

DIGITAL INDIA WHERE KNOWLEDGE IS STRENGTH - AND EMPOWERS THE PEOPLE

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Abstract

The phrase "Digital India" has become India's catchphrase for the 21st century. Digital India is the result of a great number of technology advances and new inventions that have been developed over time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is credited for being the driving force behind the "Digital India" plan. The ambitious Digital India initiative has been launched by the government of India. This initiative seeks to connect and deliver government programmes and services digitally while also mobilising the IT capabilities of government departments across the country. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to transform India into an informed economy and a digitally empowered society with good governance for citizens. Without a doubt, the beginning of the digital revolution can be traced back to the first time digitization was implemented. The BJP government in India is responsible for the realisation of this dream. As a direct result of this goal, the government has worked to increase internet connectivity as well as online infrastructure in order to make public services available to all people of the country, especially those who live in remote areas. The purpose of the initiative was to support India in its efforts to become a more economically and technologically developed nation. Before it can be properly implemented, there are a number of challenges that need to be conquered first. The purpose of the study is to shed light on the potentials as well as the inadequacies of the digital India programme.

Keywords: Technology, Digital India, Initiatives, Lucanas, Revolution etc.

Introduction

The effort known as Digital India was initiated by the Indian government in the year 2015. This curriculum will address a variety of facets of the digital advancement that is taking place around the nation. As of today, the programme has expanded greatly, and as a direct result, it has had a sizeable influence on the lives of Indians as well as the prospects for the future of the nation. People no longer have to stand in long lines

or wait for months to have their job completed; instead, they can simply go in and have their work done in less than 24 hours. It should come as no surprise that people's lives have been made simpler by advances in technology in recent decades. On the other hand, even a short time ago, a nation such as India could not have envisioned (Ray, T. (2021) the future that we are currently living in. A mere six years ago, the scenario looked substantially different from what it does now. The technology was accessible to only a small part of the total population of the country. The majority of people in India are now connected to the internet. The campaign that Digital India is running is precisely what this nation has been searching for. New technology has made it possible for people living in even the most isolated communities to communicate with people in other parts of the world. On July 1, 2015, the current Prime Minister of India, Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, was the one who initiated the Digital India initiative. "I dream of a Digital India, where Knowledge is strength and the people are empowered"

(Honourable Narendar Modi).

The current movement may be traced back to the vision held by India's Prime Minister, which served as the impetus for the movement. He established Digital India with the goal of providing easy access to internet services for all Indians. His primary objective was to get members of the isolated community involved in this effort (Ray, T.) (2021). He had a strong desire for the people who lived in smaller communities, such as towns and villages, to play a significant role in this campaign and to benefit the most from it. According to the Prime Minister of India, the focus of the government is on technology first, which is in keeping with their motto, which is "Power to empower." Building a digital infrastructure, establishing a broad network, and bringing the nation together were the objectives of the campaign. The campaign's primary concentration was on promoting high internet speeds. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) was established with the goal of enhancing access to the internet as well as e-services. The Digital India initiative is a government programme that involves participation from a number of ministries.

The mission of the Digital India movement is to familiarise the general population of India with digital technology and to teach them how to access and make use of it. Through the efforts of the Digital India initiative, numerous digital services have been made accessible to the general public. Industry leaders and business conglomerates in India, such as Wipro, Tata, and Reliance, were instrumental in making Digital India a reality. Utilization of electronic service was the primary objective. The government aimed to provide e-services to over 600 different districts with the assistance of major information technology corporations. It is projected that the campaign has already cost more than one million billion rupees, and it is expected that this number would continue to climb as the campaign moves forward. Among the many (Sujilan, 2018) successful Digital India projects, some of the most notable ones include the Arogya Setu app, e-health, digital lockers, and the National Scholarship Portal. In addition,

initiatives such as Startup India have contributed to the general improvement of the business climate across the country. The creation of a digital infrastructure that would make it simpler for citizens to access online services was one of the primary objectives of the Digital India initiative, and one of its primary focuses was on the use of E-Kranti for electronic service delivery and electronic governance. Several different schedules are followed by the programme.

