

Digital Education for a New Humanity

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Abstract

Digital Tools make learning easy and enable the learner interact socially. They also provide a congenial atmosphere for a learner to develop his skill. With the upsurge of technological advancements, the trainer and the trainee get an enriched experience. Be it sports, education or fine arts, digital literacy is the need of the hour. As indicated by their excessive use of social media, today's college students are part of a "screen-based society". Education is changing its phase from teacher centered to screen based learning and enables them retain technical skill. The faculty should help students develop with necessary skills for a global economy.

Keywords: Higher Education, Technology Platforms, Global Economy.

The importance of the sphere of virtual humanities has multiplied all over the world. Corona has had a sizeable effect on the Indian languages as they are lagging behind in moving with the digital zone. The contribution of Digital technology in areas like historiography, aesthetics, language, culture and heritage, community and knowledge, locality and environment, texts and pedagogy and life and democracy must be checked. About Digital Technology and its role in everyday life, Indigital founder and CEO Mikaela Jade said, “India has already forayed into the digital realm with a massive task of securing democratic access to knowledge and preserving language and practices of its diverse communities. It is the scale of this task that will make the digitization of arts and knowledge in India a globally unique enterprise.”

In research field, digital humanities have a long journey like projects or the disciplines of humanities. If there are subsequent research publications, it is with the variety of internet sources available online it is possible as many challenges are to be met to complete a project right from creation, gathering digital sources and new stake holders etc. We can see the influence of Digital technology

in the intervention of computers in science and technology has to be adapted to humanities also. The frame works, infra structures, tools can be standardized for various divergent disciplines.

Education in India is on the journey of embracing Digital Tools to enhance the learning experience in students. Gone are the days of learning that were confined to books and preparing students to get into the Indian context. The global village is the buzz phrase now as all the sectors are marching towards it. In colleges and universities, the sharing of knowledge, collaboration, interaction and communication is brought through technology. New trends are continually updated in education which includes mobile devices, social media, blogs and podcasts. Even the student perception of knowledge and implementation were shown affect. To bring optimal learning among students, research in the areas of social and critical perspectives need to be updated.

Digital education involves technological learning. Students can assimilate a lot of information from any corner of the world through digital education. At the time of COVID 19 pandemic, education was through online and people commenced battling through different online implements. It availed not only educators but withal students who lived in rural areas. The infeasible came to possibility as the first generation users of technical contrivances became 'pro' users. Now let us identify the edifying policies and regime led accentuation on digitalization, there was much scope even for the students in rural areas to attend their conventional academics because of the technological advancements.

"I think it is important to first map and identify the way in which computation, media and digital, is being probed and prodded by different data creators in India. We should describe our practices and then think about ways to theorise the trajectory of our digital history," said Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Department of Liberal Arts, Chandan Bose.

The objective of digital education is to develop local inculcation to the diversity of language in India, develop virtual training in laboratories with advanced techniques and equipment. This is one side of the coin. Technological advancement marks the progress of a country but brings out the drawbacks with perpetual utilization. The gregarious economic, academic and family activities are interfered when people hook themselves to contrivances. Youngsters especially feel offended when they are caught with their mobile chat or face book contact. They often deport erratic when they are queried. Many adults have made it a habit to answer call on mobile phones even while taking victuals. This is viewed as eccentric comportment by some. Technological changes are not adopted by everyone in the same way. Rosen (2012) opines "those who are addicted to social networking may have a predisposition to be narcissistic, and social networking can escalate this tendency". The addiction towards technology makes them impulsive. Due to lack of self regulation "will power" in the students is also lacking (Mischel et al 2011). As Casey Opines "The children are more likely to grow up into adults with less impulse control than children who demonstrate the self control" (Casey et al., 2011). It is also identified that the impulsive nature is due to over use of electronic devices.

In 21st century, the oral and inscribed conversations between people are done through communication contrivances. The individuals utilizing these technologies respond in haste or with emotion leading to misunderstanding. This in turn spoils relationships. While face to face interaction relies on body language, tone in distribution of message, the automated messages and similes in our message chats bring disrupted relationships. The technology now has made everyone react to its tunes rather formulate one's celebrations. The condition is getting worse day by day with the advent of video games and other non productive implements. Teenagers are not mindful and we can optically discern the generation devoid of rudimentary manners and reverence in few years. Through the utilization of technology and contrivances, the tasks get accomplished but may not yield assured gifts always. The vulnerably susceptible traits of sending, posting and sharing

content alarming the behavior of children. The elders can take hold at this caliber to avail the child sequence faculty of cerebrated before action. "When we forgo critical thinking, we risk alienating ourselves from what makes him human". (Murphy & Pardeck, 1986)

