IMPACT OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE IN INDIA: A STUDY

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Abstract
It is a well-known fact that 'Digital India' is the outcome of many innovations and technological advancements. It has transformed the lives of people in many ways and will empower society for the better. The motive behind this program is to build participative, transparent, and responsive systems. It is the dream project of the Government of India, aimed at remodelling India into a flourishing economy and a digitally empowered society, with good governance for its citizens by bringing synchronization and coordination in public accountability, while digitally connecting and delivering government programmes and services to mobilize the capability of information technology across government departments. Hence, an attempt has been made in this paper to understand Digital India program and where technologies and connectivity have been coming together to make an impact on all aspects of governance and improve the quality of life of citizens. Technology plays an important role in the development of Indian society.

Keywords: Digital India,Innovations, Information technology, Government programmes, development.

Introduction

Digital India was an initiative taken by the Government of India for providing high-speed internet networks to rural areas. Digital India Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 1st July 2015 as a beneficiary to other government schemes including Make in India, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Startup India, BharatNet, and Standup India.

Digital India Mission is mainly focused on three areas

1. Providing digital infrastructure as a source of utility to every citizen.
2. Governance and services on demand.
3. To look after the digital empowerment of every citizen.

Digital India was established with a vision of inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products, manufacturing, and job opportunities.

Digital India aims to provide the much-needed thrust to the nine pillars of growth areas. Each of these areas is a complex programme in itself and cuts across multiple Ministries and Departments. The nine pillars of Digital India are given below:

- **Broadband Highways**– This covers three sub components, namely Broadband for All – Rural, Broadband for All – Urban and National Information Infrastructure (NII).

- **Universal Access to Mobile Connectivity-** This initiative focuses on network penetration and filling the gaps in connectivity in the country.

- **Public Internet Access Programme-** The two sub components of Public Internet Access Programme are Common Services Centres (CSCs) and Post Offices as multi-service centres.

- e-Governance: Reforming Government through Technology- Government Process Re-engineering using IT to simplify and make the government processes more efficient is critical for transformation to make the delivery of government services more effective across various government domains and therefore needs to be implemented by all Ministries/ Departments.

- e-Kranti – Electronic Delivery of Services- To improve the delivery of public services and simplify the process of accessing them. In this regard, several e-governance initiatives have been undertaken by various State Governments and Central Ministries to usher in an era of e-Government. e-Governance in India has steadily evolved from the computerization of Government Departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of Governance, such as citizen centricity, service orientation and transparency.

- Information for All- This pillar aims to ensure transparency and availability of reliable data generated by the line ministries for use, reuse and redistribution for the people of India.

- Electronics Manufacturing- This pillar focuses on promoting electronics manufacturing in the country.

- IT for Jobs- This pillar focuses on providing training to the youth in the skills required for availing employment opportunities in the IT/ITES sector.

- Early Harvest Programmes- This pillar consists of a group of different short-term projects which have immediate effect on the Indian digital ecosystem like IT platform for mass messaging, crowd Sourcing of eGreetings, biometric attendance in the government offices, WI-FI in all universities etc.

Objectives of Digital India

The motto of the Digital India Mission is 'Power to Empower'. There are three core components to the Digital India initiative. They are digital infrastructure creation, digital delivery of services, and digital literacy.

Advantages of Digital India Mission

Digital India Mission is an initiative that encompasses plans to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Public Internet Access Programme is one among the nine pillars of digital India. On the platform of digital adoption, India ranks amongst the top 2 countries globally and the digital economy of India is likely to cross $1 trillion by the year 2023.
Some of the advantages of Digital India are:

1. There is an increase in electronic transactions related to e-governance.
2. An optical fiber network of 2, 74,246 km has connected over 1.15 lakh Gram Panchayats under the Bharat Net programme.
3. A Common Service Center (CSC) is created under the National e-Governance Project of the Indian government which provides access for information and communication technology (ICT). Through computer and Internet access, the CSCs provide multimedia content related to e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment, and other government and private services.
4. Establishment of digital villages along with well-equipped facilities such as solar lighting, LED assembly unit, sanitary napkin production unit, and Wi-Fi choupal.
5. Internet data is used as a major tool for the delivery of the services and the urban internet penetration has reached 64%.

