



ROLE OF DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY FOR LEARNERS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT :

Digital Information Literacy (DIL) is the capacity to perceive the need to get to, and to assess digital data, A digital literate can certainly utilize, oversee, make, quote and offer wellsprings of computerized data in a successfull way. Digital Information Literacy (DIL) involves "knowing how digital information is different from print information; having the skills to use specialized tools for finding digital information; and developing the dispositions needed in the digital information environment". The later decades of twentieth century marked the advent Of digitalization of the entire scheme of the world. This digital revolution led to the proliferation of computers and new technologies. Inventions of new communication technology in the middle of the 20th century ushered in the Information Age. Cellular Phone, Digital Computers, Internet and some other digital innovations are sweeping the world. This has changed the way people communicate with each other. The current setting also shows signs of digital medium slowly interlinking other traditional media like print and television into it. The world has shrunk into a global village where everyything is within the reach. The communication process has become easier than one can imagine and yet so many wonders to be unraveled. The gadgets utilized for broadband and WIFI technology are the crest of the digital world so far.

KEYWORDS : *Digital Information Literacy, Internet, Media, ICT.*

INTRODUCTION :

The later decades of twentieth century marked the advent of digitalization of the entire scheme of the world. This digital revolution led to the proliferation of computers and new technologies. Inventions of new communication technology in the middle of the 20th century ushered in the Information Age. Cellular Phone, Digital Computers, Internet and some other digital innovations are sweeping the world. This has changed the way people communicate with each other. The current setting also shows signs of digital medium slowly interlinking other traditional media like print and television into it. The world has shrunk into a global village where everything is within the reach. The communication process has become easier than one can imagine and yet so many wonders to be unraveled. The gadgets utilized for broadband and WIFI technology are the crest of the digital world so far.

INTERNET PENETRATION- GLOBAL SCENARIO

In the course of recent years the ICT revolution has driven worldwide advancement in an exceptional way. Technological progress, infrastructure, and falling costs have acquired sudden development in ICT access and net connectivity to billions of individuals around the globe. International Internet Statistics Report has observed that around 40% of the world population has access to internet presently whereas it

was less than 1% in 1995. In just two decades internet has made itself an inevitable part of the whole world with its conspicuous presence in almost everything. In the period of 2000 to 2018, worldwide web entrance has grown 7 fold from 6.5% to 43%. According to ITU (International Telecommunication Union) report 'ICT Facts and Figures 2018', it was estimated globally 3.2 billion people, of which 2 billion from developing countries, get access to Internet during the year of 2018. However, the report says that four billion people from developing countries remain disconnected, speaking to 2/3 of the populace dwelling in developing countries. When closely observed; the gap between developed and developing nations in internet usage is wide.

INTERNET IN INDIA

Sam Pitroda, considered as the architect of India's Telecom Revolution introduced the model of privately owned Public Call Offices (PCOs), fondly cherished then as telephone booths which operated long distance calls and had operators in it. The users were issued with electronically- generated receipt for the duration of long distance call and charges based on usage. During 1995, the launch of VSNL service, telecom revolution slowly started in India. Internet connectivity was made available in India through VSNL service. 10,000 users accessed internet within six months of its commencement.

DIGITAL DIVIDE AND KNOWLEDGE DIVIDE

The term 'digital divide' was aptly coined by a former United States Assistant Secretary for Commerce for Telecommunications and Communication. The Digital Divide is a social issue alluding to the contrasting measure of data between the individuals who access the Internet and the individuals who don't access. The knowledge divide is the crevice in ways of life between the individuals who can discover, make, oversee, handle, and disperse data or information, and the individuals who are weakened in this procedure. The spread of internet access centers in small towns and villages has narrowed down the digital divide into knowledge divide. With browsing center flying up in remote towns and villages and obstructions due to gender age, and so forth are diminishing in many nations, the digital divide appears to be moving from a gap in Internet access and connectivity to a path called 'knowledge divide'. 'Knowledge Gap' is the gap between the individuals who have the knowledge and comprehension to interact with the technology and the individuals who are inactive consumers of it.

computer illiteracy seems to be a major factor of hindrance. Computing skills and technology are important technological skills that have not been acquired by majority of the habitants of rural India and it also prevents the people from using internet technology. Numerous studies in this field expose the fact of the vast digital divide that plagues India as especially rural India still is not impacted by digital era. Some factors like low literacy rate, educational system and language amount to the barriers in many parts. Hence the digital divide still persists. The other major factor that contributes to digital divide is lack of ICT skills among people. Computer literacy in India is said to be the minimal and basic knowledge of computers and it includes elementary skills of programming. Anyone who is comfortable with basic computer programs and other ground level computer functions can be called a computer literate. Several initiatives were taken to cement the digital divide and focus on e-Literacy i.e. Electronic Literacy in India. Bharat Nirman, Hole in the wall experiment eKraunt, Gyandoot and Akshya project are some of the commendable e-literacy projects in India. Recently launched Digital India and Smart city are some of the steps taken on the behalf of the policy-makers to bridge the gap between haves and have-nots access to technology. But what kind of initiative has been taken to widen the knowledge-divide needs to be focused.