Multi tasking, a predominant behavior is observed in people using technology like watching television and eating food, listening music and driving, drafting an e-mail while texting message in a mobile. These traits are often observed while talking to colleagues, friends and family. Since the portable device is work friendly, a live call could very well be added to the multiple tasks already underway. The multitasking behavior is emerging as a badge of honor, while those who concentrate on one activity at a time could be viewed as being inefficient. "The adaptability to socio-cultural changes for academic purpose requires certain cognitive development that can be associated with experience gained over age. Verbal interaction with others, using universally acceptable to logics, propels one's cognitive ability" (Piaget, 1959). The question how tweets or text messages affect the habit and the process of deep thinking while in verbal communication is the prime topic for which versions of answers are available.

Numerous initiatives were launched by the Indian government to support students and provide education to everyone desirous of settling in various fields. Some of the online learning portals include E-PG Pathshala, SWAYAM and ORDERLY.

Challenges with Digital Education in India

Though digital education in India is moving in a more expeditious pace, there are major challenges that need to be answered. Internet connectivity in rural areas has become a stumbling block in online classes as the students could not attend customarily. The purport of online education is to avail the student but with technical glitches the purpose is distributed. Though private tariffs for mobile data accommodate, the contrivances are not met. Training the trainee is additionally a quandary as per regularity of attendance and cognizance acquired is taken into concern. The teachers who could not equip with these technical modalities stayed away from these and the teaching learning atmosphere lost its charm. Thus anyone who could handle a technological implement with keen interest became a teacher online for replacement to an experienced pedagoga. Even colleges and schools in rural areas are still in the process of acquiring ICT implements to edify students.

On the other hand, technological development has brought relations together. Long distances have shortened with video calls and online chats. They are even cost friendly. Caplan views that the dependency on mobile phone in order to escape from relationships is most common among teenagers. They spend hours on the gadget and thus imagination and ability to communicate are overlooked (Caplan & High, 2011; Turel, Serenko, & Bontis, 2011). Even cyber bullying is common among teenagers. Social media has become a growing epicenter for the teenagers. Even a beginner can get recognition very easily through social media. Youtube videos, Instagram reels have brought wider audience with their never ending talent display. A public gathering can hold audience about five hundred to one thousand where as social media can give viewer ship more than that. Therefore, all the talent these days is not before any schools of theatre or fine arts for a chance but display their talent on social media platforms. Thus the digital tools have equipped many with their ready to use techniques for earning a living.

On the other side the content shared on social media sometimes violates the rules and they are taken for cyber bullying. The coments and posts have taken a toll on many people. This inturn has a tremendous impact on the person and they go to dipression or take bold step like suicide. "Whether perceived or real, this sense of feeling disgraced in presence of a wide audience can have bigger impact on a person's social life than the same comments made face-to-face in front of a couple of people". (Albin, 2012; Englander, 2008), There are children who try to imitate these and they even

lose their life. The parental love is substituted by the screen time and children with and age below five is also addicted to the screen. "The widespread occurrence of cyber aggression among children aging from 8 to 12 is correlated with loneliness offline" (Schoffstall & Cohen, 2011).

"Since social interaction can trigger emotional response (Hareli & Rafaeli, 2008), influence on emotion is inevitable where there is social impact. Technology allows us to upload embarrassing videos and pictures of others on a public platform (Englander, Mills, & McCoy, 2009) such as YouTube, Instagram and Facebook or it can be sent to hundreds of people with a mobile device".

Any emotional insult remains permanent as humiliation can be extremely severe in 'Social Media'. It is easy to make a remark online as the person is not identified but the effect remains permanent. Humiliation sometimes is so severe and tackling it online is a different deal. In online interaction, facial expressions are often misinterpreted and impact is much on the person. There is a blurred sense of reality which never comes out until the person is asked open and this never happens online as the content posted matters than the emotion of the person.

"It is easier to make an unkind remark in an online environment, because one cannot see the emotional disturbance that the statement causes. People tend to care about each other's feelings when another person is in the same room. The digital age sometime offers a blurred sense of reality. When one cannot see another's facial interaction in an online environment, she may make a rude remark, forgetting there is a real person at the receiving end" (Smith & Place, 2011).

Technology has impacted learning in many ways. The future of education cannot be imagined without the use of gadgets. While becoming technically strong, student should focus on using it properly as to uphill the skill. In many universities blended learning is introduced and students can attend classes online without missing their important commitments. Teachers can utilize the digital tools in the class to make the students meet the job requirements. After Corona pandemic students have become culturally diverted and there is a need for teachers to bridge the gap and make classroom a digitally equipped learning zone.

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