



Impact of Digital Initiatives with Special Reference to Education Sector in India

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Abstract: The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) harnesses the power of ICT to make teaching and learning processes more efficient for the benefit of all learners in Higher Education Institutions at any time and from any location. It has helped to increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education. Technology's power should never be underestimated. With a population of 1.31 billion people, the country's technology ratio has skyrocketed in recent years. With approximately 140 million mobile phone users and being the country with the second highest number of social site users, India has a huge opportunity to grow in this field and to grasp the positive vibes of technology in the fields of education, medicine, defense, business, and much more.

Index Terms - Digital India, Education, ICT, Technology, Application, Computers.

1.1 INTRODUCTION:

In today's generation, the importance of technology in schools is palpable. Students who are not computer savvy will struggle in the future because most tasks in competition require some type of computer work. There are numerous advantages to using digital learning to change a child's life. Motor Skills, Decision Making, Visual Learning, Cultural Awareness, Improved Academic Performance, Inventiveness, and so on are some of these. Furthermore, coding is proving to be the magic of technology.

Digital literacy is one component that helps a child become responsible, dutiful, and dedicated to his or her work. This is how they interact with the world around them using technology. Digital literacy is one component that helps a child become responsible, dutiful, and dedicated to his or her work. This is how they interact with the world around them using technology.

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1.2 IMPACT OF DIGITAL INITIATIVES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO EDUCATION SECTOR IN INDIA:

The education sector is currently in crisis as a result of the corona virus pandemic. Due to an increasing number of Covid-19 cases, educational institutes are closed and will most likely remain closed until 2020. This could even be extended until 2021. In this situation, online education has come to the aid of the educational cause. However, there are several issues with online education that must be addressed.

1.2.1 THE BENEFITS OF DIGITAL EDUCATION:

1. **Digital education is enjoyable learning for all ages**, but it is especially effective for child learning because the innovative audio-video feature stimulates cognitive elements in a child's brain.
2. **The INFO-TAINMENT combination in digital learning makes it more practical**, applicable, and relatable to our lives and surroundings in a fun way.
3. **Students see this as a flexible option** that allows them to study at their own pace and on their own time. Teachers, too, find it convenient to prepare well-aided learning plans with the help of technology. With a perfect blend of personalized packages that include animations, gamification, and elaborate audio-visual effects, teaching becomes a more enjoyable experience.
4. **So, online teaching and learning methods deserve our highest praise**, but only when they are cast in their proper role, which is to supplement, support, and amplify face-to-face education techniques.
5. **Transitioning from teacher-led classes to digital education** will necessitate multi-pronged efforts over time.

1.2.2 DIFFICULTIES OF DIGITAL EDUCATION:

1. **Inadequate Study Space:** According to the 2011 Census, 71% of households with three or more members live in houses with two rooms or less (74 per cent in rural and 64 per cent in urban areas). In such a situation, it is unclear how the children will receive an education in a peaceful environment.
2. **Inadequate Internet Access:** According to National Sample Survey data for 2017-18, only 42% of urban households and 15% of rural households had internet access, and only 34% of urban and 11% of rural people had used the internet in the previous 30 days. These statistics clearly indicate that two-thirds of the children will be excluded from the online education process. The marginalized, rural, and poor populations will suffer the most, as they always do.
3. **Slow Internet Connection:** When it comes to online education, the majority of it is about communicating with teachers directly through video calls or watching online video lectures, both of which require a high-speed, stable internet connection. The entire concept will fail if the internet is not fast enough.
4. **There is no standard policy:** Digital education does not entail uploading videos of teachers lecturing on blackboards to the internet. It is all about the right platforms, technology, tools, interactivity, duration, content, and so on. We don't have a solid policy in place for digital education, infrastructure, content, interaction, or multilingualism.

5. **Instability of Cohesion in Society:** Public educational institutions are also role models for social inclusion and relative equality. It is a place where people of all genders, classes, castes, and communities can come together without having to bow to others. This is life-long learning that may not be supplemented by online education.
6. **Education of Teachers:** Teachers are responsible for the mental, emotional, and social health of students in schools. Schooling is supposed to care for children's emotional, social, and behavioral health, which is diametrically opposed to social distancing. Teachers are not sufficiently trained to instill these lessons through online mediums.
7. **Parenting Concerns:** Another challenge is keeping thousands of children out of school as their parents return to work after the lockdown. Who will take responsibility for a child's safety and learning at home is still a major issue.

1.3 CONCLUSION:

The pandemic has taught us a lot about how to adapt to change in novel and creative ways. However, bringing the weaker sections along is also necessary. Inclusion in distance learning programmes is critical, especially for students from low-income families or those with disabilities. The government must support digitalization for both teachers and students by making such platforms and content available for free. They must be provided with the necessary infrastructure for online learning, such as smartphones and laptop computers.

Digital India is still in its infancy. There is still a long way to go before full potential can be realized. Only ICT and Digital India can propel the country's economy. The citizens of the country bear enormous responsibility, and they must use these initiatives to achieve a fully developed economy. Teachers are at the heart of the educational system. They must comprehend the potential of Digital India initiatives in education, as well as the benefits of incorporating ICT into the teaching and learning processes.

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