Published by :
https://www.ijert.org/
An International Peer-Reviewed Journal

International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology (IJERT)
ISSN: 2278-0181
Vol. 14, Issue 02, NCRTCS - 2026

Blockchain For Transparency In Rural Education NGOs

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***Abstract* - Rural education NGOs face persistent issues related to transparency, fund utilisation, and record management. This paper proposes a hybrid blockchain framework that uses smart contracts and distributed ledger technology to enable transparent fund tracking and secure educational records, thereby improving accountability and donor trust.**

Keywords - Blockchain, Transparency, Rural Education, NGOs, Smart Contracts, Distributed ledgers.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural education non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play an important role in improving educational access in underdeveloped regions of India. However, many NGOs face challenges related to transparency in fund utilisation and inefficient record management, which often reduces donor trust and accountability.

Traditional centralised systems used by NGOs are prone to errors, data manipulation, and limited traceability. Blockchain technology provides a decentralised and immutable distributed ledger that ensures transparent transactions and secure record-keeping. This paper proposes a hybrid blockchain framework using smart contracts and distributed ledger technology to improve financial transparency and accountability in rural education NGOs.

II. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

A. Enhance Financial Transparency

To develop a blockchain-based system that enables real-time tracking of donations and fund utilisation in rural education NGOs.

B. Ensure Secure and Tamper-Proof Record Management

To implement a distributed ledger mechanism for securely storing student records, attendance, and academic achievements..

C.Strengthen Donor and Stakeholder Trust

To increase accountability by providing verifiable and immutable transaction records accessible to authorised stakeholders.

D. Ensure Secure and Tamper-Proof Record Management

To implement a distributed ledger mechanism for securely storing student records, attendance, and academic achievements..

E. *Promote Low-Cost and Scalable Adoption*

To propose an implementation model suitable for rural NGOs with limited technical and financial resources.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Rural education NGOs often face challenges related to transparency and accountability in fund management and record maintenance. Donors and stakeholders have limited visibility into how contributions are utilised, which may reduce trust and funding support.

Additionally, many NGOs rely on manual or centralised systems for maintaining financial and academic records. These systems are vulnerable to errors, data manipulation, and mismanagement. The absence of a secure, tamper-proof mechanism for tracking donations and student records highlights the need for a decentralised and transparent solution.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Blockchain technology has been widely studied for its potential to enhance transparency, security, and accountability in various sectors, including finance, healthcare, and education. Several researchers have highlighted the effectiveness of decentralised ledger systems in preventing data tampering and ensuring traceable financial transactions.

In the non-profit sector, blockchain-based donation tracking systems have been proposed to improve donor confidence and reduce fraud. Similarly, studies in the education domain suggest that blockchain can secure academic records and prevent certificate forgery. However, limited research specifically focuses on applying blockchain technology to improve transparency in rural education NGOs, thereby creating a research gap that this study aims to address.

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V. METHODOLOGY

This research proposes a blockchain-based framework to enhance transparency, accountability, and secure record management in rural education NGOs. The methodology involves designing and implementing a hybrid blockchain system that integrates smart contracts and distributed ledger technology.

A. Hybrid Blockchain Framework Design

A hybrid blockchain model is proposed, combining public and private blockchain networks. The public blockchain records financial transactions to ensure transparency for donors and stakeholders, while the private blockchain securely stores sensitive student and institutional data accessible only to authorised users.

B. Smart Contract Implementation

Smart contracts are deployed to automate fund disbursement processes. Donations are released to NGOs only after predefined milestones, such as infrastructure completion or student enrollment targets, are verified. This minimises manual intervention and reduces the risk of fund misuse.

C. Distributed Ledger for Academic Records

A distributed ledger system is implemented to store students' attendance, academic performance, and certifications. Since blockchain records are immutable, data tampering and manipulation are prevented.

VI. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

A. Donor Interface Module.

This module allows donors to contribute funds through a digital platform. Each transaction is recorded on the public blockchain, ensuring transparency and real-time tracking of donations.

B. NGO Administration Module

The NGO uploads project details, funding requirements, and milestone updates through this interface. All submitted information is verified before fund release.

C. Smart Contract Layer

Smart contracts automate the release of funds based on predefined conditions and milestone completion. Once verification is completed, the contract executes automatically without manual intervention.

D. Private Ledger for Student Records

A private blockchain ledger securely stores student attendance, performance records, and certifications. Access is restricted to authorised personnel to maintain data privacy.

VII. BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed blockchain-based framework offers multiple advantages for rural education NGOs by improving transparency, security, and operational efficiency.

A. Enhanced Transparency

All financial transactions are recorded on a decentralised ledger, enabling donors and stakeholders to track fund utilisation in real time.

B. Improved Data Security

The immutable nature of blockchain ensures that financial and academic records cannot be altered or tampered with, reducing the risk of fraud.

C. Increased Accountability

Smart contracts automate fund release based on verified milestones, minimising manual intervention and preventing misuse of resources.

D. Strengthened Donor Confidence

Transparent and verifiable records increase trust among donors, potentially leading to higher funding and long-term support.

VIII. LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

Despite its significant advantages, the implementation of blockchain technology in rural education NGOs presents several challenges. One major limitation is the lack of technical expertise and digital literacy in rural areas, which may hinder smooth adoption and management of blockchain-based systems. Additionally, the initial setup cost, including infrastructure development and training, may be a financial burden for small NGOs operating with limited resources.

Furthermore, compliance with data protection regulations and government policies must be carefully addressed to ensure lawful implementation. Resistance to technological change and dependence on traditional administrative methods may also slow down integration. Therefore, while blockchain offers strong potential for improving transparency, proper planning, training, and policy support are essential for successful adoption.

IX. CONCLUSION

This research proposes a blockchain-based framework to enhance transparency, accountability, and secure record management in rural education NGOs. By integrating a hybrid blockchain model with smart contracts and distributed ledger technology, the system enables real-time fund tracking and tamper-proof storage of academic records. The proposed solution addresses key challenges such as financial mismanagement, lack of donor trust, and inefficient record-keeping.

Although certain limitations related to technical expertise, cost, and regulatory compliance exist, the long-term benefits

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of improved transparency and stakeholder confidence outweigh these challenges. With proper implementation and awareness, blockchain technology has the potential to significantly transform governance and trust mechanisms within rural education NGOs.

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