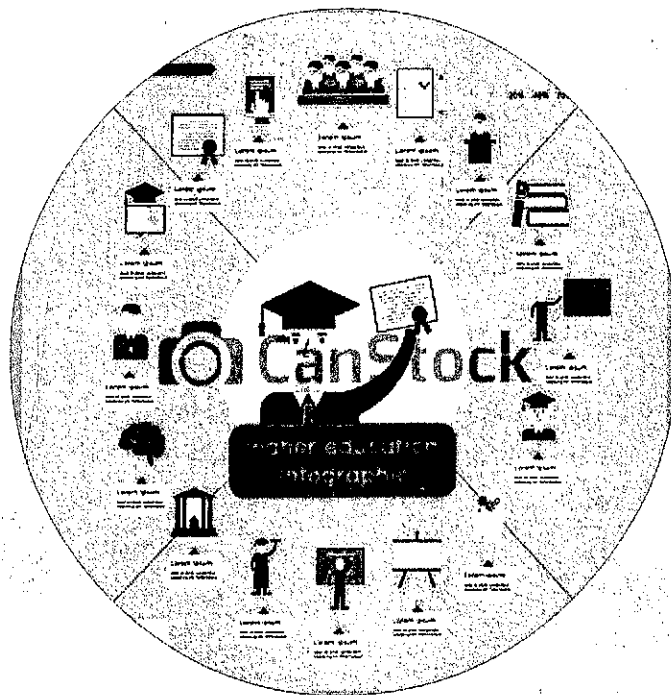# B.Aadhar

Peer-Reviewed Indexed

Multidisciplinary International Research Journal

March -2020

SPECIAL ISSUE-CCXVI (216)

Challenges & New Trends In Higher Education For Professional Development

Chief Editor
Prof. Virag S. Gawande
Director
Aadhar Social
Research & Development
Training Institute Amravati

Editor:
Dr.Dinesh W.Nichit
Principal
Sant Gadge Maharaj
Art's Comm,Sci Collage,
Walgaon.Dist. Amravati.

Guest Editor:
Dr. Renuka D.Badvane
Assistant Professor
Jalna College of
social work.,Jalna
Dist-Jalna

Digital Literacy and Higher Educationin India

Ms.Seema Nikalje

Head and associate Professor

Department of Public Administration

Ankushrao Tope College, Jalna

Teaching has advanced over centuries by adopting new methods, tools, approachesand technologies to graspan extensive audience. In their quest on being effective, educators have always tested with the art of teaching.As technologies advance, educators should carefully use, evaluate, and adopt the changes to utilize the technologies and track their impacts. This paper provides a brief review to describe some of the existing technical achievements in higher education along with their challenges(1).
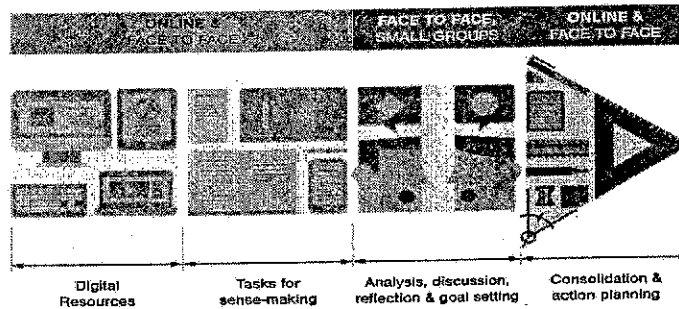
Current Scenario of Higher Education (HE) in India

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, new and rapidly improving technologies are in the process of transforming higher education. Each year since 1994, the Campus Computing Survey (CCS 1990)has shown increased useof technology in college classrooms depending on resources such as e-mail, the internet, course web pages, and computer simulations. Technology has the potential to revolutionize the traditional teaching and learning process. It can eliminate the barriers to education imposed by space and time and dramatically expand access to lifelong learning. Students no longer have to meet in the same place at the same time to learn together from an instructor. Fundamentally, modern technologies have the ability to change the conception of a higher education institution (HEI) (2).

The present outline of higher education system in India is quite unfortunate where only a mere 24% of the total population eligible for higher education are able to enrol themselves in online courses while the condition of women higher education is even worse where parents are not inclined towards funding their higher education due to diversereasons. Currently, there are almost 30 million students, 779 universities, 39,701 colleges, and 11,923 educational institutions which are not sufficient to suffice the requirement of such a massive number of students. There is hope that with the advancement of digital education in India, more and more students will be able to access a quality education without compromising the finances. The government is focusing keenly on the development of online educational policies for the ease of access to the students. MOOCS will be later integrated with other educational policies in the country formulated by K. Kasturirangan Committee (3, 4).

