

A Study on the Penetration of Digital Technology in India among the Current Learning and Working Youth

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ABSTRACT

Today online presence is a thing taken for granted by the youth. In this day and age digital technology has once more come into the limelight after one more such milestone, namely the campaign named Digital India launched by the Government of India in order to ensure the Government's services are made available to citizens digitally by improved online substructure and by improving Internet connectivity and making the country digitally endowed in the field of technology. This initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high-speed internet networks. Digital India consists of three core elements: the evolution of secure and stable digital substructure, rendering government services digitally, and universal digital literacy.

This research aims to study the current penetration of digital technology in India among the current learning and working youth. It is meant to gauge how far we have actually come from the day when fax was introduced in India by Department of Posts through post offices to the common man.

Keywords: Digital Technology, Education, Learning, Working, Research

INTRODUCTION

The major milestone in the introduction of digital technology in India was in 1988 when the RBI set up the Committee on Computerisation in Banks headed by Dr. C Rangarajan. This move towards digitization was faced with severe backlash as is true with the wide scale implementation of any new technology. India has come a long way since then with the digitisation of major services such as railway, the telecommunication as well as the computer boom. There is an ever increasing a push for digitisation in private as well as public sectors. In these past few years, digital technology has become a deciding factor in increasing the speed of India's economic growth, in advancing social and economic fairness by increasing access for all to information, markets and public services; and in surmounting India's infrastructure shortfall. Digital technology can help India achieve the dream of making a fair society. It can help impel India to the foremost rank of nations, especially leveraging the vigour of the country's young population, with its tendency for fast adjustment and economical invention.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In order to understand the prominence of digital technology in India, primary data based research was conducted with the help of structured questionnaire. Questionnaire comprised 20 questions. Positive and negative question were made on 1 to 1 basis. Cronbach Alpha was calculated to test the internal consistency of the questionnaire from a sample size of 30 respondents and was found to be 0.79.

LIMITATION

Sample size of 90 respondents was selected randomly through an open forum. Out of 90 respondents, 30 were randomly chosen to test internal consistency. The results of the 60 remaining respondents were used in the statistical analysis of the study. The age group of respondents was kept at 20 years to 35 years of age to keep the results limited to current young working and learning generation. The respondents were students and working professionals who had completed at least graduation. The questionnaire was administered to both males and female. Age and gender of the respondents were not taken into consideration in the statistical analysis due to their uneven distribution.

FINDING OF THE STUDY

The survey was conducted from 60 respondents on an open forum and following are the results of the survey conducted:

When asked whether they feel digital technology is a necessary part of today's work environment

88.33% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 11.67% answered in negative.

83.33% of graduates answered this question in positive and 16.67% answered in negative.

91.67% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel digital technology is an integral part of life nowadays.

95.00% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 5.00% answered in negative.

100.00% of graduates answered this question in positive and 0.00% answered in negative.

91.67% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel digital technology is an integral part of today's education system.

91.67% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

91.67% of graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

91.67% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel that people are well equipped to tackle possible use of digital technology at work due to their experience as a student.

81.67% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 18.33% answered in negative.

87.50% of graduates answered this question in positive and 12.50% answered in negative.

77.78% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 22.22% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel that use of digital technology can make teaching and learning easier.

90.00% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 10.00% answered in negative.

95.83% of graduates answered this question in positive and 4.17% answered in negative.

86.11% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 13.89% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel that use of digital technology in Education is inherently easier due to familiarity with it in modern times.

93.33% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 6.67% answered in negative.

95.83% of graduates answered this question in positive and 4.17% answered in negative.

91.67% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

When asked whether they feel that use of digital technology should be increased in Education.

90.00% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 10.00% answered in negative.

87.50% of graduates answered this question in positive and 12.50% answered in negative.

91.67% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 8.33% answered in negative.

When asked whether they have used digital technology frequently during their studies.

81.67% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 18.33% answered in negative.

79.17% of graduates answered this question in positive and 20.83% answered in negative.

83.33% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 16.67% answered in negative.

When asked whether they have used/will use digital technology frequently during work.

80.00% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 20.00% answered in negative.

75.00% of graduates answered this question in positive and 25.00% answered in negative.

83.33% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 16.67% answered in negative.

When asked whether they use digital technology frequently in my everyday life.

85.00% of the total respondents answered this question in positive and 15.00% answered in negative.

79.17% of graduates answered this question in positive and 20.83% answered in negative.

88.89% of the post graduates answered this question in positive and 11.11% answered in negative.

CONCLUSION

As can be seen in the findings, digital technology is in very wide spread usage in the current generation. Most of the respondents (vast majority) were positive about the importance of digital technology in their everyday life, education as well as work life. They also felt that they were comfortable with using digital technology in education since they are familiar with it in their everyday life. They also felt that digital technology makes teaching and learning easier. Since they are post computer boom generation they also felt that their education had empowered them to work with digital technology at work. They also stated that they have used digital technology in their life and education. They are also sure about future usage of digital technology at their workplace even if they haven't used it yet.

Now a time of cusp has arrived. The definition of frequency of usage for digital technology is changing by each passing generation as can be seen by the outliers of the otherwise invariable result of the questions posed. The digital landscape is changing fast and India is changing along with it. So, the question is not whether we can change with the changing technology or not. The question is how fast the change will be.

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