The following table details the nine pillars of digital India that formed the basis of this campaign. E-governance was not digitalized until the Digital India initiative came along. These digital platforms are now everyone's go-to for paying their bills today. Local governments and businesses have benefited from other services (Nedungadi, 2018), such as digital attendance, which have made their work more efficient. Online platforms like PAI provide customised digital support to make digital working easier for all.

Since one can utilise a hospital service to receive online registration, doctor appointments and payment of the charge, a diagnostic test, and a blood test, as well as other things, Digital India makes health care and literacy more available it reduces the amount of physical work required by allowing customers to submit their documentation and certifications online from any location. The framework can be signed by citizens by submitting their digital signatures online. National Scholarship Portal beneficiaries benefit by being able to submit applications, which are subsequently vetted and paid or dispensed. An upgraded network for mobile devices, including voice, data, and multimedia, will be implemented by BSNL to replace the company's 30-year-old telephone exchanges. The National Centre for Flexible Electronics will help promote flexible electronics. There are fewer instances of black marketing when all transactions are conducted online.

Literature Review

Literature reviews are intended to provide a synopsis of the sources that were utilised in the course of conducting research on a particular subject and to demonstrate how that research fits into the context of a wider academic discipline. In a literature review, simply a summary of the contentions and thoughts presented by the most recent information is presented; no new commitments are made. They are helpful to the researcher in turning the subject's wheels because they are based on data that has already been collected. A comprehensive comprehension is required in light of the recent avalanche of discoveries. The literature review serves as a roadmap for the subsequent investigation. In general, the literature is combed through to look for holes in the field source's level of expertise. This gap is also investigated in an effort to discover fresh facts or hypotheses that can assist the subject. An investigation that is logical and orderly demands data that is up to date, which makes a literature review necessary. The field outline of the current review may also be determined with the help of the literature review. In order to establish the foundation for the literature review

that was used in the building of this research piece, the following articles were mentioned.

Several research papers and articles have been written that investigate the function of a digital India campaign in the country in greater detail. In their research paper titled "The Scope and Impact of Digital India: The Review," Kalaiselvi K and Shubhi Srivastava came to the conclusion that a digitally connected India has the potential to make a significant impact on the country's ability to improve the social and economic conditions of its citizens by encouraging the growth of non-agricultural economic activities...

In his article titled "Digital India: Scope and Challenges," Manjeet Panwar came to the conclusion that, in order to meet the needs and requirements of the twenty-first century, it is necessary to digitalize not only the education system as a whole but also the teacher training programmes in particular.

The application of digital knowledge is helpful in overcoming the challenges presented by online education. You may learn more about Dr. Shekhar Srivastava research by reading the article "Digital India-Major Initiatives and Their Impact: A Case Study," which was recently published and can be found on this website. A thorough examination came to the conclusion that the introduction of digital technology into the infrastructure of the country will have significant positive effects. It is essential to examine different models of public-private collaboration in order to facilitate the long-term growth of a variety of different types of infrastructure. Our nation suffers from both illiteracy and poverty, and it will take a significant amount of time to eradicate both problems. The advent of digital technology may be India's salvation from these issues. This plan will be a great aid to the underdeveloped regions of India and will contribute to the creation of a new India. If this strategy is carried out in its entirety, it won't be long before India is considered a developed nation. This project makes e-services more accessible to more people, which helps the overall development of the country. Additionally, it contributes to the decrease of unemployment in India.

Methodology

Ex post facto and analytical research are both applicable to the current investigation. As a result, the research is conducted using a historical and descriptive approach. As a result, the research relies on both primary and secondary sources. A qualitative approach has been used to analyse the secondary data that has been gathered from reputable sources such as books and websites on the internet and newspaper articles, as well as various international journals and magazines. In addition, the research is based on personal observations.

