

Inclusive Growth: Reformation With Digitalization

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ABSTRACT

Inclusive growth refers to sustain the level of growth over decades. India has achieved an impressive growth rate since nineties. But the major issue which still persists in Indian economy is to scrutinize the impact of this growth on the lives of poor and disadvantaged sections of the society. The lives of all citizens can be revolutionized in many ways through digitalization with the help of innovations and technological advancements. Digital connectivity is making sweeping changes to the socio-economic transformations. As entertainment to commerce, education to health, a digital society is at the heart of this worldwide revolution. It helps the socio-economic progress of the country and prompted the people to overcome their racial, cultural and continental barriers. This paper explores the reformation of inclusive growth with digitalization. Further this paper is an attempt to discuss the need and benefits of digitalization for inclusive growth specifically in the areas of e-health, e-education and e-employment. At the end, it has mentioned suggestive measures which need to be taken by India to become a true global powerhouse.

Keywords: Inclusive Growth, Digitalization, E-health, E-education, E-employment

INTRODUCTION

India with the greatest advantage of demographic dividend is among the fastest growing economy in the world with high levels of growth. Although the rate of economic growth now a days is comparatively weak, however to maintain and sustain the level of growth, inclusive growth is very crucial. Further to sustain the impact of this growth on the prominent sectors as education, health and employment is a biggest challenge before India.

In order to address these challenges which are interrelated with each other, India needs specific technology in different sectors of the economy. Technology and human life cannot be separated. Digital technology is one such technology which effect people at a faster rate as compared to the previous generations of technology. It transforms the lives of people in many ways and will empower the society in a better manner. Despite having strong growth in past decades, almost two third of young Indians still live in geographically dispersed, low income rural locations, where people have few marketable skills and inadequate access to health care and sanitation. Digitalization can help to make this growth inclusive by providing access to education, health and employment to such excluded population through technological innovations.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hans (2018) in the research paper tried to explore ways and means of digitally empowering marginalized communities living in socio-economic backwardness and information poverty by trying to remove the myth that digital empowerment is urban-centric. This paper envisages digital empowerment as a way towards inclusive growth in India.

Chakraborty and Aggarwal (2017) in the research paper 'Digital Innovations in Public Finance' examined that digitization in public finance helped the government to identify the beneficiaries correctly. He concluded with the argument that the role of digitization in simplifying the subsidy management system and in promoting financial inclusion further leads to the efficient utilization of resources.

Midha (2016) concluded that digital India is a great plan to develop India for knowledge future but its improper implementation due to inaccessibility and inflexibility to requisite can lead to its failure.

Although this ambitious plan has to face great challenges, however if properly implemented can do the best for every citizen.

OBJECTIVES

India still needs to reap the benefits of growth with growing inequality. Effective implementation of digitalization is a key component which can help to make this growth more inclusive. The initiatives of e-health, e-education, e-employment can provide a way forward for inclusive growth with the help of digitalization.

This major objective of the digital India for inclusive growth is to resolve all socio-economic problems by the application of technology. This paper mainly focuses on the reformation of inclusive growth with digitalization. Further this paper is an attempt to discuss the need and benefits of digitalization for inclusive growth specifically in the areas of e-health, e-education and e-employment. Lastly, it has mentioned suggestive measures which need to be taken by India to become a true global powerhouse.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This paper is primarily based on the secondary data collected through different sources like newspaper, internet, journals, various publications and official websites etc.

NEED OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

The need of Indian economy is to foster inclusive economic growth rather than high growth rate. As if large portions of the population are unable to participate in the economy, this can create a great risk of joblessness, poverty, corruption and mental illness. Hence for inclusive growth, India must ensure that as many citizens as possible have employable skills, good health and actively participate in the nation's main stream economy. Digital technology has developed and changed society with numerous technological improvements.

This study under the **Digital India Campaign** emphasize the need where technologies and connectivity will come together to make an impact on inclusive growth in general and particularly for the improvement on the quality of lives of the citizens. Further, it will analyze how the dissemination of digital technology in different sectors especially education, health and employment can bring inclusive growth in India.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND DIGITALIZATION

It is well said that a well connected nation is a well served nation. Hence an idea is generated about to connect not only urban areas rather the remotest Indian villages by digital technology. When people connect digitally by broadband and high speed internet then things are easy to access and citizens are benefitted by government services and the act of including financial services can be achieved in reality.

Now we will discuss the reformulation of inclusive growth with digital technology specifically in the areas of education, health and employment.

