

## DIGITIZATION OF EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*India being on the fast track of development has shown tremendous growth in some fields. Innovation and technology have been on front foot in this series of growth and development. India is emerging as a leader in providing cheaper internet as well as in using smart phones and internet. No doubt, youngsters play a very significant role in increasing demand of android phones as almost every area like; education, business, sports and games is going digital these days. In this research paper, main focus will be given on digitization of education as education is the root of any country's growth. Education makes people creative and useful and good education leads to economic development. Moreover, in today's scenario where whole world is fighting with pandemic covid-19, education has gone through a biggest change. Our traditional classroom teaching has changed into online classrooms where thousands of students can learn at same time. This study is based on secondary research data where information is taken from various online resources, websites, journals and newspaper articles etc.*

**Introduction:** Digital or online education means facilitating students with the help of internet. No classroom is required here, instead, the speaker and audience are far away from each other sitting at their own places and communicating via different applications like zoom, google meet, whatsapp, telegram, google classroom etc. online education provides easy access to various e-books, videos, journals, recorded lectures of professors of different universities and colleges.

The term digitization of education is basically connected with the use of computers, laptops, internet, mobile phones, software applications and so many other digital devices to teach the learners all over the world. Today, many online exams are being conducted online, various national and international universities are running their courses online, infinite number of e-books and journals are available online which are helpful for many research scholars and professors in their research work. The pandemic has changed everything in our day to day life and education is also no exception. Due to a long series of lockdowns, initially, all institutions were closed for safety purposes as people could not move out from their houses. But, when the situation did not improve, online teaching took the place of traditional classroom teaching. During these tough times, going digital became important for all areas including the most important sector that is education. Universities and colleges are taking online classes. Even, universities are conducting exams in digital mode via google meet and zoom app. Classroom teaching has become a thing of past now. Both teachers and learners have moved to virtual classrooms and digital education has gained huge importance these days.

**Importance of digitization of education:** As change is the need of hour and continuous improvement is the key to success in every field. Today, technology has grabbed importance in all areas and education is also not left behind. Gone are the days when students were being taught by their teachers in classrooms with the help of only syllabus books. Now-a-days, digital education has taken the place of those classroom teachings and is playing a significant role in the field of learning. It has almost replaced our old method of learning in the classrooms. Students are also taking more interest in digital learning as it is more convenient and interesting. It's importance is further described with the help of below mentioned points:

1. **Digital education help facilitator and students to engage more deeply with each other:** digital technologies like social learning platforms make it more convenient for teachers to create groups and manage them. Both, individual as well as group needs can be easily and effectively addressed by digital learning mode. This customized method of learning has made education more productive by reducing gap between learning and accelerating progress. With the increasing use of digital technology in teaching area, teachers can connect themselves with global teaching communities where they can share latest tips, ask questions to increase their knowledge. Students can also listen to the lectures of professors of world's biggest universities and also can interact with other students of their course and share their problems with them.

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2. **Digital education makes students more competitive:** Digital education is enabling students to become more self-directive. They can now identify what they actually want to learn and when a learner studies the content of his own choice and interest, it remains in his mind for a longer period. Digital education tools also enhance critical thinking among students. They increase their decision making skills when they solve open ended questions with their own imagination and experience. Also, a large number of students can join online class at same time which increases their productivity and efficiency. Also, they develop a sense of team work and knowledge sharing. Moreover, those students who feel bored during classroom lectures find it more interesting attending online lectures. So, digital learning is improving the level of education and its quality also.
3. **It's making students more productive:** it is very crucial as well as important for school going children to decide about an adequate career at a young age and if they could not find a suitable job at right time, they should have calibre to establish their own career or business. In digital method of education, students not only gain knowledge about their syllabus but, they enhance their self confidence also. By interacting with large number of other students, they get new ideas which make them more confident and creative. By discussing with other students, they get to know about various job opportunities and also various ways of getting funds to start their own business.
4. **It increases sharing of information:** digital education is providing students with infinite sources where they can get information. With just one click, lots of information about a particular topic is available on our smart phone or laptop screen. No need to travel and visit the physical libraries as online libraries are available at your finger click. It is easy to gain more and more information within seconds and then we can use that according to our need and requirement.
5. **It is more personalized way of providing education:** it is a personalised way of teaching as universities and professors can modify the lectures as per the requirements of learners. They can create customized content as per student's choice and interest. In this way students can remember what they learn for a longer period of time.

