



Impact of Digitization on Tribal Society with Special reference to Tripura

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Abstract : -Digital India programme is a programme to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy .This dream project of India government was launched on 1st July 2015 by prime minister Narendra Modi.. The project "preparing North-East for Digital India " is approved by Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) to support the Digital India initiative . In North East as well as in Tripura local vendors are using online apps for payment through e-wallet , Paytm etc. implementation of cashless transaction in petrol pump ,medical stores , departmental stores etc are increasing day by day. The tribal youth of the state are very enthusiastic about the Digital India programme . Each and every day they are learning and teaching the different dimensions of this programme among their society and beyond . But their society are suffering with some burning problems in the field of implementation of digitization such as lingual problem, financial problem , lack of proper guidance , communication problem, society inertia, non uniform reservation facility distribution among them etc. It is urgent to take some remedial steps in government policy to overcome those problems . Some of the remedial steps may be- setting up of more number of government managed English medium school in each tribal locality , also to encourage the private enterprises for setting up of more number of English medium school in rural areas , to arrange awareness programme among rural illiterate parents to encourage education of their children , making strict policy and programme to eradicate the belief on superstition and unscientific treatment etc.

The present paper aims to discuss the impact ,progress , to reveal the problems and also to suggest some remedial measures of Digital India programme on tribal society in north-east india and specially in Tripura . The method is descriptive survey and data is used from primary as well as secondary sources. Findings of the study reveal not only the present problems and challenges in the state, but also attempts to find out possible solution in order to overcome those maladies

Keywords :-Digitization , digital India, society inertia.

I. INTRODUCTION :

The Concept of 'Digital India' is a new concept to the Nation. This dream project of our Country aims to remodel India into a knowledgeable economy with good governance for citizens by bringing synchronization and co-ordination in public accountability as well as digital connect. Digital India programme targets universal digital literacy and approachability for all by ensuring that the resources and services are accessible in regional languages and providing digital- scaffold to participatory governance .This also includes using the facility of digital locker by all citizens to preserve all types of papers, documents, certificates picture etc. Safety is a great initiative by digital India programme. The concept is to provide citizens of India with a 'Cradle to grave identity' that is "unique, lifelong and online." The authorities have conveyed that the overall scope of this program is to prepare India to have the requisite knowledge to be equipped for the future and make technology the center that enables change this project in making it a umbrella program across sectors. The project focuses to the modern equation IT + IT = IT in reality that means India Today + Information technology = India Tomorrow.

Objective of the Study :

The objectives of the study are :

1. To understand the concept of Digital India

2. To know impact of digitization on Tribal Society.
3. To find out the challenges faced in the implementation of this project in Tribal Society of Tripura.
4. To suggest some remedial measures in the field of implementation of the digital India programme.

Present Scenario of Digital India Programme in Tripura :

The present Scenario of Digital India programme in Tripura is in developing condition in urban areas of the state. However, in rural and tribal society, it is in an unsatisfactory condition. The percentage of urban people are maximum literate and educated. They have the concept of modern technology with ICT which they are adopting smoothly. In the other hand, the rural tribal people are lagging behind in that field of digital concept. The literacy rate of the state is about 97% but the digital literacy rate is below 7%. The tribal youths are interested but their illiterate parents are not at all interested about digital India initiative.

Good percentage of tribal students are very much interested to implement the aspects of digitization among them. Those who are the students of English medium schools are quite successful in this endeavour but the students of Bengali medium schools do not possess so much interest. Till now a maximum percentage of tribal citizens of the state do not know the use of ATM, Paytm, Cashless transaction etc. Even they do not know how to submit a cheque to bank. Recently National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) has taken a good step to publicize the policies of digital India programme. NIELIT has arranged Digital India week campaign from 1st July to 7th July of 2015 at different places of the state to explain the following policies among common people which are :

- Digital Locker or Dig Locker.
- Jeevan Praman : About Life Certificate.
- Cyber Security.
- Cyber Hygiene .
- E-waste & how to Recycle them.

Also NIELIT has arranged Quiz contest for the awareness of digital India programme and 30,000 copies of leaflet has been distributed covering the message of digital India week.

Need of Digital India Programme :

The need of digital India programme at this modern time is very relevant for the country which is on the track of developing and accelerating condition. The needs are as follows :

- To make good governing body in the country.
- To produce a fast communication bridge among government body and stakeholders.
- To reduce the problems of communication with citizens due to wide spread geography, massive population and cultural diversity.
- To preserve all types of documents in the cloud.
- To provide facility of digital locker to every citizen of the country.
- To facilitate digital library to secondary and Higher education.
- To produce universal digital literacy.
- To generate all digital resource available universally.
- To make availability of digital services and resource in Indian languages.
- To make online registration for all vehicles .
- To make online land registration .