Benefits ofDigital Literacy

Fosters collective intelligence: In the educational sector the potential for collective intelligence ismassive due to the hyper-connective nature of digital technology. The sophistication of edtech developments means that today's students can access more information, content, and educational resources than ever before, as well as share opinions, bestow knowledge onto their peers and collaborate, in real-time, without geographical boundaries through mobile applications and online forums.Now, students in higher education settings can enhance or augment their classroom learning experience with the use of collaborative technology while continuing with their educational journeys beyond lectures with collaborative platforms and mobile access to valuable content - an approach that is often referred to as 'active blended learning' (ABL).ABL combines different forms of 'contact time' with independent learning. It does not mean "independent study". In an ABL context, students are expected to gain autonomy and agency. Tutor mediation and visibility are central."

Digital Resources   Tasks for sense-making   Analysis, discussion, reflection & goal setting   Consolidation & action planning

(Source: University of Northampton,Institute of Learning &Teaching, Wordpress.com)

Promotes inclusion: A digitized classroom or learning model is often only as effective as the person teaching, it does provide a dynamic toolkit that provides a number of opportunities to engage, include and support a broad range of student, regardless of the subject matter. Emerging edtech trends and approaches, from digital curriculums and interactive quizzes to immersive learning applications and personalized learning development, allow learners to absorb relevant information in ways that are tailored to their individual needs while encouraging communal classroom engagement that is driven by technology. Digital literacy, if utilized with a strategic, personalized approach is entirely inclusive and, in a time, where technology has reached a notable level of sophistication, an increasing number of people can benefit. Irrespective of the ability level of a child, his or her emotional makeup and attitude, physical and mental handicaps or socio-cultural differences, digital education allows every child to be able to reach their full potential.

Promotes innovation and creativity: This new digital age has empowered students and tutors to explore and experiment with their educational efforts, once again, taking activities and methodologies far beyond the traditional blackboard and textbook approach. With interactive edtech-inspired platforms, apps and developments, everybody gets a voice and these innovations inspire creativity. One of the most positive elements of the evolution of digital technology in the educational sector is the fact that it has highlighted the realization that the computer screen is not just an informational display, but it's a versatile tool for collaboration, creation, and well, creativity. This could be a real witness to the power of digital society's positive impact on higher education.

Develops skills and embraces new technology: The rapid rate at which the digital world evolves requires students and professionals to have an adaptable nature, remaining abreast of emerging trends, developments and technologies on a continual basis. By implementing mobile applications, online course content and web-based student support initiatives into the everyday running of an institution, it's possible not only empower students to refine and develop new skills beyond the realms of the core curriculum, but foster a mindset for lifelong learning (LLL) and remain competitive in the future. Not only will this serve to close the global digital skills gap, but it will also display the value of your institution concerning student success. Transforming digitally will allow an institution to adopt a culture that is able to embrace emerging technologies and leverage them to remain relevant and will drive into the future. Recent studies suggest that the mobile workforce has tripled in size by the end of 2018, as an increasing number of remote workers now rely on their mobile devices. This discovery alone highlights the importance of embracing new mobile technologies and equipping tomorrow's workforce for a brand-new world (5).

Cost Effective: Surveying the range of new technology-based teaching and learning initiatives, including the highly publicized emergence of "massive open online courses" (MOOCs), it is argued that such technologies could transform traditional higher education and allowing it at last to curb rising costs by increasing productivity, while preserving quality and protecting core values (6). Digital learning is cost effective way of education as compared to traditional learning. This is directed

towards both learners and teachers. In digital learning, here is a good chance that you don't have to pay exorbitant amounts of money to acquire textbooks for school or college. As textbooks often become obsolete after a certain period of time, e-learning is definitely a cost-effective way of learning because of the reduced cost (7).

Nurtures Ecology of Learning and an Entrepreneurial Spirit: The open, collaborative and hyper-connective nature of today's digital society means that sharing and accessing knowledge and information holds little restriction. As such, new opportunities concerning digital job roles and business development are emerging all of the time. Inclusion of digital technology in HE gives learner a voice that can be amplified through a number of platforms and touchpoints, learning is no longer an isolated experience. With the tools that allow students to interact, develop their skills and share their ideas at any time, day or night, comes ecology of learning, a mindset in which people want to share and acquire knowledge on a continual basis, a stimulating environment where everybody wins. This ecology of learning also encourages a self-sufficient mindset that equips learners to adopt the entrepreneurial spirit and create themselves a wealth of new opportunities for future success. In a number of sectors and professions, people can tap into this ecosystem, selecting projects or offering services that allow them to make a healthy, valuable living on a freelance basis and by promoting the entrepreneurial spirit early on, HEs can give their students the skills to thrive in such a world.

Challenges ofdigital literacy

Although digital literacy has become very widespread with time, it enforces certain challenges which needs to be tackled. It is said that, digital learning should be more about the human touch that just machines(10). The following are the challenges of digital learning along with the measures to overcome these challenges;

**Resource and internet connectivity**

One of the main challenges for digital education in India is poor internet connectivity in rural areas and some part of urban areas. Majority of population across India has still no access to internet and a large population in rural areas is still illiterate in the field of digital technology.

