Digital Divide: Challenge Of Digital India

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Abstract
Digital India still faces several difficulties despite its numerous attempts. In India, there is a growing divide between those who have access to and those who do not. As a result, this article makes an effort to understand how the problems with India's digital divide relate to one another. The relationship between the Digital Divide and Digital India has been investigated using regression analysis. Three categories—wealth, rural-urban, and gender—form the basis of the research. According to this report, rural people will fall behind if the nation's digital infrastructure is unreliable. Low participation in Digital India as well as other issues like social exclusion would result from this. Therefore, it is important to make connectivity available and reasonably priced throughout the entire nation.

I. Introduction

One of the biggest and most noteworthy recent changes in India is the emergence of the age of information. Technology is used digitally, but that is not all it is. In a bid to improve interaction and make activities simpler, it involves the utilization of contemporary technology to change enterprises, groups, and governments. A government initiative called "Digital India" seeks to speed up the adoption of digital solutions throughout the nation. The 'Digital India' initiative was introduced in 2015, and since then, there have been innumerable breakthroughs in the nation's cyberspace, virtual public service delivery, financial support for residents, and digital awareness. Mygov.in, the Bharat Interface for Money, E-Hospital, E-Pathshala, and several other digital platforms were built as a result of this program.

The "Digital India" campaign is built around three components.

1. Building of Digital Backbone: A robust technological framework must be put up, particularly in rural areas, to enable the delivery of diverse digital services throughout the nation. Interior portions of the nation either have a very limited or non-existent electronic network. Bharat Net seeks to use an optical fiber network to link 2,50,500 Indian towns to a high-speed internet network. 4,00,000 internet points will be set up as part of the scheme, from which everybody in the nation can access the internet.

2. Transmission of Digital Functions: A key part within the set is the operation of law enforcement and other vital goods digitally. The sectors would be related under this strategy, and all divisions would have equipped capacity to offer the public with basic facilities like wellness, financial planning, schooling, grants and loans, gas tanks, water as well as electricity bills, and representation by attorneys.

3. Cyber comprehension; The ability needed by Indians to participate fully in society is referred to as this. Examples of gadgets used for engaging, transmitting, collaborating, and marketing include portable devices.

II. Digital Divide

People will not be able to participate in online activities without having equitable access to technology and the Internet. This imbalance may exist between urban and provincial regions, men and ladies, taught and uneducated people, and different social classes.

By 2022–2033, As claimed by the NITI Aayog appraisal, India must close the digital separation. Nearly half of Indians lack access to the internet, which launched a strategy to examine how bottlenecks in cyber learning be removed. To narrow the nation's digital separation, the Indian leadership is taking significant steps to learn about IT. One such move is the installation of Digital India.

III. Review of Literature

Ms. Ipsita Panda, Mr. Durllav Charan Chhatar & Dr. Bulu Mharana (2013) "A Brief View to Digital Divide in Indian Scenario" In this paper, the technological gap is discussed in relation to how it may affect both

the Indian situation and the wider world. In order to ensure that local requirements are addressed in technology innovation, the study concluded by highlighting the necessity to build models for cooperation among investigators, social scientists, librarians, technologists, etc.

Sudhir Kumar Sharma, Vandana Lama & Nidhi Goyal (2015) "Digital India: A Vision
Towards Digitally Empowered Knowledge Economy" This paper set out with a vision for the endeavor, which will make use of technology and connectivity to boost the standard of life and have an impact on all facets of governance.

Jyoti Sharma (2016) "Digital India and Its Impact on the Society" Try to comprehend the campaign where connectivity and technology will converge to influence all facets of administration and enhance residents' living life. The research came up with the critical completion that ICT cannot directly contribute to the country's overall growth.

Prof. K. T. Koregaonkar (2016) "Digital India: A Program to Transform India into A Digitally Empowered Society" has a descriptive purpose for the most part. There includes a discussion of each of the nine components of the grant's concept, along with its individual points, benefits & shortcomings. The digitization of the Indian market will also consider business involvement and support.

