



ADVANTAGES OF DIGITAL LITERACY IN INDIA AND DIFFICULTIES TO IMPLEMENT IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

The study focuses on India's educational system and digital literacy. The purpose of this study is to gain insight into the idea of digital literacy in general and to highlight the advantages that digital literacy can provide for society. This study examines the difficulties associated with digital literacy and offers recommendations for enhancing the standard of achievement. This research highlights that digital literacy in India's educational system requires comprehensive investigation and analysis by accessing digital literacy obstacles and problems. Lack of technical knowledge and proficiency, inadequate infrastructure, lack of access to technological resources, and inadequate education are some of the major causes of this decreased rate of digital literacy. Furthermore, one of the factors contributing to India's challenges in improving digital literacy is the country's rural majority.

Keywords: *Difficulties, Advantages, Recommendations, Digital Literacy, Digital Education.*

INTRODUCTION :

The ability to efficiently and responsibly use digital tools, communication technology, and the internet is known as digital literacy. Using computers, smartphones, and the internet is part of this. Being aware of cyber security and internet safety, internet access to financial and governmental services, as well as digital platforms for work, education, and health. In order to support government-based services for the nation's citizens, the Digital India Movement works with online and digital environments. The country's technical advancement through greater internet connectivity is linked to the "Digital India" vision. On July 1, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Digital India Mission, which aims to complement the government's current initiatives, including Sagarmala, Made in India, Stand up India, and Start up India. By using internet resources, digital literacy tries to enhance students' learning. In order to learn, they must make efficient use of the necessary digital resources. Students who possess digital literacy are better

able to obtain information that broadens their understanding of the subjects they are studying. (Bansal,C. et al 2021).

Digital literacy attempts to engage learners with online resources in order to enhance their learning. They must successfully use the necessary digital tools in their learning process. Students who possess digital literacy are better able to obtain information that broadens their understanding of the subjects they are studying. Enhancing digital literacy is therefore increasingly crucial for India to enhance its educational system and promote students' learning by increasing their knowledge. One of the most important tools in this field of education is the internet, which is used to support students' growth through online learning processes. (Boruah, et al 2022).

Initiatives to enhance digital literacy are being carried out by the Indian government, which includes sponsoring research researchers, talent development facilities, and higher education institutions. The goal of the "Digital India"

strategy is to make India's economy and society more technologically capable. However, careful management is required to prevent low-income families from being excluded from school and to create new issues like cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying. By teaching rural women digital skills, the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan project aims to reduce poverty, illiteracy, discrimination, and stereotyped thought patterns. Additional efforts include Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank, Swayam, Startup India, Make in India, Digital India, and Skill India. (Biradar, et.al.2017).

In a world where digital education is replacing traditional schooling, empowering girls with digital technology will increase their chances of finding employment and making a living. Educational institutions should integrate information and communication technology (ICT) into their regular course work and have digital devices and software for professional growth, teaching, and learning. Particularly in rural areas where the production of food, fruit, vegetables, milk, and natural resources is crucial, the Indian government is concentrating on fostering digital literacy and other skills. To enhance rural areas and give young people job possibilities, initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank, Swayam, Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, and Start-up India have been introduced. (Dutta, A.2017, March).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

In India, some of the most widely utilized digital platforms for online education are Google, social media sites, Zoom Meeting, Google Meet, and Seesaw. The use of these tools facilitates meetings between educators and students and improves appropriate formal or informal communication methods. Because these digital tools deviate from the traditional and monotonous methods of face-to-face learning, they attract students' interest. Additionally, it facilitates a quicker learning process than

traditional classroom instruction. With the growing popularity of digital technology among students, using a computer, laptop, or smartphone starts the process of expanding digital literacy. (Mohan et al. 2017).

Due to the lack of a paid subscription, both teachers and students can easily utilize the digital tools. In a sense, it makes education more affordable for students and their families. Additionally, when they learn how to use these websites and how they function, it improves the digital literacy of Indian parents, instructors, and students. As a result, it supports the advancement of digital literacy in India's educational system (Saxena et al. 2018).

