



A CONCEPTUAL STUDY ON THE ROLE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION FOR IMPROVING THE DIGITAL LITERACY SKILLS OF STUDENTS

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Abstract

In the twenty first century, India sails through the fast changes occurring in every sector; especially in education sector. Today, Digital Education provides a revolutionary idea, that could totally change path of learning of students. Digital Education is the latest advancement in technology. It is the significant part of school education today. It is used to make education more engaging, interactive and individualized. Today, Digital education is most important for students that make the learning effective and comprehensive. For consuming the digital education, digital literacy skills are very important for students. Digital Education makes the students to acquire digital literacy skills through the continuous usage of digital tools and technologies. The main aim of the study is to study about the scope of digital education today, to analyze the role of digital education for educating students and to study about the role of digital education for improving the digital literacy skills of students. Here, there is an attempt to make thorough study on the topic "A Conceptual Study on the role of Digital Education for improving the Digital Literacy Skills of Students".

Keywords: *Digital Education, Digital Literacy Skills, Students.*



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1. INTRODUCTION

Today, Technology has a wide role in changing educational sector. It makes education easy and access to all. In this digital era, digital education makes it more interesting and engaging. It also makes the pupil to comprehend, analyze, interpret and register the learning more effectively and efficiently. The main aim of digital education is to increase the quality of education. NPTEL plays a significant role in education sector in India, as it delivers quality education to all people across the country. The Study

Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) was launched in 2017 as an online learning platform by the Ministry of Education. Digital Education is also termed as technology enhanced learning or e- learning. The use of digital tools and technology for teaching and learning is termed as digital education. This innovative technology is beneficial for both pupil and teachers. Digital Education encourages and thorough discussion by integrating face-to-face interaction with digital or online learning. Digital education is fully

changed the traditional chalk and board culture, pen and pencil are also replaced by computer, tablets or interactive white boards. Online classes or video classes are also used instead of face – to- face instruction. So digital education creatively fostering learning of students and also improves the teaching. The term digital literacy was introduced in 1997 by Paul Glistering his book Digital Literacy where the author gives a definition ‘focusing on the ability to understand, appreciate and use the information in multiple formats that the computer can deliver’.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To study about the scope of digital education.
- To analyze the role of digital education for educating the students.
- To study about the role of digital education for improving the digital literacy skill of students.

3. TO STUDY ABOUT THE SCOPE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

Digital literacy is an ability of people or communities to find, evaluate and communicate information using digital media plat forms. It is a mixture of both technical and cognitive skills in using information and communication technologies to find, analyze and share information. It is necessary for the accurate use of different digital platforms.

The social media has a great role in communicating people with one another in new and various ways. Websites such as Face book, Twitter (now X) likewise individual websites and blogs have encouraged a new type of journalism that may be personal, subjective and represent a global communication that is chained through its community of readers. This type of online communication boosts up group interactivity among digitally literate communities or individuals. Social media is helpful for users to create a digital identity or a ‘symbolic digital representation of identity attributes.

The emergence of digital devices such as laptops, tablets and interactive white boards has transformed the path in which pupils engaged with educational content. This proved that the learning is not limited to the physical boundaries of a school or university, it will occur at anywhere, any time. Digital text books filled with heavy printed materials by E-books. E-books have the interactive features like search functions, multimedia hyperlinks and making the learning become more engaging and efficient. Teachers and instructors have an easy access to online resources and making them to create dynamic and up to date lesson plans and classes.

4. SCOPE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

- Digital Education makes the teaching and learning becomes interesting by using personalized packages containing animations, gamifications and audio-visual effects.
- Digital Education makes the learning fun for all the children and it is also effective as the innovative audio-video features boosts the cognitive elements of the child’s brain.
- Pupils view this learning as a flexible learning and let them to learn as per their time and pace.
- It is very convenient for teachers to prepare their learning plans with the help of technology.
- Digital learning supports the educational institutions to enhance the enrolments and earns income.

