

DIGITAL INDIA-OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Digital India program, launched by the Indian govt., stands for transforming India into a digitally empowered knowledge economy. The main aim of this program is that government services are available to citizens electronically by reducing the paper work. Digital India is the beginning of digital revolution. The program have mission to take India forward both digitally and economically. But there are lots of challenges on the way of this program's implementation like poor infrastructure, digital illiteracy, low internet speed, lack of coordination among various departments etc. These challenges needs to be removed to achieve full potential of the program. It requires efforts from all government as well as private sectors.

KEYWORDS

Digital, Technology, Government, Infrastructure.

INTRODUCTION

Digital India is a initiative of government of India, taken in order to ensure that government services are made available to citizens electronically or making the country digitally empowered in field of technology. This program is the result of changes brought by information and communication technology. Digital India program launched by the Indian Prime Minister *Narendra Modi* on july 1 in 2015. It is an initiative of government to integrate all government departments and people of India. It also includes plan to connect rural areas with high speed internet. It consists of three core componemts

- The development of secure digital infrastructure.
- Providing government services digitally.
- Universal digital literacy.

The program aims to connect 2.5 lakh villages across India through broadband, highways, internet access etc. The cost of this project is estimated 1,30,000 crore rupees. It is one of the biggest steps by government of India to motivate the citizens of the country and connect Indian economy to knowledge based world.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The paper is based on information collected from research papers and on secondary data collected via internet.

OBJECTIVES OF PAPER RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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1. To study the concept of digital India.
2. To study the opportunities of the program.
3. To study the challenges faced in implementation of the program.

VISION OF DIGITAL INDIA

1. Digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen
 - To provide high speed internet connectivity for delivery of services to citizens.
 - To provide mobile and bank account enabling citizen participation in digital and financial space.
 - Easy access to a common service centre.
2. Governance and Services on demand
 - Availability of government services online and mobile platforms.
 - Making financial transactions electronically.
 - Single window access to all persons by seamlessly integrating departments.
3. Digital empowerment of citizens

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- To provide all government documents available on cloud.
- To collaborative digital platforms for participative governance.
- To empower citizens through universal digital literacy.

NINE PILLARS OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM

1. Broadband Highways
 - 2,50,000 village panchayats would be covered under broadband by Dec,2016.
 - Virtual Network operators would be leveraged for service delivery and communication infrastructure would be mandated.
 - National information infrastructure integrate the networks like NKN, NOFN, NKN.
2. Universal access to mobile connectivity
The initiative is to focus on network penetration and 42,300 villages will be covered for providing universal mobile connectivity in the country.
3. Public internet access program
Common service centers and post offices as multi-service centers.
4. E-governance - forming government through technology
It would be used to make delivery of government services more effectively.
5. E-Kranti
E-Kranti program has been envisaged by department of electronics and information technology. The objective of this optimum usage of core information and communication technology.
6. Electronics Manufacturing
This focuses in *VSAT* mobile consumer electronics, technology, smart cards and micro ATM's. For this government is coordinating on many fronts be it *taxes, rewards*.
7. IT for jobs
The aim is to provide training to 3 lakh service delivery agents to run successfully business delivering. IT services and to train 10 million people in towns and villages for IT sector jobs in five years.
8. Early Harvesting program
Under this government plans to convert all book into e-books. Email will be made prime mode of communication within government.

OPPORTUNITIES OF DIGITAL INDIA PROGRAM

1. E-governance will help in reducing corruption and getting things done quickly.
2. This program aims to reduce paper work.
3. Digital lockers facility is available where we can store our documents safely.
4. Each person will be having a bank account.
5. Knowledge of people improve by using internet in day to day life.
6. Those programme would generate huge number of jobs in IT sector.
7. It aims at cashless transactions.

CHALLENGES OF DIGITAL INDIA

1. Digital illiteracy is the biggest problem in the success of digital India programme.
2. It is a difficult task to connect each and every village, town, city with internet.
3. There is a cyber threat all over the globe.
4. Huge cost is involved in it.
5. There are different protocols in different states depending on what kind of hardware and software they implement.

CONCLUSION

The digital India programme is a remarkable step taken by our government, if it is implemented successfully it transforms the public access to multimedia information and services.

For successful implementation of these programme there are a lot of hurdles but these hurdles can be removed. On the other hand we should be prepared to accept these changes and be ready to face the challenge in implementing this policy.

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