For effective communication and technology use, especially on the internet, social media, and mobile devices, digital literacy is essential. Students, individuals, and workers are being encouraged by educational institutions, governments, and organizations to acquire digital literacy skills for intelligent job performance. Digital literacy has grown due to rapid lifestyle changes and technology improvements, and emerging and underdeveloped countries are putting policies into place to promote security and efficiency (Babu et al. 2022). According to a research conducted in Jorhat and Golaghat, Assam, 55.83% of participants had a medium level of digital literacy, while 20.00% had low and 24.17% had high levels. However, quite a few people lacked a basic understanding of sophisticated technologies, which are essential for fostering development, lowering transaction costs, and expanding rural India (Boruah and Borah, 2022).

The goal of the Digital India program is to improve technology use, connect rural areas to faster internet networks, prepare India for a knowledge-based future, and make government services digitally available to the general public. However, putting the strategy into action will be

extremely difficult. The goal of this research is to find answers and raise everyone's standard of living. (Kaur and others, 2022). A study conducted on 81 members of Noida's self-help groups assessed how financial digital literacy training affected the female trainees' drive for self-improvement. The findings demonstrated motivated behavior, heightened awareness of learning, and a desire for personal development. The participants learned how to use digital financial abilities in everyday tasks, such as using digital apps to make payments. The intention was to make digital finance a better option for

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The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020), which is being implemented by the Democratic Welfare Government of India, aims to provide fair educational institutions grounded in social, technological, and economic improvements. With the goal of enhancing life quality via digitization and lifelong learning, the policy places a strong emphasis on flexible education and lifelong learning. This plan is supported by elements such as VC, CQOL, PMED, and ELAK. To improve the quality of life, research recommends boosting institutional governance, encouraging digitization, developing skills, and combining employability with multidisciplinary approaches. Murlidharan et al(2022).

The extensive usage of electronic learning for teaching and learning is a result of the epidemic. E-learning is the process of learning new

information and skills using technology, such as computers and online course materials accessed via Google Meet and Zoom Meeting. Researchers discovered that yoga and music students have a favorable opinion of online education (Singh et al., 2022).

RESEARCH GAP:

Lack of digital literacy, inadequate infrastructure, slow internet connections, and tax issues are some of the issues facing India's Digital India policy. To improve accessibility and the educational system, the government is integrating digital technology into the classroom. However, a thorough analysis is required to evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of this option. The purpose of this study is to look into the advantages of digital literacy, user issues, and obstacles to its growth.

METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH:

To achieve these objectives, the current research study uses secondary data. Different published literature, reviews, research studies, and research papers that are available in written form as well as on the internet platform, including blogs, websites, and others, have been used to gather the necessary data for reaching conclusions based on the study. The current research examination has been conducted in an organized manner, as required by the overall research design. The present investigation is qualitative, and the researchers have used the descriptive method of analysis to make conclusions from their findings.

THE OBJECTIVES :

The study focuses on India's educational system and digital literacy. The purpose of this study is to gain insight into the idea of digital literacy in general and to highlight the advantages that digital literacy can provide for society. This study examines the difficulties associated with digital literacy and offers recommendations for enhancing the standard of achievement. This research highlights that digital literacy in India's

educational system requires comprehensive investigation and analysis by accessing digital literacy obstacles and problems.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

This portion of the research study covers the interpretation and analysis of the acquired data to find out the outcomes. The explanation is as follows

Advantages of Digital Literacy:

Technology has been shown to have a major impact on a number of facets of life, including business, education, and personal development. By giving teachers and children access to resources, it shortens geographic distances and facilitates learning for learners from low-income families. By allowing teachers to customize lesson plans and study materials, artificial intelligence technology has enhanced the quality of education generally. Touch screen technology has made it possible for people of all ages to engage in educational activities, which has improved their ability to learn and develop. By providing access to online resources like recorded lectures and database catalogues, digital literacy has enhanced academic achievement, which is especially advantageous for young people. People with higher levels of digital literacy now have easier access to information from around the world.