Pillars of Digital India :

There are nine pillars of digital India, these are as follows :

- (i) Broadband highways
- (ii) E-governance
- (iii) E-kranti
- (iv) Universal mobile access
- (v) Public Internet access
- (vi) Information for all
- (vii) Electronics manufacturing
- (viii) IT training for jobs

(ix) Early harvest

The Concept of Nine Pillars :

The concepts of nice pillars has been discussed below :

(i) **Broadband highways :** Central Government of India has allocated Rs. 5 billion to build high speed broadband highways connecting all the village, government department, university, NITs etc. This is a key driver in addressing the challenges in the department goals through tribe networks. The participation of private enterprise is very important for faster rollout of optic fiber networks across the south to north and East to west of the country.

(ii) **E-governance :** The department of electronic & information technology with department of administrative reforms & public grievances has formulated the National e-governance plan. This project work in both centralized and decentralized way. There are many different initiatives from central government as well as state government under this project to ensure the government services are available to citizen electronic gadgets.

(iii) **E-Kranti :** The project E-Kranti provides electronic delivery of services to the citizens. The central government has allocated 5 billion rupees for the e-kranti project which include e-health, e-education, technology for farmers, technology for financial inclusion and technology for justice. This e-kranti has come to its platform with full speed.

(iv) **Universal Mobile Access :** In our country very soon network technology like 3G, 4G & 5G will storm the speed. Government is specially preparing to connect unconnected areas and speedy use of these technology. General public will access the online government services with the help of handheld devices. Nation is ready to the well connected, efficient and more productive in every aspect.

(v) **Public Internet access :** Virtuous technology that support cost containment, collaboration, security services on the go, social connect and in built intelligence that deliver remote access to any information or service available across the domain. This change will open new doors of e-services to every citizen with great accessibility.

(vi) **Information for all :** To provide information to all websites through social media. Everything is connected through virtual networks. Swift work flow and no delays due to wait in queues such network will make a fast bridge among all citizen of the nation.

(vii) **Electronics manufacturing :** The Government is focusing on Zero imports of electronics. The milestone will create a huge base for electronics manufacturing in media with the aid of digital technologies and skills. The empowerment of manufacturing through the internet of things will enable intelligent workshops that demonstrate data driven operational excellence and decentralized production operational excellence and decentralized production control system within and beyond the physical factory walls. In order to achieve this the government aims to put up smart energy meters, micro ATMs, mobile consumer & medical electronics.

(viii) **IT training for jobs :** This initiative seeks to train 10 million people in town 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 Additionally, the project involves training of 0.5 million rural IT work force in five years and setting up of BPOs in each north-eastern state.

(ix) **Early Harvest Programs :** Government plans to set up Wi-Fi facilities in all universities across mode of communication. Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance system will be deployed in all central government offices where recording of attendance will be made online.

Various programs & services based on PPP of digital India programme are :

- **National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) :**

The key to Digital India program is Digital Literacy. It ensures digital literacy to disadvantaged community by "reaching out the unreached". The digital literacy program is in progress through NDLM The latter makes rural citizens digitally literate by various training and building programs:

- **Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) :**

. It is registered as not-for-profit under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. It finds feasible ICT solutions in under-served and unreached regions and communities. It has reached over 22 States and 8 countries, since 2003. The various projects carried out by DEF are :

- CWIRC (Chanderi Weavers ICT Resource Centre)
- Digital Panchayat
- Soochna Seva
- EMSME (Digital Empowerment Foundation for Micro, Medium and Small Enterprises)
- ENGO (web service package design)
- Social Media for Democracy
- W for C (Wireless for Community)
- Mobile for Good
- DKC (Digital Knowledge Centre)
- Green Prakriya
- ICT4D
- CIRC (Community information Resource Centre)
- Gyan Pedia
- Neerjaal
- Internet Rights
- The E-Heritage Project

- **Digitization of cable TV**

As part of Digital India initiative, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) has taken initiative of converting the TV broadcasting from analog to digital in various phases in India.

- **Digital Locker or DigiLocker (Beta version)**

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology as part of Digital India initiative has developed DigiLocker to provide each citizen a personal storage dedicated to the individual so that e-documents as well Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) link or e-documents issued by various issuer departments. The e-documents can also be signed by using e-sign facility of the DigiLocker. The DigiLocker will also be CBI Communication (April 2016) 8 linked with the Aadhar number of the same.