There is a contrast between the organization with high capital investments and the organizations with small capital investments. In this context digitalization grants and helps to address social inequalities particularly for pupils who are not able to afford expensive learning.

Advancements in technology help to share all information and ideas and acquire knowledge in remote areas of the world. Digital literacy is very important today’s world because technology plays a prominent role in our daily lives, which includes our social interactions and education. Digital literacy helps to use the software and a device efficiently, safely keep the personal data and also protects the information from online threats. It also helps not in personal but in academic and professional lives as well.

5. TO ANALYZE THE ROLE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION FOR EDUCATING STUDENTS

The geographical barriers are cut down by the digital education system and it let the pupils from remote areas to get quality education. If one having an internet connection and a device, pupil can now join to the virtual classes, download study materials and interact with educational resources.

So, Digital Education has lots of advantages to the students.

- **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Digital Education system allows all students, particularly from remote areas to access quality education through virtual class rooms. Digital Education also allows them to down load study materials and provide an

opportunity to interact with educational resources.

- **Flexibility and Convenience:** Flexibility is the most important advantages of digital education. It allows the student to choose when and where they want to study, make them able to balance their studies with other responsibilities. This adaptability is more beneficial for professionals and those with a lot of obligations.
- **Global Collaboration:** Digital Education opens a way to global collaboration and cultural exchange. Pupils from different parts of the world can establish a bond among them, developing a cross-cultural understanding and preparing for a global world.
- **Personalized Learning:** Digital Education platforms promotes personalized learning. The personalized method of learning assures that each pupil is provided with precisely the proper balance of challenge and assistance, thereby it enriches their learning journey.
- **Adaptive Learning Tools:** The digital education system often uses adaptive learning tools, which cater to pupils with different learning abilities.
- **Interactive Learning:** Digital Education integrates multi-media elements, which makes the learning more interesting, engaging and more interactive. Multimedia includes images, audios, videos, animation and simulation can make the students understanding of complex concepts easily.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Digital Education preserves the environment by reducing the requirement for physical text materials, and printed materials. It maintains the principles of sustainability by diminishing the use of papers and emission of carbon connected with traditional education.
- **Access to World of Knowledge:** Internet services provides a vast reservoir of information and digital education allows pupils to get a wealth of knowledge. Pupils explore different projects, conducts research and understands about a global view on various topics and also enriching their knowledge.
- **Preparation for Future:** In this technological world, digital education enriches the pupils with digital literacy skills that are needed for achieving success in the

modern workforce. Digital education molds them for a successful future where technology is an essential part of every profession.

- **Cost- Effective Learning:** Today's Education comes with a high price tag, high expenses related to text books, physical facilities, etc. Digital Education avoids many of these expenses, provides the education more affordable for a wide range of society.
- **Students Becomes Smarter:** Digital Education directs the students to develop efficient self-directed learning skills. The digital education system enables the pupils to study what they want to be, known to be, make them able to search and utilize online resources.
- **Unlimited Information:** Now, the internet stands on a global view and it allows to access a vast reservoirs of knowledge. Some may be freely accessible and other may be payable. Earlier, Pupils have limited source of knowledge, but now we will give gratitude to the digital education system, unavailability of the needed information is no longer a barrier in seeking knowledge.
- **Smart Classrooms:** The modern class rooms are equipped with a TV or Projector, White Board or Interactive smart boards etc., which convert the regular class room sessions into an interactive digital session. It helps to attract the attention of the students.
- **Ease of Sharing:** In the traditional education system, the students keeping thick notebooks of hand written notes getting from the class rooms or acquiring information through thorough reading from library. But in the modern digital education system, every information is presenting and sharing, which helps the students saving a lot of time and physical effort.
- **Digitally Updated:** In the world of ever changing technology, the practices and information can easily become out dated, as there is always something new. Students must be updated with their subjects and new information. Students spend most of their time on their laptops and phones, so they may be updated their technological knowledge.
- **High Engagement Learning:** The traditional education system not focus on student's engagements in learning activity. But in digital education, more scope on high engagement in learning by students in their

learning process. The digital education gives a wide range of choices to acquire knowledge from. The unlimited availability of resources makes each session extremely innovative and engaging.