Impact of Digital India Campaign
Since its launch in 2015, the Digital India campaign has left its impact in various fields:

- Around 12000 post office branches in the rural areas have been linked electronically.
- The Make in India initiative has improved the electronic manufacturing sector in India
- Digital India plan could boost GDP up to $1 trillion by 2025
- Healthcare and education sector has also seen a boost
- Improvement in online infrastructure will enhance the economy of the country

Digital Empowerment
Digital empowerment of citizens is a cornerstone vision of the initiative. Through digital literacy programs and skill development initiatives, citizens are empowered to effectively use digital tools and technologies. This empowerment goes beyond mere access to technology; it enables individuals to participate in the digital economy, access educational resources, and engage in various socio-economic activities. This vision aligns with India's aspirations to create a digitally savvy population that can harness the opportunities offered by the digital age.

Digital Literacy
Universal digital literacy is closely linked to the initiative's vision. By providing digital literacy training to every citizen, regardless of age or background, Digital India aims to equip individuals with the skills needed to navigate the digital world confidently. This becomes particularly significant in a country as diverse as India, where digital literacy can bridge gaps and foster social inclusion.
Digital Financial Inclusion.

Digital financial inclusion is another critical vision of Digital India. By promoting digital payment systems and enhancing access to financial services, the initiative seeks to bring the unbanked and underbanked population into the formal financial sector. This not only empowers individuals economically but also contributes to the growth of a cashless economy and reduces the dependence on physical currency.

Innovation and Startups
Furthermore, Digital India envisions nurturing innovation and startups in the digital domain. By fostering a conducive environment for startups, the initiative aims to tap into the potential of young

entrepreneurs, driving technological advancements and job creation. The focus on electronics manufacturing supports this vision, promoting local production and reducing import dependence.

Vision of Digital India Mission
The Digital India Mission envisions a comprehensive transformation of India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. This ambitious program, launched by the Indian government, seeks to leverage the power of technology to bridge the gap between urban and rural communities, enhance government services, and drive economic growth.

Challenges of Digital India
The government of India has taken an initiative through the Digital India Mission to connect the rural areas of the country with high-speed internet networks. Apart from the various initiatives taken by Digital India, there are several challenges faced by it.

Some of the challenges and drawbacks of Digital Mission are mentioned below:
1. The daily internet speed, as well as the Wi-Fi hotspots, are slow as compared to other developed nations.
2. Most of the small and medium scale industry has to struggle a lot for adapting to the new modern technology.
3. Limited capability of entry-level smartphones for smooth internet access.
4. Lack of skilled manpower in the field of digital technology.
5. To look for about one million cybersecurity experts to check and monitor the growing menace of digital crime.
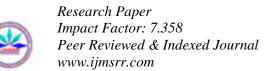6. Lack of user education.

Conclusion
The Digital India Mission has had a profound impact on various sectors of the Indian economy and society. The digital India initiative has had a significant impact on our country's development. Economic, environmental, and societal repercussions are all possible. It is projected that a campaign like Digital India may boost India's economy by one trillion dollars, and the government is now aiming to make it a five trillion dollar economy. India's digital literacy has also improved. It has taught us how to deal with disasters such as pandemics.

Digital India is one such tool, if implemented accurately can be proved extremely profitable to the masses. It not only can bring employment to the youth especially in the field of electronics and computer science, but can help the old age people as well. People living in rural areas are also benefited by the programme, as they no longer have to move to the cities for various reasons. It is the responsibility of every individual to make proper use of the opportunities and make others also to do so. This programme enhances literacy rates and the development of our nation.

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