

“Digital India –A Roadmap for Future India”

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ABSTRACT

“Digital India” is a flagship programme of the Government of India whose purpose is to transform India into a global digitized hub by digital connectivity and skill enhancement and numerous other incentives to make the country empowered in the field of technology. This paper initiates to understand the global as well as domestic challenges that could damage the successful implementation of the program and provide some feasible remedies to deal with the problem. Further the paper also highlights the opportunities that could pave the way for making India the preferred choice for digital activities by both global and domestic investors and also how far the “Digital India” model can prove to be an attractive avenue the investors to achieve their full potential in India.

KEYWORDS: Digital India, Digital Empowerment, Job Creation, Skill Enhancement

INTRODUCTION

The “Digital India’ programme, an initiative by Prime Minister M. Narendra Modi emerges as a new phenomenon in every sector and generates innovative endeavors for future India. The purpose behind this concept is to build participative, transparent and responsive system. The Digital India drive is a dream project of the Indian Government to reshape India into a knowledgeable economy, digitally empowered society to provide efficient governance for citizens. And to digitally connect and deliver the government programs and service to mobilize the capability of information technology across government departments.

Digital India was launched by the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 July 2015- with the objective of connecting remote areas with high-speed Internet networks and improving digital connectivity. The vision of Digital India Programme is inclusive growth in areas of electronic services, products manufacturing and job opportunities etc and it revolved around three key areas-Digital Infrastructures as a Utility to Every Citizen, Governance & Services on Demand and Digital Empowerment of Citizens.

MAJOR PROJECTS UNDER THE INITIATIVE

Digital India is combination of numerous initiatives under the single programme each targeted to prepare India for becoming a knowledge economy and for bringing good governance to citizens through synchronized and co-ordinated engagement of the Government. Nine projects have been undertaken. These are as follows:

1. Highways to be connected by broadband services: Government aims to lay National optical fibre network in all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats. Broadband for the rural will be laid by December 2016 and broadband for all urban will mandate communication infrastructure in new urban development and buildings. By March 2017, the government aims to provide nationwide information infrastructure.
2. Fast & Easy access to mobile connectivity: The government is initiating steps to ensure that by 2018 all villages should be covered through mobile connectivity. The aim is to increase network penetration and cover gaps in all 44000 villages.
3. IT Training for Jobs: This initiative seeks to give training to 10 million people in towns and villages for IT sector jobs in five years. It also aims to train 0.3 million agents to run viable businesses delivering IT services.
4. Manufacturing of electronic Products: The government is focusing on reduction of imports of electronics. In order to achieve this, the government is focusing on Mobile, Consumer and medical electronics.
5. Provide public access to internet: The government is planning to provide internet services to 2.5 lakh villages which comprises of one in every panchayat by March 2017 and 1.5 lakh post officers in coming two years. These post offices will become Multi-Service centers for general people.
6. E-Governance: The government is planning to facilitate delivery of services through e-Governance with UIDAI, on-line payment, EDI and mobile platforms. School certificates, voter ID cards will be provided online. This aims for a management of data in a better way.
7. E-Kranti: this service aims to provide electronic services to people of all areas which deals with health, education, farmers, justice, security and financial inclusion.
8. Global Information: Hosting data online and engaging social media platforms for governance is the aim of the government. Information is easily available for the citizens.
9. My Govt. in is a website launched by the government for a two way communication between citizens and the government. People can send in their views, recommendations and comment on various issues.
10. Harvest programs: Government plan to set up Wi-Fi facilities in all universities throughout the country. Email will be the primary mode of communication. Aadhar Enabled Biometric attendance system will be mandatory in all central government offices where recording of attendance will be made online.

Vision of Digital India: Initiative of Dream project

- i. Digital Infrastructure as a utility to every person. This initiative deliver high speed communication technologies and digital services that will reach to the remotest villages. Public services like land records, certificates and many more will be made available online or on public cloud.
- ii. Governance and services on Demand: aim of this is provide single window access to every person. Every government services or information will be available online and on mobile platforms with a single touch.
- iii. Digital Empowerment of Citizens: under this every citizen will empower through digital education and universal access to digital resources. All documents and certificates to be available on cloud and also in Indian languages.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Digital India” initiative has been an developmental phenomenon for various researches from different disciplines because of its great significance and influence on the economy as a whole and particularly the technological sector. It is a recent move, there have been various researches on different aspects of the initiative ranging from the economical to social and ethical perspectives. Some of these researches retrieved through internet searches have been reviewed here.

