DIGITAL INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

Dr. Y. Mallikarjunrao

Lecturer, Department of Commerce, SGS Arts College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT:
Digital India program is an initiative to make technology accessible to every citizen of the country with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered state and a knowledge economy. India has widely grown in this sector. The growth is substantial and easily evident. Initially, a few people only had access to the internet, smart-phones etc. Now we see the majority of people have smart-phones, the laymen with low-paid jobs are also moving around with smart-phones; the reasons are these smart-phones have become an essential tool now. It isn't just a fancy thing to carry along, but now it has developed demands amongst the people in all the various classes. Digital India is a large umbrella program with a vision to restructure and transform the country into the Digital Economy. Digital India Program is an ambitious journey of Government of India which will ensure availability of Government services and availability of information any time anywhere basis. This paper is attempted digital India an overview.

KEYWORDS : *Digital India, Technology, Smartphones.*

INTRODUCTION:
Digital technology has become a vital factor in accelerating the pace of India's economic growth, in promoting social and economic equity by enhancing access for all to information, markets and public services; and in overcoming the country's infrastructure deficit. Digital technology can help India realise the ambition of creating a just and equitable society. It can help push India to the front rank of nations, particularly leveraging the energies of the country's youthful population, with its propensity for quick adaptation and frugal innovation. Digital India is a campaign launched by the Government of India in order to ensure the Government's services are made available to citizens electronically by improved online infrastructure and by increasing Internet connectivity or making the country digitally empowered in the field of technology. A digitally connected India can help in improving the social and economic condition of people through the development of non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial services. The vision of Digital India is to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It would ensure that government services are available to citizens electronically. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically.

The Digital India (DI) initiative aims to bring digital empowerment to India and aid in its transition to becoming a knowledge economy. The programme aims to do so through a combination of building digital infrastructure, providing digital services, implementing e-governance in an accessible manner and using technology as a driver of change and growth. Digital India aims to encourage the participation of individuals in digital activities

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through the promotion of digital usage through mobile phones etc. and also beefing up of infrastructure. High-speed internet will be made available at the Gram Panchayat level.

Individuals will maintain a digital identity right from birth. A public cloud will be created with private space that could be shared. Emphasis will also be placed on making cyberspace secure for Indians. All departments and ministries will work together to provide single window access to all individuals. Government services can be availed either through mobile phones or through the internet. All processes will be simplified, making digital access easier. Citizen entitlements will be made available on the cloud. Also, efforts will be undertaken to make financial transactions of a sizeable amount electronic and cashless. Another major aim of Digital India is to educate people and increase awareness about digital processes. To further this aim, the government will promote universal digital literacy and make all digital resources universally accessible to the people. Also, to make digital resources and services accessible to all people, it will be made available in all Indian languages.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
1. To transform the vision and mission of the scheme to all sectors of people.
2. To study the various challenges faced by the Digital India Programme in its implementation.
3. To study the proposed impact of Digital India.

The Mission of Digital India Program
Take the nation forward - Digitally and Economically.

Vision of Digital India Program
The vision of Digital India program is inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing and job opportunities etc. and it is centred on three key areas:

Digital Infrastructure as a Utility to Every Citizen
- Availability of high-speed internet as a core utility for delivery of services to citizens
- Cradle to grave digital identity that is unique, life long, online and authenticable to every citizen
- Mobile phone & bank account enabling citizen participation in digital & financial space
- Easy access to a Common Service Centre
- Shareable private space on a public cloud
- Safe and secure cyber-space

Governance & Services on Demand
- Seamlessly integrated services across departments or jurisdictions
- Availability of services in real-time from online& mobile platforms
- All citizen entitlements to be portable and available on the cloud
- Digitally transformed services for improving ease of doing business
- Making financial transactions electronic & cashless
- Leveraging Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) for decision support systems & development.