Shortage of digitally literate teachers

A major obstacle in the use of digital education in rural areas is in the lack of knowledge and skills. There is a shortage of teachers, formally trained on digital technology. In some of the academic institution in rural areas, school teacher and college professors are not interested in using digital tools for conducting classes.

Language and content related challenges

Language is one of the main barriers for the development of digital education in India, there are several different languages in different state have been spoken all across country, pushing all the digital content in all these regional languages some time becomes difficult for the agencies.
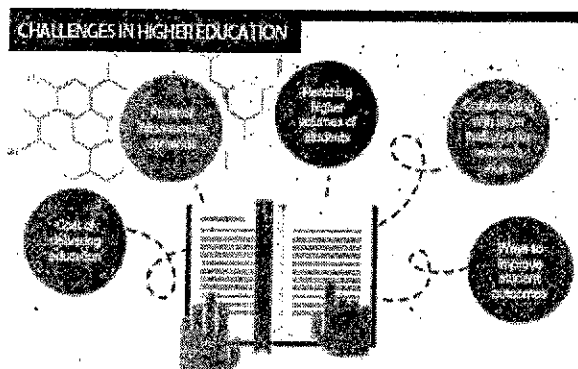
s(*Source: www.allresearchjournal.com*)

Poor maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment

In rural areas maintenance and upgradation of digital equipment is one of the major challenge. This is largely due to budgetary constraints by government. The digital education projects in rural school and colleges are not self-sustainable. An initial stage various projects have been launched by government for the development of digital education, but later they have not been taken due care for the maintenance of digital equipment which affecting the digital education development in rural areas(8).

Insufficient funds

Digital education involves effective and efficient usage of appropriate and latest hardware and software technology available in the market. In developing countries like India, digital technology implementation into education systems is a difficult task as it requires huge funds and infrastructure. As a consequence of lower funds higher education institutions were not only cutting faculty salaries, having hiring freeze, dismantling entire departments (or some programs), but also were willing to offer more and more cost saving digital classes. So by 2013 we have this unique situation for digitalization that it must help administration save funds and simultaneously improve the quality of education.

Conclusion

In this article we see the prosperous effects of digitalization on higher education as it provides access to the invaluable information to all without bias, barriers or restrictions. However it does not diminish the value of conventional classroom teaching. It's like democratization translating to power and the power to learn and keep learning.The best combination of traditional and digitalization can generate more commendable access to knowledge. We can conclude that this ever-evolving digital literacy in HE has tremendous prospects in developing more knowledgeable societyand we can overcomethe challengesby improving digital fluency and increasing demand for digital learning of all the concerned components of the HE.The HE institutions also need to create awareness of family, community and peer challenges for promoting digital citizenship and new opportunities and risks of upbringing in a digital world. As a result, universities, colleges and various teaching institutes will cultivate a creative, innovative generation that go on to accomplishextensivedreams of our society.

References:
1. Akbar, Monika. (2016). Digital Technology Shaping Teaching Practices in Higher Education. Frontiers in ICT. 3. 10.3389/fict.2016.00001.(Accessed on 28th February 2020)https://www.researchgate.net/publication/295504165_Digital_Technology_Shaping_Te aching_Practices_in_Higher_Education
2. **The Campus Computing Project® is the largest continuing study of the role of information technology in American higher education ,1990**
3. Education Technology for Digital Assessments, Exams, Admissions and trends; Introduction of Onscreen Marking , Online Exams, Digital Admission and Fee Collection System Education Technology Trends (https://www.blog.epravesh.com/digital-india-providing-way-digital-education/)
4. .Dr K. Kasturirangan Committee, New National Education Policy (https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1573031)
5. https://digitalmarketinginstitute.com/blog/whats-the-role-of-higher-education-in-a-digital-society
6. Bowen, William G (2013) Higher education in the digital age Princeton University Press (Princeton & Oxford) isbn 978-0-691-15930-0 172 pp £18.95· http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10053.html

7. Divya Raj, Digital Education and the Evolution of Traditional Educational System, International Journal of Research in Economics and Social Sciences (IJRESS),Vol. 7 Issue 7, July

8. Navneet Kaur; Higher education: Challenges, trends and issues in digitalization; IJAR 2019; SP4: 68-71 ; http://www.allresearchjournal.com/archives/2019/vol5issue4S/PartC/Sp-5-4-25-609.pdf (Accessed on 2nd March 2020)

9. https://www.askiitians.com/iit-jee/article/benefits-of-e-learning-technology-for-differently-abled-learners.html

10. Ms. Shikha Dua, Ms. SeemaWadhawan, Ms. Sweety Gupta; Issues, Trends & Challenges of Digital Education: An Empowering Innovative Classroom Model for Learning; paper presented at 4thInternational Conference on Science , Technology & Management , India International Centre , New Delhi

11. Dr. S. Kalaivani & Dr. K. Saileela; Empowering India Through Digital Literacy (Vol. 2); Ebook Annamallai Univerity , Empowering India through Digital Literacy