DIGITAL INDIA

"To transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy" India made a launch of Digital India, a flagship project under the Prime Minister ship of Narendra Modi. The prime feature of this programme is to bring into ,the core utility the high-speed internet connectivity. The mobile phone is to be taken as the key backbone of the delivery mechanism and the project "Digital India" provides a one-

stop shop solution for all the government policies, initiatives and services to be publicized, informed and executed. This project seeks for a transformation of India into a connected economy and setting up for the goal of attracting huge investments in electronics manufacturing and creating millions of jobs in that sector. Indian government has floated many new ICT projects to raise the standards of the technological society which will naturally boost up the number of internet users. The leaders and stakeholders here strongly believe that ICT act as a catalyst in driving the developmental process forward and boosting the efficiency of the increasingly integrated worldwide economy.

Making India as a Digital India means making the population digital literates and it is a humungous challenge to execute the task. The government of India has come out with a vision to make at least one family member digitally literate and long range plan is that about 1 crore people will be digitally literate in five years while for short-term aim is to have 10 lakh individuals under the umbrella of e-literacy.

Digital Information Literacy (DIL) is the capacity to perceive the need to get to, and to assess digital data. A digital literate can certainly utilize, oversee, make, quote and offer wellsprings of computerized data in a successful way. Digital Information Literacy (DIL) involves "knowing how digital information is different from print information; having the skills to use specialized tools for finding digital information; and developing the dispositions needed in the digital information environment".

Having a Digital Information Literate population is important socially, economically, educationally, and globally. DIL involves "knowing how digital information is different from print information; having the skills to use specialized tools for finding digital information; and developing the dispositions needed in the digital information environment". Metaliteracy is imagined as an extensive model for information literacy to progress critical thinking and appearance in social media, open learning settings, and online groups. Being cognizant of the need for gaining information, and the necessary skills to accessing and most importantly, evaluating and discerning the available electronic information form the process of Digital Information Literacy. The digital literate can unquestionably utilize, oversee, make, quote, and offer sources of digital data in a successful way that shows a comprehension and affirmation of the social, cultural, ethical, economic, legal, and social aspects of information. Information literacy involves the acquisition of skills and knowledge in using ICT tools to search, evaluate and judge online information pointed out digital information literacy is a major component of information literacy. DIL skills helps the users cope with information from a variety of electronic formats and present techniques and methods of gathering digital resources. It creates awareness of issues like copyright and intellectual property rights in an electronic environment. One needs to be a digital information literate in the information age to be competing in this digital era.

DIGITAL INFORMATION LITERACY FOR LEARNERS

Digital information has become the core of the all aspects of modern life and hence it bids for a strong necessity for people to be digital literates. College students should be equipped with digital information literacy and a degree of skill in using computers. Well-versed in the sort to access internet helps a student a lot as enrolment, subscription to online course materials, preparing assignments, checking grades and communicating with teachers have all contracted to virtual world. Also while a graduate gets a job, digital information expertise will determine him or her to be a key player in the workforce where all have the merit of coming from knowledge-based society. According to the New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development, there is an urgent requirement for the digital learners and teachers in a digital future. Library is just a part in the information chain in the Internet era. There are numerous sites of information.

Having digital information literate population is important socially, economically, educationally, and globally (Ministry of Economic Development, 2008). A person who cannot read the digital information and understand the accuracy, and follow the demands of specifications is at greatest inconvenience in getting a job in the present globalizing world. The role and importance of Lifelong Learning in India has been widely increased in recent times. In a technology-driven, knowledge- based competitive economy the landscape of

learning is quick changing in India. Students who are entering colleges and universities were lacking fundamental research and data ability aptitudes. Technology is changing teaching and learning while, we are seeing an explosion of information formats and choices. Assessment studies show that there is an over-dependence on the Web as a data source by students. Faculty wants to needs to see a change in the nature of student work, an increase in the efficacy of student research, and students taking greater liability for their own learning. Students need to finish assignments with not so much trouble but rather more fulfillment. Employers need to employ graduates, who are skillful, willing to take liability, and ready to create new thoughts and directions for the future. DIL will help in all the aspects. In that context, Digital Information Literacy skills are essential for learners. DIL Assessment of students will help them to reveal their DIL skill level.

Rapid changes in technology are transforming the way people communicate, collaborate, and learn using online social networks. Undergraduate students are not graduating with the pre requisite skills for 21st century such as online communication, collaboration and digital literacy skills to be successful in the 21st century global society. In the present current society advancements in technology opens passages of exceptionally tremendous accessibility of data through advanced digital resources however the questions emerge are we really aware of all the digital assets available to gather, arrange and analyze the information. The developing web penetration in India is creating new probabilities to share data and administrations among a bigger number of individuals, all the more quickly and at lower expenses. Global economy demands a workforce with a wide variety of technical skills, interpersonal skills and methodological skills.

CONCLUSION

The aims of present study are to urge the importance of digital information literacy to the students who roams in a digital environment. It also insists to assess the Digital Information Literacy skills of a student and find the social media practices of the student. present paper will also find out the influence of social media practices and Other factors on Digital Information Literacy (DIL) skill acquisition of a student.

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