Research Objectives

1. To understand the meaning and initiatives of Digital India.
2. To analyse the prospects and lacunas of digital India.

Discussion

Medical facilities, patients, and doctors can all communicate electronically with the help of an HMIS. By the end of the campaign in February 2021, the campaign hoped to have built 420 virtual hospitals. The main initiative, DigiLockers, aims to provide citizens with 'Digital Empowerment' through the delivery of accurate digital documents to their digital document wallets (Sujilan, 2018). There has been some discussion about an application called the Bharat Interface for Money, which uses the Unified Payments Interface (Athique, 2019) to manage multiple payments (UPI) In addition, it was created by the electronic Pathshala NCERT, which provides access to all educational electronic resources (Biswas, 2021) via a website and an Android and iOS app, including audio, textbooks, video, periodicals, and a wide range of print and non-print materials. The government is also making significant efforts to increase the availability of optical fibre connectivity across the country through the BharatNet programme. Nearly 360,000 panchayats in 16 states have joined the network as of today. (Kiran, 2018).

Since time immemorial, this particular raptor has been given the name India. Since it was first liberated from British colonial rule in 1947, the country has made significant progress since that time. To put it another way, the country has gone a long way. India has exerted a significant amount of effort in order to catch up to the most industrialised countries as a consequence of industrialization and globalisation. The establishment of metro railways has resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of effort required to reach one's destination of choice. Wireless networks are paving the way for a more digital lifestyle in urban areas, which is progressing thanks to these networks. Nearly every house these days is equipped with its own Wi-Fi network. Digitalization has also led to the development of set-top boxes for televisions, which make it possible for the general public to view images of high definition (HD) quality. Because viewers are able to pick and choose what they want to watch, they are able to save money because they are not have to pay for channels that they do not watch and so do not need to be included in their monthly bill. Students are now able to improve their level of academic performance by making greater use of technologically advanced visual media thanks to the deployment of digital classrooms, which has made it possible for this to become a reality. You can do your shopping for items in India over the internet at a variety of websites, some of which include Amazon, Myntra, SnapDeal, Voonik, and eBay, amongst others. You can do your shopping at any of these websites. The internet has made it possible to buy or sell anything at this point. In recent years, a new breed of matrimonial websites has emerged, making it possible for members of the general public to locate a life partner with the assistance of these services. In the end, you can place the credit for all of the creative concepts where it belongs: on the digital India plan. Shops. The general populace began favouring this method of payment as an alternative to waiting in large queues at ATMs in order to get

the new 500 and 2000 rupee notes. Those lines were necessary in order to obtain the new bills. According to the findings of the research that has been carried out, digitization has the potential to assist in making corruption less prevalent. It will be impossible for a person to obtain unlawful or "black" money via a payment app such as Paytm as long as the individual holds the app on their mobile device. As a consequence of this, not only will there be less corruption in the country, but the government will also make greater steps toward the progress of digital technology. Because of this, the method of development that is practised in India is incredibly useful for countries that are still in the process of developing, and it will help India leave its mark on the international stage. As a result of this, the method of development that is practised in India is incredibly advantageous for countries that are still in the process of developing. The increase in the number of options that may be made will be beneficial to both the general population and the economy as a whole. An economically thriving digital India is something that the country of India should strive for. It is essential to keep in mind that the "Digital India" programme is built on the foundation of three pillars.

Design and Implementation of an Electronic Infrastructure

In order to deliver a comprehensive selection of digital services throughout the entirety of the nation, robust digital infrastructure is required in geographical regions that are more remote. In many parts of the country's interior, there is either a sparsely developed or non-existent electronic network. It is for this reason that a digital network that spans the entire nation has been established. Bharat Broadband Network Limited, a government agency, is in charge of the project known as the National Optical Fiber Network, which includes Digital India as one of its components. Bharat Net's goal is to connect 2, 50, 500 gram panchayats located all over the country to a high-speed internet network. This will be accomplished through the utilisation of an optical fibre network. As part of the plan, 400,000 internet hotspots will be established across the nation, making it possible for anyone to connect to the internet at any of these locations.