- **National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN)**

NOFN project will provide a way to implement various services, such as e-health, e-education and e-governance etc. by establishing broadband connectivity on optical fibre to 2,50,000 village panchayats across India. The Network thus forms the core of PM Modi's ambitious 'Digital India' project. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(BSNL) is working in different phases for same.

Impact of Digital India Programme :

The digital India project provides a huge opportunity to use the latest technology to 'redefine India the paradigms of service industry'. A digitally connected India can help in improving social and economic condition of people living in rural areas through development of non-agricultural economic activities apart from providing access to education, health and financial services. There are some impacts of digital India which are as follows:-

Economic Impact : It can play a key role in macro economic factors such as GDP growth, employment generation, labour productivity, growth in number of businesses and revenue leakages for the government.

Social Impact : Social sectors such as education, healthcare, and banking are unable to reach out to the citizens due to obstructions and limitations such as middleman illiteracy, poverty, lack of funds and investments. Modern ICT makes it easier for people to obtain access to services and resources. The penetration of mobile devices may be highly useful as a complementary channel to public service delivery apart from creation of entirely new services.

Environment Impact : The major changes in the technology space have not only brought changes to the economic system but are contributing to the environment changes. The next generation technologies are helping in lowering the carbon footprint by reducing fuel consumption, waste management, greener management, greener workplaces and thus leading to a greener ecosystem.

Impending Challenges : The digital India initiative is an ambitious project of the government and is by far, the biggest ever conceived. There are many challenges that could come in the way of successful completion of the project. These are as follows :

High cost of implementation :

Time overrun : The NOFN project which is the backbone of the digital India project has been delayed. The delayed project may lead to delay in other dependent projects and meeting the budget limit will be difficult.

Lack of coordination among departments : It involves participation of several department and demanding commitment and efforts. Hence, strong leadership and timely support of all the involved entities will play a critical role.

Poor private participation : The private participation in the government projects in India is poor because of long and complex regulatory processes.

Uniform and fast adoption of internet : Despite lowest data tariffs in the world, adoption of internet in India will be difficult due to illiteracy, affordability, and availability of mobile devices.

Challenges regarding digital India in Tripura :

In our state Tripura we have a bunch of challenges regarding implementation of digital India programme, specially in Tribal Society these are :

- Illiteracy among the tribal population.
- Lack of interest in digitization programme.
- Human inertia with previous habits & livelihood
- Negative thinking due to complexcity of digital India programme.
- Very less percentage of bank account holders among tribal rural people.
- Lack of concept of using smart phones.
- Unavailability of internet signal at remote areas.
- Non-connectivity of optical fire cables (OFC) throughout the rural areas.
- Very weak concept about internet language.
- Very less knowledge about english language.
- Lack of english medium schools in rural areas.
- Fear of loss of money by e-wallet, paytm transaction.
- Fear of loss of money by cheque transaction.
- Very uneassy feelings of cashless transaction due to lack of awareness.
- Lack of awareness programme in rural & remote areas.

Probable measures for improving the condition of digital India programme in Tripura :

To improve the present condition regarding implementation of Digital India program some steps should be taken in government policy as well as from the side of common citizen which may be :

- To make people educated instead of making literate.
- To set-up more number of government managed english medium schools in rural areas.
- To arrange frequent awareness programme in Tribal remote areas for adults.
- To establish digital school for adults.
- To spread concept of digitization among tribal students through computer education in schools.
- To arrange for campaigns by digital literate persons to spread digital literacy.
- To arrange hands on training about the use of smart phones among tribal adults.
- To spread OFC network in rural areas.
- To encourage private enterprises to establish more number of english medium school in tribal locality.
- To provide savings bank account to each villages by government initiative in collaboration with bankers.

- Providing smart phones with subsidized rate among poor tribal families.
- To cover all remote areas with mobile towers.
- To promote cashless transaction giving extra facilities.
- To arrange orientation programme by the faculty of NIELIT and NIT by covering all remote parts of the state.
- To make strict policy for eradication of superstition & un-scientific treatment among tribal population.
- To employ some digital literate team at remote area for constant help of the community participation in digital India programme.
- To setup digital club in each High & H.S School.
- To recruit efficient computer teacher in each School.

II. CONCLUSION :

This dream project of the Government of India will only be successful by the collaborative effort from central government as well as state government initiative. This project will create more number of employment in the country as well as in state Tripura. The Youths of the state are very enthusiastic about this digitization but they need proper guidance & help in that regard. But it is very important to give digital literacy to each tribal adult of the state specially in rural areas. Let us all keep our hands together & look forward for the successful implementation for this project for the brighter and prosperous India. Let's hope India will again be called a Golden sparrow and it will attain the top position around the globe.

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