HermeneuticS

A Biannual Refereed International Journal of Business and Social Studies

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

YERA

A Publication of
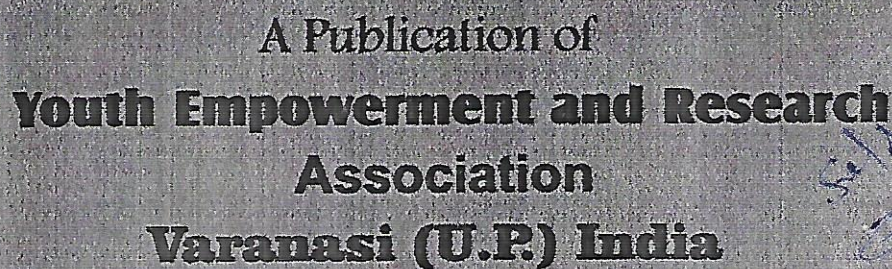
DIGITAL INDIA: WHAT IT MEANS TO E-LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Digital India is a campaign run by the government of India to make this country a digitally empowered country. The aim of launching this campaign is to provide Indian citizens electronic government services by reducing the paperwork. It is very effective and efficient technique which will save time and man power to a great extent. As indicated earlier, the Digital India initiative will add another dimension to the education sector and corporate learning sector. India has become the largest market for e-learning after the US, and the sector is expected to receive a boost from the government's Rs. 1.13 trillion Digital India initiative, says a recent report by the UK-India Business Council. Much has happened these days with rapid Internet penetration, availability of low-cost mobile devices, and the presence of a youthful workforce who are tech savvy: all these combined provide easy access to e-learning and this beacons a huge opportunity for e-learning companies to provide training for better skill development and knowledge empowerment.

Introduction:

India's education system has long waited for a major revamp. Not that we aren't seeing positive changes but that dream of having modern high tech education accessible to all seems far from reality. While the previous government tried to bridge the digital divide, the new Narendra Modi-led government has launched a new Digital India Campaign.

Digital India is a Government of India initiative taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative was launched on 1st September, 2015, to ensure that online government services are available to Indian citizens. The main motto of Digital India is to transform the entire system of public services through information technology. The mission of this initiative as mentioned by Modi is "We want to have one mission and target: Take the nation forward – Digitally and Economically," thus, improving the web infrastructure and developing better internet connectivity across the country. This initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is widely accepted in the United States. Technology giants such as, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and other similar agencies expressed their support to Digital India. In India, the education sector is transforming due to the increasing Internet penetration. Already, many private educational institutes have initiated digital classrooms and have included e-learning as part of their curriculum. This can be extended to more institutions, public and private organizations, with the government pushing digital technologies for quick and easy knowledge transfer to the masses. However, let's limit our discussion to e-learning within the educational and corporate training context.

What is Digital India ?

Digital India programme is flagship programme started by Government of India to make sure that the services offered by the government are available to the citizens of electronically by the improved online facilities. Not only online facilities but also the internet facility by doing this India can be developed digitally. This programme was launched by our Prime Minister of India Mr.Narendra Modi.This initiative plan includes plans to facilitate rural areas with high-speed internet networks. It consists of three main components in it :

- Delivering government services digitally.
- Development of digital infrastructure which is secure and also stable.
- Universal Digital Literacy.
- This e-Governance journey initiative in India took a broader dimension in 90's itself for the applications which deal with sectoral applications with citizen centric services.

Expanding E-Learning through Digital India

The typical Indian classroom was once characterized by students sitting through hour-long teacher monologues. Now, technology is making life easier for both students and educators. Schools are increasingly adopting digital teaching solutions to engage with a generation of pupils well-versed with the likes of PlayStations and I-Pads, and trying to make the classroom environment more inclusive and participatory.

Take Smart class from Educomp Solutions, one of the first Indian companies in this space. Smart class is essentially a digital content library of curriculum-mapped, multimedia-rich, 3D content. It also enables teachers to quickly assess how much of a particular lesson students have been able to assimilate during the class. Once a topic is covered, the teacher gives the class a set of questions on a large screen. Each student then answers via a personal answering device or the smart assessment system. The teacher gets the scores right away and based on that, she repeats parts of the lesson that the students don't appear to have grasped. Technology makes the teaching-learning process very easy and interesting," says Harish Arora, a chemistry teacher at the Bal Bharti Public School in New Delhi who has been using Smart class since 2004. "For instance, [earlier] it would easily take me one full lecture to just draw an electromagnetic cell on the blackboard. Though I could explain the cell structure, there was no way I could have managed

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