# DIGITAL LETERACY FOR WOMEN IN CHANGING SCENERIO OF EDUCATON

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*Abstract :* Traditional methods in the Education system restricted to only physical classroom, field training, practical lab work, and research have been replaced by the Digital Education system by using Digital media including online classes, webinar, you tube channels, blogs, social media, mobile app to educate women and There is a transformational shift in Education system from conventional to digital being adapted to nurture women perusing UG & PG level in Urban and rural areas. The research has been done to identify challenges in applying Digital Literacy in the current education system of UG & PG Level, awareness and Impact of digital literacy, adoption rate, and effects of the family background to grasp the new Digital Education System, economic impact to apply the system. The stage of the internet technology, government and institutional support etc.

My research finding indicates that the transformation shift from Traditional to New Digital Literacy in the current education system was sudden and rapid. **SARC- Covid 19** was the turning point and most influencing factor to steer the entire education system. Infrastructure was not ready to accept the change. Neither educationalist nor the students were ready to accept the change, and they had to do a lot of hard work from the scratch to get system implemented and students to follow the new Digital Education System. My research reflects the current digital led education system favors women to upgrade their skills and knowledge, government and institutional support is tremendous, they are coming forward to make a new digital India. Despite some challenges women in India are very well adopting system.

*Digital Literacy, Traditional education system, Women in India, Conventional education system, New Digital Education System*

## Meaning

Digital literacy is referred as the way of being able to understand and use technology for various objectives in life and career. Digital literacy skills allow you to find, use & create learns info online in a productive & useful way. And make life easier and better for self and others.

## Introduction

In 1995, Nelson Mandela said that "In the twenty-first century, the capacity to communicate will almost certainly be a key human right. Eliminating the distinction between the information-rich and information-poor is also critical to eliminating economic and other inequalities…and to improve the life of all humanity."Women have less access to and use information and communications technologies less than men. As a result, a stereotype has been developed that women are rather technophobic, have less interest in, and are less capable using technology. One set of opinions and explanations for why this is ranges from to the types of toys that Girls play with—dolls vs. video games—to software and technology design played by boys created the difference from here. Digitalization is transforming all aspects of the society, not just work

environment but also educational contexts. Digital Literacy as next to the Conventional education system comprises ICT & Digital Technologies by using digital cutting edge technology, digital live Google class room accessible from anywhere in the world, physical seminar replaced by the webinar at the ease of their comfort. Digital library to choose book online from a collection of the millions. You tube educational channels, blogs, podcast in any relevant topic and subject from world renowned educationists. Free e-book downloads available in any subject or topic has become easier than ever. The women aspiring candidates for UG / PG level program from different parts of the country including tier 2 and tier 3 cities face many challenges in terms of their family background either or both parents not educated and understands the importance of education, lack of financial resources to afford electronic gadgets including laptops and high-end mobile phones, accessibility of internet in remote and rural areas still prevalent that prevents women from those tier 2, tier 3 urban cities to adapt in a new digital literacy environment, the married women face heat from their spouse for not getting support to upgrade for digital literacy due to personal and financial reasons also dominant. Lack of awareness in terms of taking decision for buying new electronic and IT gadgets such as computer, laptops, mobile phones and other available options. Despite all above the challenges and bottlenecks. Indian women aspirants are accepting digital literacy. They are making themselves more aware about the electronic gadgets by taking information from the net and talking among the friends. They are able to convince their parents and spouse to accept the new digital literacy as against the conventional method of education so that they can also be involved in purchasing the electronic gadgets and learn how to use them. The Government and Institutional support are a predominant factor. They are highly influencing the digital literacy and new educational digital led infrastructure by sourcing funds to strengthen the system. Talented and highly digital educationalists have been appointed to apply the digital literacy for women in tier-2 and tier-3 cities or urban area.

### Objectives

The research was conducted with a goal to evaluate the upcoming challenges of digital literacy faced by women living in tier-2 tier-3 cities and rural area. Aimed to examine the bottlenecks in applying those digital literacy tools. Their family background literate or non literate, financial status as per affordability, and how much they are capable to adapt the digital literacy and up to what extent. How much they are capable in current situation with the limited resources. How they can be more aware about the electronic and IT Gadgets including Computer, Laptops and mobile phones. Government and institutional support to arrange the electronic gadgets to meritorious students taken up by many state government and distributed in the colleges and schools. Some electronic gadgets companies also offered schemes on discounted rates to meritorious students. And institutions such as BYJUS's, Aakash Institute and many others also took initiative to provide Tablets to their students enrolled for the program through digital literacy, where program and course curriculum are pre-downloaded to study at their own pace.

### Importance of Digital Literacy

Digital Literacy has a significant role in current scenario of Education system not only in our country but it is also all over the world for women throughout their lives. Having access to digital tools and possessing digital skills can help ensure women's economic survival and empowerment. It brings the students closer to the academic infrastructure with quicker flow of information and exchange of ideas by saving time and overcoming communication barriers. Digital Literacy has made contact easier among the students and academicians, whether it is one to one contact or mass connect within a real time frame according to country's specific time zone. Digital literacy enable to open the doors for future prospects of students and it helps them to adopt multiple courses academic and professional programs at the same time at their convenience. With the use of Digital Literacy one can make connection with people and become friends, get job interviewed online, attend online classes, webinar, forum, and be a part of the discussion in real time, real time updates in global perspective, learn faster and many more.

### Methodology

The research was organized to identify the impact of digital literacy as against the traditional education system, other challenges at home and outside, support or no support from Government and Institutions. The sample size comprised of 125 women UG/ PG level from different background physiographic, demographic, behavioral and geographical segmentation to identify various influencing factors in applying and accepting digital literacy.