Delivery of a Web-Based Application

Government and other important services will be provided digitally as part of the Digital India effort. It is easier to shift from a physical to a digital service delivery model. The Digital India Campaign led to the digitization of several government services in India. Every department in the government will be able to provide basic services including health care, banking, education and scholarship opportunities and gas cylinders as well as water/electricity bills to the citizens. As a result, people's regular financial transactions were likewise moved to the digital world. All financial transactions are conducted online, with one-time passwords, in an effort to increase accountability and reduce the likelihood of fraud.

Computer Proficiency

Digital Literacy is the skill set that Indian citizens must possess in order to participate fully in the digital world. Using digital gadgets requires a certain set of behaviours, knowledge, and skills. A wide range of digital devices are used to communicate, express, collaborate, and advocate, including desktop computers, laptops and tablets. The goal of Digital Literacy is to reach more than six million rural families. The government of India hopes to achieve broad-based growth on a variety of fronts through the Digital India Program.

Digital India's Long-Term Vision

The concept for a digital India revolves around these three primary pillars. The following are some of them:

The concept of digital infrastructure as a utility aims to give each citizen access to a high-speed internet facility, an internet identity that can be used from birth until death, a mobile phone and a bank account, as well as access to a common service centre, private space that can be shared on a public cloud, and a cyberspace that is safe and secure. Governance and services on demand will be available in real time for both online and mobile platforms, and they will be connected seamlessly across departments and jurisdictions. As a result of all citizen documentation being made available on the cloud platform, residents will no longer be required to physically provide these documents in order to get services. In addition to this, the availability of cashless electronic transactions will assist in the development of business. Geographical Information Systems (also known as GIS) are going to be incorporated into the development plans. Make the residents more independent, particularly the inhabitants who live in rural areas, through improving their computer literacy. This will be accomplished through the utilisation of collaborative digital platforms and through the provision of digital resources in the individuals' primary languages in order to make their participation a practical possibility. It will assist in accessing the data that will be freely available on the cloud computing platform without the need for any intervention on the part of the user.

Lucanas associated with digital India

Facebook users have been changing their profile images in order to show their support for the Digital India effort and bring it one step closer to becoming a reality. Changing the mentality of government officials is just as difficult as altering the processes by which policies are formulated or by which work is carried out. The nation with the greatest variety of people on earth is racing ahead in terms of technological development. Here are just a few examples:

1. **Connectivity to Remote Areas:** To connect every village, town, and city would need a monumental amount of labour. The fact that each state has its own legislation

regarding how broadband should be handled makes an already difficult situation even more difficult to solve. Because there is such a great quantity of information, it is difficult for the government to compile it all into a database that is big enough to hold it all. (Dua, B. 2018)

2. **High Level of Digital Illiteracy: A Substantial Percentage of People Do Not Possess Even the Most Fundamental Computer Skills** A significant number of people in India's cities, towns, and villages are unable to perform even the most fundamental computer tasks. This is true across the majority of the country. Despite this, the degree to which cities have adopted digitalization has been quite limited. The use of online services to gain government credentials is an example of a fully developed kind of digitalization. This type of digitalization also covers daily transactions that do not use cash. As a result of this, there is a need for advancements to be made in fields such administration, taxation, and public psychology. Because of this, it is a collaborative effort that is reliant on the responsibility and aid of the general people. This makes it a group endeavour.

3. **Cybercrime: The internet version of India is not immune to the problem of cybercrime, which is a problem that affects the entire world.** As a result of this, we want a specialised anti-cybercrime team that can keep a close eye on the database at all times of the day and night to ensure that it remains secure. (Dua, B. 2018)

4. **Coordination between Departments: The internet version of India is not immune to the problem of cybercrime, which is a problem that affects the entire world.** As a result of this, we want a specialised anti-cybercrime team that can keep a close eye on the database at all times of the day and night to ensure that it remains secure. (Dua, B. 2018)

5. **Net Neutrality: The issue of network neutrality has not been satisfactorily addressed, and our strategy consists of unquestioningly following digital India's example.** If there was no such thing as "net neutrality," then "digital India" would be a complete and utter failure for the proprietors of businesses in India as well as the citizens of India.