1. Digital Technology and Education

Digitalization of education provided massive opportunities to renovate the education system. There are advantages of digital technology in terms of connectivity and accessing information of all sorts.

- Innovative digital technology created web-based peer learning programs, which increase access to the meaningful and useful data.
- Self assessment programme run under the digital technology can help the students to adapt the necessary skills.
- Virtual classroom initiative qualifies millions of youth outside the university to be a part of education.
- The personalized and adaptive learning platforms provide countless new ways to modify education.
- Two way conversations in e-learning enhance the knowledge of the students through videos and chat with an expert, whenever required.

- The Digital Technology helps in terms of connectivity at the global level and accessing information of all sorts.
- The youth can enroll themselves in online courses apart from various welfare schemes of the government.

One such unique initiative in the field of education by the government is 'SWAYAM', which has been conceptualized as a comprehensive, multipronged and transformational project. It consists of massive open online courses (MOOCs) and provides ample opportunities to the youth as they can virtually admitted in such courses without physical appearance. Besides these the online expert lectures at national and international levels, online e-learning resources etc. provide the students a new atmosphere to learn the things under flexible hours.

2. Digital Technology and Health Care

Digital technology can play a vital role in improving the way health services are delivered and how policy related decisions are made. Inclusive growth with digital platform can do wonders in case of health care facilities. For instance, standing in a queue for appointment with doctor or to check blood availability remains a thing of past with digitalization. These facilities can further be utilized for rural areas too.

- Digital Technology helps to offer personalized consultation for health related issues.
- Single-window online channel is offered to a wide range of healthcare services by most of the hospitals.
- Provides comprehensive services by integrating information of the patient across multiple health IT systems, sub-centres and centres to obtain a comprehensive record.
- The ICT initiatives in the healthcare include electronic health records, tele-medicine and electronic transfer of prescription and so on.
- The e-hospital is an end-to-end application software for the management of key functional areas of hospitals such as clinical administrative, billing and insurance operations.

The success of digital India will be a major factor in enhancing the country's economic growth by improving health care as well as efficiency and accountability in governance and delivery of services. The government must strive to fully embrace digital technology and reinvent the way it delivers services.

3. Digital Technology and Employment

Between 1980 and 2014, the income share of the top one per cent of India's population increased from 6 per cent to 22 per cent, while the share of the bottom 50 per cent fell from 24 per cent to 15 per cent. Digital technologies can help to decrease the inequalities and work for creating more employment opportunities, which further help for tapping the element of inclusive growth i.e. employment.

- Digitalization not only provides online job opportunities rather it also enhances work culture by transparency.
- Digital technology is changing employment scenario by removing barriers of geography, region or language.
- With the automation enabled technologies as artificial intelligence helps to bring higher productivity.
- Job matching sites such as LinkedIn and Monster are changing and expanding the way individuals look for work and companies identify and recruit talent.
- Technology is creating a job for skilled workers that can empower themselves according to the complex world.
- Digitalization has dominated the work environment with liberal time schedules and work from home facilities.

MyGov is an innovative platform to foster citizen and government partnership for driving inclusive growth of India. This platform was mainly launched to involve people in policy formulations and program implementations.

SUGGESTIVE MEASURES

To reformulate inclusive growth with digitalization, it is imperative to have a outlined and synoptic policy of government which depends on the coordination among central, state and local government.

- Government should assure basic necessities in rural areas and focus on developing infrastructure.
- Government must ensure safe, secured, and cost effective digital connect, which can further induce the users to adopt it without any fear.
- Digital infrastructure should be framed through PPP models for sustainable development of digital infrastructure.
- For the inclusion of all kinds of users simple and ease of operations should be encouraged.
- Financial literacy is must for bringing more and more people to digital platform.
- Special drives through schools, colleges, panchayats etc. can help to create awareness about digitalization.
- Linkage of all welfare activities with digitalization specifically with health, education and employment can promote inclusive growth.

The above measures can ensure inclusiveness only if the society is ready to adapt the changes framed by the government.

CONCLUSION

The success of digital India will be a major factor in enhancing the country's economic growth by improving health care, employment and education inclusiveness, citizen engagement as well as efficiency and accountability in governance and delivery of services. The government must strive to fully embrace digital technology and reinvent the way it delivers services.

Currently government has recognized the potential of digital technology for bringing about a transformation in education, health and employment opportunities. Digital awareness is the major primary factor crucial to the success of digital India and inclusiveness.

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