6. TO STUDY ABOUT THE ROLE OF DIGITAL EDUCATION FOR IMPROVING THE DIGITAL LITERACY SKILL OF STUDENTS.

Today, the digital literacy skills are very essential for accessing digital education. Teachers or Instructors must have a basic foundation in digital literacy because it is very urgent need of using the digital tools effectively. Continuous usage of digital platforms makes the students to handle the digital tool easily and effectively. The teachers or instructors need the training for handling the digital tools while doing teaching. If they lack training, it results in sub-optimal use of digital tools. So, teachers face difficulty to adapt the teaching methods through digital environment. It may also result in absence of interactive learning and participation in learning experiences.

Digital literacy skills are the essence of individual's ability to achieve their goals both individual and professional. The people of under developed countries and from rural areas face difficulty in accessing digital technology and it is a hindrance of goal achievement and productive and creative adult living. Digital literacy is the ability to handling and comprehension of digital technology: -

- The digital literacy skills are developed by using the basic technical skills and independent research capabilities.
- Media literacy, communication skills, digital citizenship, collaboration skills etc makes the people to be active and responsible participants in digital discourse.
- Different organizations with expertise and right resources have the responsibility to contribute to digital literacy growth in their communities and around the world.

Digital literacy has a significant effect in today's world, where digital tools have a wide scope and it shapes the significant aspects of our lives such as employment, communication, socialization, education, access to resources and more. The absence of digital literacy the individuals are unable to interact in modern society and it results in higher risk such as poor health, poverty, etc. So, there will be significant global digital division that avoids many people in these situations. To bridge this division, the NGOs, Government bodies, non- profit organizations must

take an effort of digital inclusion and establish an effort to make the people have the digital literacy skills and makes them healthy and productive member of the society. The digital literacy skills include technical skills, media literacy, independent research, digital citizenship, communication and collaboration and going forward.

For improving the digital literacy skills of students, they will have to develop their knowledge and skills in different areas such as information literacy, online communication and digital content creation. Knowing how to learn through online is the very significant aspect for improving the digital literacy skills of everyone. Another important component of improving the digital literacy skills knows information from others. Collaborative learning and information-sharing can widen and deepen one's comprehension of digital technologies. Whether a student, businessman or someone that utilize technology for their work studying how to increase digital literacy can standardize their life. For everything the world becoming more digital. An improved ability to study, communicate and organize, we use the digital technology open the doors to the world of opportunities and options.

With the continuous use of digital technologies in learning, students must have strong digital literacy skills to succeed in educational institutions and beyond the educational institutions. There are some ways to increase the digital literacy skills for students:

- Utilize the digital resources delivered by educational institutions, such as online courses and virtual libraries.
- Encourage communication skills and collaboration skills with peers using digital tools like interactive white boards, online discussion plat forms, collaborative writing plat forms etc.
- Take an advantage of digital tools to organize and manage assignments, such as online calendars and to- do lists.
- Use the digital tools for scanning a document, pages or images from text book or other resources and it helps to reduce paper clutter.

7. CONCLUSION

Today, Technology plays a significant role in making education easily available to all. The pupils get their learning materials and assignments from anywhere by using internet connection. It is most beneficial to the students from rural areas have difficulty in going schools regularly. In the dynamic environment of the 21st century, the integration of

technology in education reasons the emergence of the concept known as Digital Education. This replaces the traditional education system and traditional teaching methods and preference to be given to the novel approach of using digital tools and technologies. Digital Education is most beneficial for educating all students for those who are facing difficulty in getting regular education. For using the innovative tools, digital literacy skill is very important for students. 'Digital literacy is the comprehensive capability to access, manages, comprehend, integrate, communicate, assess and produce information effectively and securely using digital technologies.' This is an essential need for academic success. This includes critical thinking skills, communication skills and practical skills. Digital Education helps to improve the digital literacy skills of students by using technology.

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