6. **Shifting Your Mental Attitude: This facet comes into play when you have access to all of the information and tools necessary, yet you are hesitant to make a change in your situation.** Because they have grown accustomed to their routines, people are reluctant to depart from the routines they have developed over time. (Dua, B. 2018)

7. **Information Sharing: In order for other government departments to make use of the data, it is necessary that it be made available to them.** For instance, digital India is capable of easily resolving concerns connected to police, surveillance, and security; yet, coordination remains a challenge. It is not just a problem with technology; rather, it is a concern with regards to privacy and security as well.

Suggestions and recommendations

It is impossible for the Digital India initiative to be successful on its own. Policy must be revised to accommodate Digital India. To begin, improving people's digital literacy is recommended as the initial step in empowering them. Users of the Internet need to practise safe behaviour. To ensure the success of this programme, a significant public education initiative is necessary. Citizens, particularly those living in rural and distant locations, need to be taught and informed about the benefits of internet services in order for there to be a rise in internet usage. The issue of the digital gap needs to be addressed.

There is no manufacturing done by the state. Partnerships in the provision of telecom content and services are required to accomplish this aim. Investigation of PPPs is required for the development of digital infrastructure. In conclusion, the private sector should create infrastructure in rural and isolated areas. Pro-business tax policies and faster project approval are required.

For Digital India to be successful there must be maximum connectivity with little danger to digital security. We want a capable group of anti-cybercrime specialists in order to safeguard the database. It is imperative that we urge international certification bodies to start offering cyber security courses at the graduate level.

It is necessary for multiple departments to collaborate well, which calls for dedication and hard work. This objective ought to be helped along by a variety of policies. It is time for certain regulations in India, which have for a long time hampered India's technical advancement, to be revised.

Conclusion

The Digital India Campaign was initiated by the government to ensure the development of a robust digital infrastructure. Many different kinds of businesses have embraced digitalization. Since 2013, agriculture's contribution to the overall GDP has increased. The unintended consequences of demonetization are starting to disappear. The industrial sector has embraced a wide range of technology in order to be competitive in international markets. The payment system has recently undergone improvements that have made it more open. In recent years, FDI has shown signs of improvement. The service industry in India is expanding and currently accounts for sixty percent of the country's GDP. In 2016, the number of digital clients shopping online nearly doubled. The ideal of a fully digital India by the year 2025 will be realised, which will ensure the future of the nation. Our nation suffers from both illiteracy and poverty, and it will take a significant amount of time to eradicate both problems. The advent of digital technology may be India's salvation from these issues. This plan will be a great aid to the underdeveloped regions of India and will contribute to the creation of a new India. If this strategy is carried out in its entirety, it won't be long before India is considered a developed nation. By making electronic services more accessible to more people, this project will help the overall development of the country. Additionally, it contributes to the decrease of unemployment in India.

At this stage in the implementation of the Digital India initiative, it is important to take into consideration the recommendation made at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in 2013 regarding digital government strategies while examining the agenda on "confidence in Government: evidence, policies, and decision making." The programme, which was developed at the highest level of political hierarchy and anticipates inter-ministerial cooperation and coordination toward the outlined priorities, expects agencies from all levels of government to join in the Digital India agenda. In developing the Digital India programme, the OECD's suggestions in their entirety were taken into consideration. In this regard, the Digital India programme will in theory be a network that is at the forefront of its field. The extent to which the strategy is successful in accomplishing its objectives will be determined by factors that are not related to the application of digital technology and tools.

It is essential to have public support as well as organisational maturity and commitment within the government in order to be able to break free from the shackles of historical and cultural characteristics as well as the entrenched wisdom that is afraid of the transformation that would sweep them off their feet. Even though there are a number of challenges that stand in the way of the proper execution of the Digital India Program, there is no other choice given the current state of affairs on a global scale. As a direct consequence of this, the rollout of the digital India programme is anticipated to take place at a more rapid pace.

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Nil

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