Women aspiring UG/ PG level aged >18 years. The study covers structured and exhaustive 20 questions, direct and telephonic interviews divided into physiographic, demographic, behavioral and geographical information (age, gender, residential status, parent's occupation or student status, access of computer or

laptop at home, whether they have or not mobile phone, internet access, affordability of electronic gadgets, awareness about the gadgets & computer/ laptop, willingness to learn and adapt to the digital literacy system)

Digital literacy information and options available to them ease of use digital media including virtual Google class rooms, you tube, blogs, vlogs, podcast, mobile application, tablets. Basic knowledge to handle these entire platforms. The samples collected and analyzed with the data.  For the UG level of  students respondents , due to family restrictions only 20% of the women students from  Tier-2 and Tier- 3 cities do have their own mobile phones , 10% of the respondents is beyond the affordability of buying laptops or computers, 50% of the women respondents have their either laptop or desktop computer with internet facility at their home, 10% of the women respondents are reluctant to adopt new digital literacy and remaining 10% of the respondents are less aware of the new digital literacy.

The Data of PG level indicated 30% respondents have their own mobile phones with internet access. 20% have either laptop or desktop computer, 30% respondents still feel inability to afford such gadgets-laptop, computer and mobile phones due to low financial status, low level of awareness, but they still manage at their friend's home who have either computer or laptop or they sometime visit to cyber café for internet access and doing their work. 20% PG students respondents feel unease the use of electronic gadgets and reluctant for digital literacy.

### Result

Total 125 respondents aged between 19 years to 28 years have reverted out of 150 from all the sources seeking collection of data.

| Sr. | Respondents | UG Students | PG Students |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Respondents have mobile phones due to restrictions in family | 20 % | 30% |
| 2 | Can't afford laptop/ computer or mobile phone as low financial status | 10% | 30% |
| 3 | Respondents with either laptop/ computer at home | 50% | 20% |
| 4 | Reluctant in the tools of learning digital literacy of not ease of use. | 10% | 20% |
| 5 | Lack of awareness | 10% | 0% |

As per the research by speedlabs.in, the following data was seen currently observed in India.
- 95.4% of institutions currently conduct digital examinations.
- 91% of institutions use video conferencing tools for both online classes and digital exams.
- 91% of faculty members are comfortable with the online mode of education.
- 55% of students, who are the main stakeholders, are comfortable with the online mode of education.

The following figures support the above fact:
- Around 3700 Crore is the total annual student spend for higher education in India.
- 38% is the Compounded amount Growth Rate from 2016 to 2021 of alternative education platforms.
- 23 Lac is the estimated annual operational cost in exam related manual tasks for an average institute of 1000 students.
- In India, only 43% of women have ever used the internet, and for rural women that figure drops to just 34%.

### Challenges and Solutions

The idea of applying digital literacy at one go at different levels or say Tier 1, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities has never become easy and faced many challenges including lack of internet infrastructure and low connectivity at remote and hilly areas is the most  prominent factor faced by students. They do not have electronic gadgets mobile phones, laptop or computer at their home due to un-affordability or sometimes restrictions imposed from the family members. Lack of awareness and level of education of the parents and spouse is also a bottleneck to make them digitally rich. Colleges even do not have sufficient resources or can't provide separate computer or laptop ease their work, learning and up gradation to make them digitally rich.

The government should come forward to impart training in urban and semi-urban areas for the students to operate computer / laptop with some basic knowledge so that they can be comfortable in adapting the digital literacy. Meritorious students should be given free of cost laptops and computers. Government bodies, NGO should come forward and offer discounted rates especially for students on buying laptops, computer and mobile phones, internet facility should be given at nominal rates and should offer some affordable student packages. Workshops and seminars should be organized to create awanress about the use of electronic gadgets and offer free trials and practical experience through movable mobile vans operated in different parts of the Tier-2 and Tier -3 cities and also in College / University Campus.

**Conclusion**

Even though there are a few limitations as to practically apply the digital literacy in present scenario. The study has been able to convey the importance of digital literacy in present scenario; key challenges come on the way in applying the use of technologies in digital literacy system. And how women from urban and semi-urban area are impacted and far behind from the use of digital literacy and electronic gadgets. The research methodology has encouraged many respondents to know more about the government sponsored program and training about the use of electronic gadgets and offers for students for buying laptops/ computer and mobile phones. And how they can be benefited from the programs and offers run by Government bodies, institutions and NGOs. Government participation is still higher in all the areas to encourage digital literacy and academicians are also being given training to teach students with the use of technology. They understood that it saves time and energy and they can same the content on the cloud or web for their future reference.

The objective of this systemic analysis was to investigate the importance of digital literacy in present scenario where students can access content or syllabus, eBook from anywhere in the world with the use of electronic gadgets and internet. And how digital literacy can be beneficial and helped millions of students during SARS-Cov 19 without any disruptions and as a result of the pandemic, everyone upgraded their skills with digitalization, whether they are academicians or students in the field of education. Digital literacy helped everyone to save their time and cost as most of the online content are either free or available at very nominal cost as compared to the paper back and hardcover. Digital literacy also made the delivery of content fast and updated version becomes available soon without waiting for the paper back and hardcover.

The whole idea behind the study was to highlight the benefits of digital literacy, challenges appeared and how they can be overcome with the initiative of Government/ NGO/ Institutions to develop the women as a whole living in Tier-2 and Tier-3 Cities.

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