Digital Empowerment of Citizens
- Universal digital literacy
- Universally accessible digital resources
- Availability of digital resources/services in Indian languages
- Collaborative digital platforms for participative governance
- Citizens not required to physically submit Govt. documents/certificates.

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How to Overcome the Challenges for Successful Implementation of Digital India Programme
- **Digital Literacy:** Despite rising Smartphone penetration and internet user base, digital literacy in India has been low. In order for the benefits of the Digital India programme to reach all sections of the population, improving digital literacy is imperative.
- **Skill Building:** A strong skill base is required to support the initiatives and services that are envisaged under the Digital India umbrella. Development of technical skills within ministries and state governments will enable the spread of E-governance services, maintenance and up-gradation and decision making on all digital initiatives.
- **Digital Adoption:** For Digital India to be successful, all segments of Indian society need to adopt digital technologies. This will not only create demand for Digital India but also achieve its vision of empowering all citizens.
- **Defining the role of the private sector:** A framework needs to be defined for the participation of the private sector in skill development programs which defines the role of the private sector, expectations in terms of investments, content and job guarantees.
- **Introduction of digital skill programs at an institutional level:** Skill training and digital literacy should be introduced as part of institutional training in schools, colleges and universities across India. Curriculum and interactive programmes should be mandated to ensure adequate digital skills of all graduates.
- **Increase availability of digital infrastructure at rural and remote locations:** The speed at which digital infrastructure (especially fiber networks) is being developed needs to be increased. Existing government infrastructure assets (e.g., post offices, government buildings, CSCs) should be further leveraged for provision of digital services at remote locations.

Proposed Impact of Digital India
A. Economic impact
According to analysts, the Digital India plan could boost GDP up to $1 trillion by 2025. It can play a key role in macro-economic factors such as GDP growth, employment generation, labour productivity, growth in many businesses and revenue leakages for the Government.

As per the World Bank report, a 10% increase in mobile and broadband penetration increases the per capita GDP by 0.81% and 1.38% respectively in the developing countries. India is the 2nd largest telecom market in the world, with 915 million wireless subscribers and the world's 3rd largest Internet market with almost 259 million broadband users. There is still a huge economic opportunity in India as the tele density in rural India is only 45% where more than 65% of the population lives. Future growth of the telecommunication industry in terms of several subscribers is expected to come from rural areas as urban areas are saturated with a tele density of more than 160%.

B. Social impact
Social sectors such as education, healthcare, and banking are unable to reach out to the citizens due to obstructions and limitations such as middleman, illiteracy, ignorance, poverty, lack of funds, information and investments. These challenges have led to an imbalanced growth in the rural and urban areas with marked differences in the economic and social status of the people in these areas. Modern ICT makes it easier for people to obtain access to services and resources. The penetration of mobile devices may be highly useful as a complementary channel to public service delivery apart from the creation of entirely new services which may have an enormous impact on the quality of life of the users and lead to social modernization. Digital platforms can help farmers in know-how (crop choice, seed variety), context (weather, plant protection, cultivation best practices) and market information (market prices, market demand, logistics).

C. Environmental impact
The major changes in the technology space will not only brought changes to the economic system but will also contribute to the environmental changes. The next-generation technologies will

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help in lowering the carbon footprint by reducing fuel consumption, waste management, greener workplaces and thus leading to a greener ecosystem. The ICT sector helps inefficient management and usage of scarce and non-renewable resources.

CONCLUSION

Digital India is promoted by Government to use maximum things digitally. It also gives a good contribution in the Growth of India. The main aim of digital India is to reduce paperwork and connect every area of India with high-speed internet connectivity. Technological advancement is necessary for developing nations. India is aspiring to be a leader in different global technology platforms in order to fulfil that digital technologies need to be used to improve public services, deliver financial inclusion, etc. Our Government has implemented enormous programs for the welfare of the common public. But their success depends upon the effective utilisation of benefits received from such schemes by the public. Every one of us should justify ourselves that how we render our moral support to the Government.

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