

# Digitalisation Of Education In 21<sup>ST</sup> Century: A Boon Or Bane

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**Abstract** - Digitalised education plays a crucial role in India. The arrival of internet and sophisticated technology has made a revolutionary change in the education sector. Educational institutions across the country started adopting modern methods of sharing knowledge to the students including smart boards, LCD projectors and so on. The Government of India introduced several programmes like SWAYAM, SWAYAM Prabha, National Digital Library and National Academic Depository for digitalising Education sector. The paper discusses the pros and cons of digital education in India, the current status of online education and the initiatives taken by government for promoting digital education.

**Keywords:** Current Status of Online Education, Education system, Government Initiatives, Learning Applications, Pros and Cons.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Digitalisation may be defined as the process of conversion of different information into digital language. The information converted may be in the form of audio, video, text or any other form. The arrival of internet has affected almost all activities done by an individual. Internet plays an inevitable role in everyone's day to day life. We are using internet for online shopping, making electronic payments, for booking tickets and even for ordering food. Everything is available to the customers at the door step through a single click.

The use of information and communication technologies has really helped the reach of education to the rural poor. Social medias like you tubes can be used for accessing videos uploaded by efficient instructors and professors all over the world. Digitalisation plays a vital role in education sector starting from primary schools, colleges and universities. According to Mrs Vijayalakshmi, the principal of MCTM Chidambaram Chettiyar School in Chennai the various primary and secondary schools across the country are adapting their traditional way of teaching to digital methods like videos, LCD projectors and smart boards. The usage of videos and LCD projectors succeeds in creating a long lasting memory among the students about various topics. According to the report titled "India E-Learning market outlook to FY2018-Increasing technology adoption to drive future growth" it is estimated that by the end of next year the country's electronic learning market will raise upto USD 1.2 billion. According to KPMG's report the country's electronic learning market currently stands at USD 247 million. It is estimated that in the year 2021 the e-learning market will reach to USD 1.96 billion. The

Indian Institute of Technology has initiated a programme with fund assistance from government to enable students to access free videos from Youtube. Such type of initiatives taken by the educational institutions in collaboration with government pays a way to spread quality education among the rural students.

### *Objectives of the study*

- ✓ To study the advantages and disadvantages of digitalised education.
- ✓ To study the current status of digitalised education in India.
- ✓ To study the initiatives taken by government for promoting digitalised education.

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Nivedita Jha<sup>1</sup> & Veena Shenoy (2016)<sup>1</sup>** has carried out a study to analyze the status of the modern education process in India. They pointed out that the country offers diversity not only in culture and ethnicity but also in purchasing power and affordability of the Indian people.

**Pawel Makosa (2013)<sup>2</sup>** has carried out a study to analyze role of digital education. He further studied the state of implementation of Digital education in India. The various expected results after implementation of digitalised education was also taken into consideration by the author.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is conceptual and analytical purely based on secondary data which is collected from books, national

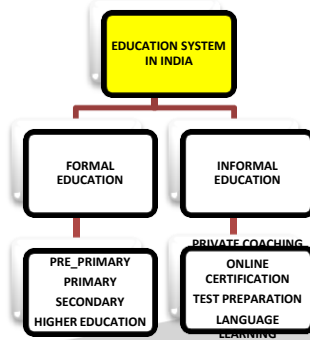
journals, international journals, published reports of government and other websites.

❖ **Education system in India**

Education system in India comprises of Formal education and Informal education. Formal education consists of educations that are provided to students through the formal

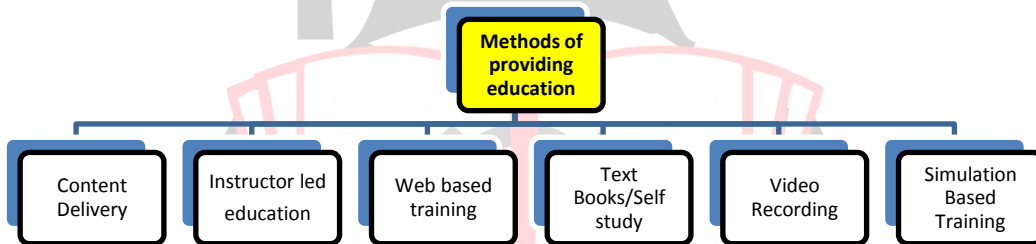
channels like schools and includes pre-primary education, primary education, secondary education and higher education. Informal education helps us to acquire additional knowledge and skill which is necessary to enhance our employability skill. Informal education comprises of Private Coaching, Online Certification, Test Preparation and Language learning.