Digital technology has enabled time and cost savings, simplifying tasks like bill payment, tax payment, job searching, and financial management. Our shopping habits have been completely transformed by the internet, which enables consumers to buy anything, anywhere, at any time. The availability of digital technology, which enables speedier communication and the opportunity to communicate with individuals worldwide, makes establishing global ties essential. Creating business models and strategies can be accomplished in a number of ways, including managing affiliate programs, launching a blog, and selling digital goods.

People can reach their financial objectives with the use of marketing techniques including financial markets, crowdsourcing, online discussion boards, and marketplaces like eBay, Amazon, Facebook, Google, Google AdSense, and Google Ad Words.

Difficulties of Digital Literacy :

Widespread illiteracy, restricted access to digital infrastructure, high acquisition costs for digital equipment, accessibility, relevance, and disparities in the advantages of digital learning are some of the issues that India's digital literacy initiatives must deal with. By 2020, the Digital India initiative hopes to train one person in every family in digital skills, but more than one-fourth of the population is illiterate. Through the implementation of digital infrastructure as a public service available to all citizens and digital emancipation through internet delivery, the government's 'Digital India' program hopes to make India a knowledge economy and a digitally equipped society.

The government is attempting to integrate the State Wide Area Network, National Knowledge Network, and National Optical Fibre Network into a single system in order to reach a 100% mobile connection coverage rate since 2018. Since 2016, the Broadband for All initiative has worked to expand access to broadband in rural areas. Another major issue is accessibility, since it is difficult to provide educational resources in many languages because online content is primarily in English. The term "digital divide" describes how all social classes have unequal access to learning.

The recommendations to improve digital literacy in India:

Since the majority of India's population lives in rural areas, state and federal governments must work together to improve digital literacy. This requires developing computer usage education programs and techniques so that more people can gain the skills they need to operate

efficiently in the digital world. The goal of Panchayats and other regional governing bodies should be to attain digital literacy as soon as practicable. Since officials' extensive influence will have a big impact on the nation's information and communication technology education, the government needs to encourage digital literacy among them. Enhancing digital literacy among teachers at state-funded schools should be the Ministry of Education's top priority.

Making certain that funding satisfies community standards and permits students to receive specialized, reasonably priced education. Given that the healthcare industry is well-known for its female staff, which enhances its profitability and reputation overall, emphasis should also be made on educating women in digital literacy. By focusing on these women, health services are of higher quality and the female workforce can receive digital education as soon as possible. Maintaining high standards in education requires the establishment of hybrid educational institutions where teachers use digital resources and engage in professional development.

For users, particularly students, who should have access to electronic books, journals, and other course materials that the library has purchased, more digital library platforms are necessary. To satisfy the criteria and instruct clients on the efficient use of digital information resources, user awareness initiatives—such as workshops, training sessions, and user education programs—are desperately needed.

CONCLUSION:

The study uses secondary sources rather than primary data to examine the advantages and disadvantages of digital literacy for Indian people. It intends to offer more precise findings on the topic because primary data would offer more in-depth understanding. Though obstacles like low digital literacy, inadequate infrastructure, slower internet connections, and

tax issues make it difficult to effectively implement, India's Digital India strategy seeks to make individuals digital citizens. India is integrating digital technology into the educational system through initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan to increase accessibility and quality.

Digital tools and software are essential for teaching, learning, and professional development in educational institutions. Education, business, and personal growth are just a few of the areas of life where technology has had a big impact. Enhancing digital literacy at state-funded institutions, making sure financial aid meets community expectations, and offering individualized and reasonably priced education should be the top priorities for the Ministry of Education. Given that many women contribute to the healthcare industry's profitability and reputation, it is essential that women learn digital literacy

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