### Advantages of digital education:

- **It overcomes geographical problems:** As Covid-19 made it impossible for students to gather in a class and learn together, Digital platform came out as a solution in this pandemic. Students who were away from school and college could study in ease at their homes with help of digitalization.
- **It is engaging students for better learning:** Students learn easily when visuals and presentations are made as compared to book reading and lecture delivery in the classroom. Power point presentations, discussion in their respective groups on social website are more interactive and useful. Also, students as these days are more technology friendly, they prefer to study with the help of internet and smart phones.
- **It offers flexible choices:** In today's modern era, technology is available at our fingertips and especially when we talk about digital education-it is easy to mix and match the programs and software with different people for different purposes. It may be that your facilitator always use zoom app to teach you, but you will be able to play around and find another methods of working together which works best for you whether that is zoom, google meet or any other app.
- **Improves written language skills:** digital education is very helpful in improving the written language skills of users. When we study online, we will preferably use instant messaging application to get in touch with people quickly, so there is no need to use facial expressions and hand gestures that make communication easy. So, it is important to write the message in a more convenient way so that other person can understand the exact meaning of it.
- **Develop the sense of accountability among students:** in digital education, assessment of each and every student is more accurate and transparent. Students can also assess their performance in detail and they can come up with appropriate solutions by themselves.

**Disadvantages of digital education:** as every coin has two sides, although digital learning has proved very useful during the tough times of pandemic covid 19, but despite of so many good uses, it also has another side which gives some demerits which are mentioned below:

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- **No personal contact:** as in classroom learning, students and teacher have a personal contact which makes communication more effective and useful. In digital learning, there is no such personal contact and in some cases, students just join the apps and remain busy in doing other works. They do not even listen what the teacher is saying. This way they do not understand anything.
- **Distractive:** no doubt, technology is very useful but it is equally distractive also. When students use their smart phones, instead of studying they prefer to use other interesting applications like they play online games or start chatting on whats-app or start uploading photos on Instagram etc and the purpose of education left behind in all these.
- **Costly:** well, for digital education, it is must to have internet pack on our mobile phones. Also, if we want to join the apps like zoom or google meet or telegram, more internet data is required which is further very costly and not everyone can afford such cost.
- **Poor internet connectivity:** for online education, good internet connectivity is required otherwise we can't listen properly what the speaker is saying. In our country, internet range is good in big cities but it is very poor in the rural areas where students can't get benefitted with this system. So, this is not universally acceptable yet.
- **Malpractices during examinations:** well, it is easy to conduct examinations online with the help of digital methods as we can do this at a lower cost now. But as in case of online exams, an examiner can't properly keep an eye on all students at one time which increases cheating practices.
- **Poor credibility of available information:** as we can find data and information in abundance on internet and sometimes the data available online is not true which puts a big question on the credibility of available information.

**Digitization of education during covid times:** we all are aware very well that covid-19 has hit the world so badly and affected all sectors. Education is one important area which was forced to go online during these times. Well, today's children are surrounded by technological equipments by birth as at every house we can easily see smart phones, laptops, internet, tablets etc. So, children also come in the contact of technology when they are toddlers. And then as youngsters, life is not possible without technology. But after covid 19, the use of technology has increased at a fast pace as there is no doubt that the consequences of pandemic has significant impact on all sectors of the society. In particular, our education sector is deeply affected by this as it become mandatory for all educational institutions to go online if they wanted to continue their teaching practices. As students could not come out of their houses nor travelling was possible because the only way of personal safety was to stay at home. In these circumstances, universities decided to move from classroom teaching to digital teaching and this was really proved successful. Even universities have conducted the exams online. It is proved as a time saved method where students can get useful information in abundance within just seconds.

**Future of digital education in India:** during covid times, digital education play an important role, to a varying extent across the globe where school and college buildings were closed and education go online. Covid 19 initiated a drastic modification in our teaching method. Initially, it created biggest challenges but later on proved useful. In only a few months, pandemic changed the daily lives of people as it was impossible to come out of houses even for essential needs. As a result, students and teachers have to go online for teaching sessions. As it is predicted that the penetration rate of internet in India will reach above 55 % by the end of 2025, digital learning will surely remain one of the topmost priorities of our government. Moreover, it is providing both teachers and students new opportunities and greater participation. We have many latest technological tools which help in learning such as tablets, computers, laptops, smart boards etc which transformed our style of education which was followed traditionally. It is giving world class learning experience to all students at their phones. The education tech companies are finding new solutions to increase access to education by students who are struggling to get same. Many online reports are clarifying that the use of digital tools are increasing day by day in education sector and the best part of online learning is that if we create resources one time, we can use them forever and also can modify them time to time. Surely, digital education will be the key face of education in India in near future. Affordable high speed internet and direct to device technologies are empowering rural and urban students to join online courses and improve their skills and knowledge. This will also solve the problem of shortage of teachers in schools and universities and will improve student teacher ratio and enhance knowledge of students and teachers.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is clearly mentioned from above shown facts that future of digital learning in India is very bright. Now-a-days, every student has own smart phone and laptop and is more interested in studying online. And in my honest opinion, I can say that a combination of both online and offline teaching will be proved useful as for some lectures, we need face to face interaction with students while in other chapters or lectures, online mode of delivering lecture is useful.

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