**Figure no: 1 Education System in India**



(Source: Constructed by author based on KPMG report titled Online Education in India 2021)

**Figure no: 2 Methods of providing education**



(Source: Constructed by author based on KPMG report titled Online Education in India 2021)

**Table no: 1 Categories of Digital Education**

✓ Primary and secondary supplemental education	✓ Supplement to school learning for students enrolled in primary and secondary class school
✓ Higher Education	✓ Provide an alternative to traditional higher education courses
✓ Test Preparation	✓ Online programmes aimed at coaching students in preparation for competitive examinations
✓ Reskilling and online certifications market	✓ Courses designed to assist users in skill enhancement, which may result in certifications
✓ Language and casual Learning	✓ Learning of non academic subjects such as spoken English

(Source: Online Education in India 2021: KPMG Report May 2017)

**Table no: 2 Status of Online Education Market in India**

Category	USD in millions	No of paid users in thousands
✓ Primary and secondary supplemental education	73	467
✓ Higher Education	43	196
✓ Test Preparation	93	499
✓ Reskilling and online certifications market	33	55
✓ Language and casual Learning	5	353
<b>Total</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1570</b>

(Source: Online Education in India 2021: KPMG Report May 2017)

**Chart no: 1**

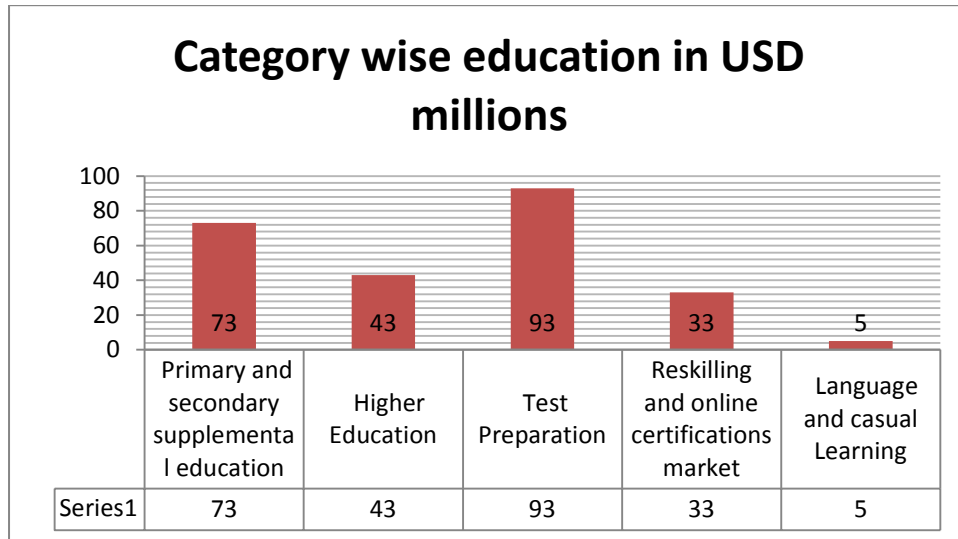
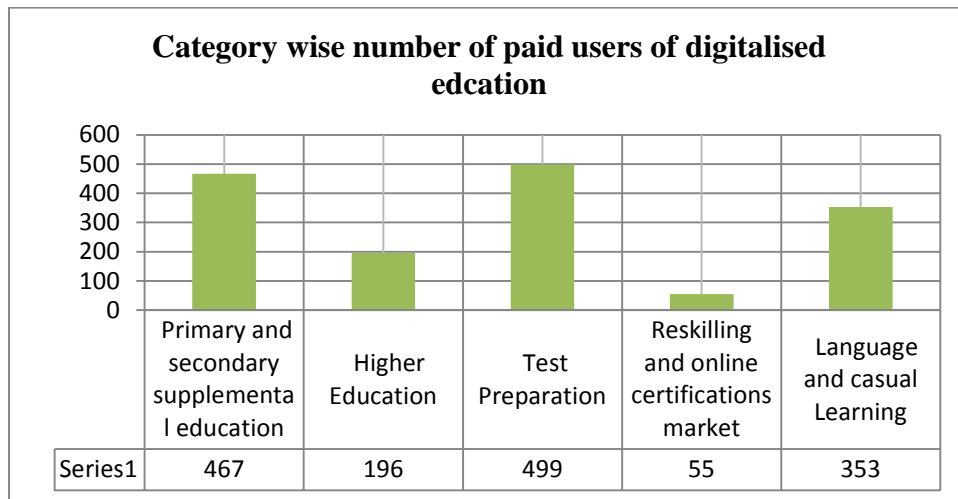


