon for benefits of their own as well as for the citizens?

The Local Government, Punjab identified and exercised one such opportunity which has benefited them and their citizens. That opportunity is called mCollect System.

The mCollect System (Under DIGIT's mSeva) is a digital module, which aims to capture payments related to all "Municipal Miscellaneous Services" within an Urban Local Body. The Services include certain revenue sources for the municipality such as Advertisement Tax, Parking Charges, Rent etc.

Why mCollect was needed? (Understanding the Problem Space)

The PMIDC's (Local Government, Punjab) objective is channeling the Municipal Services to its citizens in a transparent, effective and efficient manner. With Modules such as Property Tax, Trade License and Water/ Sewerage already implemented under DIGIT (An Open Source Platform for Urban Governance) there was a need to streamline other miscellaneous services provided at the ULB level.

As a result, Leadership (Local Governments) decided to completely eradicate the practice of manual receipts (G-8) across the state. The Manual G-8 receipts are issued by the ULBs for non-digital services availed by a citizen. They are used as a validation of the payment made/ received.

Following are the key associated challenges with this practice :

Example of Paper Legacy System across ULBs (in Punjab)

My Role

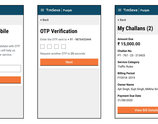
As a Lead UX Architect, my team collaborated with the PMIDC Team (Business & Tech) to kickoff the on-ground research with the aim to understand how current miscellaneous services are availed at the last mile. It involved (virtual/ unstructured research methodologies, with on-site to identify and explore the problem space deeply.

Approach

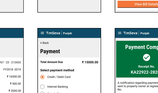
Following are the key methodologies (not restricted), which were used to explore the problem space in depth and design the solution :

Multistakeholder Interaction (Interviews & Design Workshop)

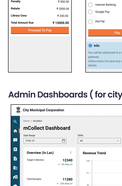
Based on the findings from the user research we realised that there is a need for a digital intervention that must address the following (prioritised in order) :

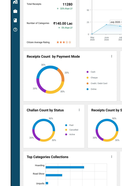


mCollect System (The Product)



Employee Screens





Citizen App Screens

Admin Dashboards (for city Commissioners)

Measuring Impact

"Now, I don't need any old paper G-8 receipt for paying monthly rent to MC office. I just show the SMS and pay the rent in seconds without any hassle"

Avinash Singh, Shopkeeper (Hoshiarpur)

"With MCS, we can fetch reports anytime and easily tally our daily collections, something which was not easy before"

- Kulmeet, Junior Assistant (Municipal Council, Dhalyal)

"Digitizing Miscellaneous Collection has enabled ULBS & State to monitor the Revenue, which indeed is impactful in providing various services to the Citizens."

- Ms Bupinder Singh- GM (Information Technology- PMIDC)

"We are very pleased to deploy MCS across Punjab and it has vastly enabled us to take concrete steps towards data driven governance"

- Amrpreet Kaur, Project Manager (PMIDC)

Respondents have not provided their consent to display their profile photos.