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THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF DIGITAL INDIA

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Abstract

Digital India is an initiative that aims to empower the citizens of the country. "Digital India" is a project of the Central Government of India to transform India into a globally digitised hub by increasing digital connectivity, skill upgrading, and a variety of other incentives to make the country digitally empowered. It is the outcome of various technological advances and advancements that have culminated in the digital revolution. The concept's driving force is to establish a system that is participatory, transparent, and responsive. The goal of this study paper is to learn about the many difficulties and possibilities for promoting Digital India. Digitalization is a much-needed development in the context of India. There are various obstacles, and it should be noted that they will continue to be obstacles in the near future.

Keywords: Digitalization, Digital India, Cyber Security, Digital Literacy Empowerment.

1. INTRODUCTION

The country's operations and services will become more digital as a result, paving the way for more industrialization and expansion in the fastest-growing economy. It is essential to emphasise that India has achieved a high degree of digital permissivity in this domain and has made notable advancements. The government is striving to convert India into a knowledge economy and a digitally empowered society by improving online infrastructure and expanding Internet access, guaranteeing that citizens have access to government services online. Its proper implementation faces a number of challenges, including digital illiteracy, poor infrastructure, sluggish internet connections, a lack of cooperation amongst multiple agencies, taxation concerns, and more. To the extent that it can, these problems must be fixed in order for the plan to succeed.

Digital technology will be used to deliver all services, and digital literacy will be encouraged. The effort intends to provide individuals with access to government services online while utilising the most modern advancements in information and technology. It cannot be denied that digitalization has been an essential part of this and will continue to play a greater role in the future as India sits on the cusp of extraordinary economic success, fueled by a thriving market economy that has significantly improved the quality of life. Digital processes have been slowly adopted, and digital resources are not widely accessible.

Through infrastructure changes such as high-speed internet, digital identification for citizens, widespread mobile banking, access to Common Service Centres (CSC), cyber-security, and shared private spaces on an easily accessible public Cloud, it seeks to transform India into a society that is digitally empowered. On July 1, 2015, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched "Digital India," a programme whose objectives include increasing digital literacy and establishing high-speed internet access in rural areas.

Through the coordinated participation of the whole government, Digital India is a set of initiatives that all work towards preparing India to become a knowledge economy and delivering excellent governance to citizens. Universal Mobile Access, Electronics Manufacturing, E-Governance, Public Access to the Internet, Global Information, Broadband Highways, E-Kranti, Early Harvest Programmes, and Information Technology for Jobs are the nine initiatives that have been initiated.

This plan intends to offer people electronic services related to security, agriculture, health, justice, and financial inclusion. The administration wanted to leverage social media platforms for governance and to post data online. Since the most of the nine goals of the mission face significant implementation challenges, the goal of Digital India is still far off. Every aim has to get constant attention if this initiative is to succeed.

Online education is another field that has experienced substantial growth. The number of pupils receiving online educational assistance surged sixfold between 2015 and 2018. There were 227 million more rural users in 2019 than there were urban users, who numbered 15 million. According to the IAMAI Report, the value of the Indian online education market is expected to rise from USD 247 million in 2016 to USD 1.96 billion in 2021. A sector that is growing so quickly promises to significantly change society's use of digital technology and to increase digital literacy.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Assorted study goals include the following:

- a) To learn more about the idea of Digital India
- b) To analyse the many benefits of Digital India.
- c) To learn more about the many roadblocks standing in the way of a digital India.

3. PROFILING THE DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM'S BENEFITS

These are some of the major benefits of the Digital India Programme:

- a) By ensuring that all citizens of the nation have access to government, healthcare, and educational services through standard service delivery channels, the digital India objective would foster inclusive growth.
- b) With the use of the digital locker function, residents will be able to digitally store important documents like their Adhar Card, Identity Card, Driving Licence, Passport, Pan Card, Test Results and Health Records. It will help to lessen the need for paperwork and paper work.
- c) A society without cash will eventually result from this.
- d) A World Bank investigation found that a 10% increase in broadband and mobile penetration increases per capita GDP in developing countries by 0.81% and 1.31%, respectively.
- e) Creates job possibilities because of the scheme's anticipated high need for IT, electronics, and telecommunications specialists.
- f) E-government will help to lessen corruption.
- g) Work may be completed quickly since the processing time is decreased.
- h) The accessibility of data online will lead to more transparency.
- i) Availability around-the-clock.

4. THE DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM'S MAIN DIFFICULTIES

The following are the main challenges facing the Digital India Programme:

- a) Digital illiteracy is one of the biggest obstacles to the achievement of the digital India agenda. Indians now have better access to the internet thanks in large part to Reliance Jio.
- b) Connectivity with every village, town, and city is a huge undertaking.
- c) There are still widespread issues with internet access for Indian residents.
- d) The expanding volume of digital transactions is utterly beyond the capacity of India's digital infrastructure. The slow and shoddy building of infrastructure is the biggest barrier to the Digital India plan.
- e) One of the most important problems that still remain is cyber security.
- f) A key barrier to digital literacy is the absence of digital services in local languages.
- g) The usage of digital technology has slowed due to concerns about cybercrime and privacy invasion. To find hidden malware, there is not enough knowledge.

5. IDEAS FOR OVERCOMING THE OBSTACLES

The following ideas should be taken into account when removing obstacles:

- a) Concentrate on building infrastructure to deliver high-speed internet connectivity.
- b) The technological gap requires attention.
- c) People should learn how to safeguard their internet data through digital literacy.
- d) Effective collaboration across departments is required, along with a significant amount of commitment and effort. This goal should be backed by a wide range of policies across several industries.
- e) Information will circulate widely, especially in rural areas.
- f) Academics should take cyber security courses to hone their cyber security abilities.

6. CONCLUSION

The adoption of digital technology is a desperately needed development in the present day of India. This strategy faces various difficulties, and it should be noted that they will remain obstacles for some time to come. At the same time, India has made impressive strides in digitalization thanks to several governmental and corporate initiatives. People feel pressured to use digital techniques for increased effectiveness and growth, which is positive for an ambitious India. We must not ignore the opportunities since our sizable population gives us a huge advantage in this regard. Future study might be centred on this project's potential success as well as the disruption that "digital" poses.

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