Chart no: 2



#### IV. MERITS OF DIGITALISED LEARNING

##### ✓ ENHANCEMENT OF STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY SKILL

The use of internet and technology for providing education to students really improves their talents in dealing with computers and network. The practical knowledge gained by those students who are explored to digitalised learning will be much more than who are explored to traditional way of learning.

##### ✓ WORLDWIDE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE

Digitalised education is the best way to make sure that the information is shared among a mass category of students. The arrival of internet has opened way for students to communicate with other students irrespective of national boundaries which really improves their communication skill.

##### ✓ EXPLORATION OF DIGITALISED LEARNING APPS.

With the emergence of internet students are able to explore various digitalised learning apps even sitting

from their home itself. The students can make use of dictionary.com, money control.com, TED talk, BYJU's-The Learning App for improving their knowledge.

##### ✓ VIDEO RECORDINGS

Digitalised learning enables students to record and download videos of their favourite instructors and to save it for the purpose of viewing it later. This method helps the students to refresh the topics whenever they get time.

##### ✓ MOBILE LEARNING

Learning is even possible for students using smart phones. The information regarding various Public Service Examinations are available to mobile applications. This type of learning helps students to make learning process more enjoyable.

#### V. LEARNING APPLICATIONS

- ✓ Amazon kindle
- ✓ Coursera

- ✓ Duolingo
- ✓ Khan Academy
- ✓ LinkedIn Learning
- ✓ Photomath
- ✓ Solo Learn
- ✓ Youtube
- ✓ Udemy
- ✓ Udacity

#### ❖ Drawbacks of Digitalised Learning

##### ✓ NOT ACCESSIBLE TO POOR STUDENTS

Digitalised learning is a way of technology enabled learning which further increases the gap between the rich and poor who are having access to digitalised learning tools.

##### ✓ LACK OF SELF MOTIVATION

Digitalised learning is suitable for students who are self motivated to explore various learning apps and technologies.

##### ✓ NO INTEREST FOR LEARNING ALONE

Some students find it as a great opportunity to go to class rather than to sit at home and to learn alone. School going is the biggest opportunity to build a group of friends.

#### ❖ Government Initiatives for promoting Digitalised Education

##### ✓ SWAYAM

Swayam is an online portal which is designed for providing online courses for students from all subject categories. It is estimated that more than 28000 students were registered for MOOCs courses through the online portal.

##### ✓ SWAYAM Prabha

Under this scheme the government has introduced 32 education channels through DTH that helps to share knowledge to the students.

##### ✓ National Digital Library

National Digital Library is a programme initiated by government for providing online access of materials to the students. The website provides online access to several e-books and documents that makes learning easy for the students.

##### ✓ National Academic Depository

National Academic Depository is a programme initiated by Ministry of Human Resource and Development in collaboration with for the digitalisation of academic certificates. The programme was introduced to enable digital storage and disbursement of certificates.

## VI. CONCLUSION

Digitalised education plays a vital role in India. The technological change has created a revolutionary change in the education sector. Digitalised education is very helpful for students to learn comfortably at home even using their smart phone, tablet or laptop. The adoption of new technology in class rooms by the teachers attracted students to learning rather than the traditional chalk and talk method. Furthermore digitalised education is one of the important sources of gaining revenue for the government and is really considered as a boom for the Indian economy.

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