Prof. Singh began with the basic idea of what Digital India entails and led a discussion of conceptual program and examined the impact of “Digital India” initiative on the technological sector of India. He concluded that this initiative has to be supplemented with different amendments in different initiative Sundar Pichai, researched about Digital India and its impacts to create jobs opportunities in the information sector. He concluded that creating new jobs should be continued with moving more workers into high productivity jobs for providing long term impact in the technological sector in India.

Microsoft CEO, Nadella intends to become India’s partner in Digital India program. He said that his company will launch communicate low cost broadband technology services across the country.

Many other MNCs intends to launch Digital India movement to play an important role in effective delivery of services, monitoring performance, managing projects, and improving governance. Digitalization can be very help full in research and development, and solving problems through Innovation & Technology, sharing applications and knowledge management will be the key to fast results.

SCOPE OF DIGITAL INDIA

The scope of overall programme is –

- The digital India is a tremendous plan to develop India for a knowledge based society.
- It has the scope of transformation of society through technology
- The programme integrates into many schemes like e-Health, e-Education and e- governance etc.
- It can combine together a large number of ideas and thoughts into a single and comprehensive data base.
- Digital India can have transformative impact on Indian society, education economy and govt. services.

Digital India mission has following targets for future

- Broadband in 2.5 lakh villages, universal phone connectivity.
- 400,000 Public Internet Access Points.
- Wi-fi in 2.5 lakh schools, all universities : Public wi-fi hotspots for citizens
- Digital Inclusion :1.7 Cr trained persons for IT, Telecom and Electronics Jobs
- Job creation: Direct 1.7 Cr and Indirect at least 8.5 Cr.
- E-Governance & e Services: Across government
- India to be a leader in IT use in services health, education, banking
- Digitally empowered citizens –Public cloud, internet access.

Digital India and Rural development:

Digital technology can make life easier for the villages also. It can provide many services at the level of panchyat and helps in transformation of rural India. Panchyat of a village Chandana in Distt. Kaithal of Haryana and Bibipur village in Jind of Haryana is providing various services at Panchyat Ghar at village.

BARRIERS & REMEDIES

Digital India is a huge plan but it has certain weaknesses in proper implementation due to inaccessibility & inflexibility to requisite can lead to its failure. There are few barriers of the Digital India programme which are as follows:

1. Infrastructure deficit such as lack of towers, electricity especially in the rural India.
2. Success of this program is dependent on multi agency coordination there for it may have Implementation problems.

3. Beneficiaries may not have adequate knowledge of Digital India programme, lack of awareness of users can be a handicap.
4. Auxiliary services such as health, education, banking, governance etc are not available digitally.
5. There is no grievance redressal system for consumer under this program.

Following remedies can be help full in overcoming all these barriers -

1. Electronics manufacturing and skill development issues must be answered for proper implementation.
2. Training institute are needed to be setup in each state under Digital India Programme to aid in augmenting the digital education and awareness level.
3. Digital education must be in the part of education in every school and college etc.
4. Government should conduct the seminars and workshop to make people aware of various digital services.
5. To advertise the DIP with the help of booklets, TV, newspapers and other effective media services, so that people could be aware about the e-services.
6. Lectures must be organized in every govt. and semi govt. institute to enhance the awareness about the benefits of digitalization.
7. To launch a help-line number of DIP so that people can tell the problems relating to e-services.
8. Provide a help center to solve public issues.
9. To connect the villages directly to e-markets to know the price of crops and providing other information's to farmers via e-technologies.

CONCLUSIONS

Digital India' initiative is a refreshing movement and need of the hour for the growing technological sector in India. The Government of India aims to achieve growth on multiple fronts with the digital technologies. E-technologies has the power to connect farmer with market, producer with consumers, students with knowledge and likewise all stake holders with their avenues. If implemented rightly and used by various components it has the potential to transform the every aspect of human life. It can make access to various services with ease and can transform sectors like education, health and public service delivery system. It can help in growth of Indian job market and help to develop economy as a whole.

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