Rahul Midha (2016) "Digital India: Barriers & Remedies" was an effort to develop solutions for removing Digital India's obstacles and ensuring an improved future for everyone. To ascertain how government services might be made electronically accessible to every citizen in order to raise each person's standard of living.

Stuti Saxena (2018) "Perception of corruption in e-government services post-launch of 'Digital India': role of demographic variables" emphasized how demographic constituents affected Indians in perceived bribery. Regression Analysis using the hierarchy technique was used. According to the study uncovering, gender is an economic factor that alters how respondents perceive immorality there is no impact from additional demographic parameters.

Neena Jindal, Kritika Thakur & Tania Sharma (2019) "Digital India: Challenges, Solutions and Its Impact on Society" focused to research an idea of digital India and discover the difficulties associated with putting digitalization into practice. The study has also made recommendations on how to implement the plan

Mrs. Divya Jyoti (2019) "Digital India and Its Impact" shows if India is ready to be digitalized and what initiatives the government is pursuing to make India fully digital. The purpose was to acknowledge and comprehend Digital India, where networks and innovations will come together to influence all facets of governance and improve natives' quality of life. The accessibility, openness, and affordability of telecom systems, networks, phones, products, and services for the average person must be urgently ensured.

Aiswarya Vijayan (2019) "Digital India- a roadmap to Sustainability" helps to acknowledge the economic impression of Digital India and how distant its operations have been accomplished, as well as to come about a blueprint for gaining the Sustainable Development targets using Digital India's verticals. Secondary data has been used.

Mamta Kumari Tiwari (2022) "Digitalization and Rural Development Challenges in India" examined the prospects of digitalization in a rural area. The paper highlights the difference in digitalization in rural and urban markets, the issue of the digital divide, implications, and challenges of Digital India. The paper indicates that agriculture contributes approximately 14% of India's GDP, and the country's aim of becoming a $5 trillion economy by 2024 necessitates a 20% contribution from agriculture.

Saravana K and Dileep Kumar (2022) "Digital Exclusion and Caste in India: A Meta-analytical Study" The digital divide in India amongst various social categories was investigated in this research. This writing also demonstrates how caste-based variations in socioeconomic conditions contribute to the digital divide between groups.

Dr. Nilesh M. Marvaniya (2023), "A Study of Conceptual Framework and Need of Digital Financial Literacy in India" With India's quick transition to a cashless economy and the growing use of digital financial services, this study brought attention to the importance of digital financial education in India. The literature on financial inclusion and digital financial literacy in India was reviewed, and the findings were examined to pinpoint major trends and difficulties.

IV.   Research Methodology

Objective:
To scrutinize the implications of the Digital Divide on the emergence of Digital India.
To examine the state-wise gender divide in internet usage.

Data Collection:
The scrutiny is exclusively based on Secondary Data. The statistical data includes material from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) Report 2019-21. NFHS-5 Report provides data for 28 states, 8 union territories, and over 707 districts. Regression Analysis is used in the study as a statistical tool.

Sample:
Several eligible men interviewed:
Urban - 26,420
Rural - 75,419
Total - 1,01,839
Several eligible women interviewed:
Urban - 1,79,535
Rural - 5,44,580
Total   - 7,24,115 Hypothesis:
H0 – Digital Divide has no relation to the growth of Digital India
H1 – Digital Divide has a relation with the growth of Digital India

Data Representation

Regression evaluation acts as an excellent empirical tool for considering the link among multiple variables of relevance. Despite there being many distinct sorts of regression analysis, they remain concentrated on the bearing of a number of distinct variables on a factor that is dependent.

Formula**:** $Y_i = f(X_i, \beta) + e_i$

Age-wise Gender divide Internet usage:

Age	Men	Women
19	16,385	18,240
24	14,384	17,809
29	14,195	17,398
34	13,109	15,295
39	13,029	14,558
44	10,846	11,973
49	11,197	12,741

Source: NFHS Report 2019-21
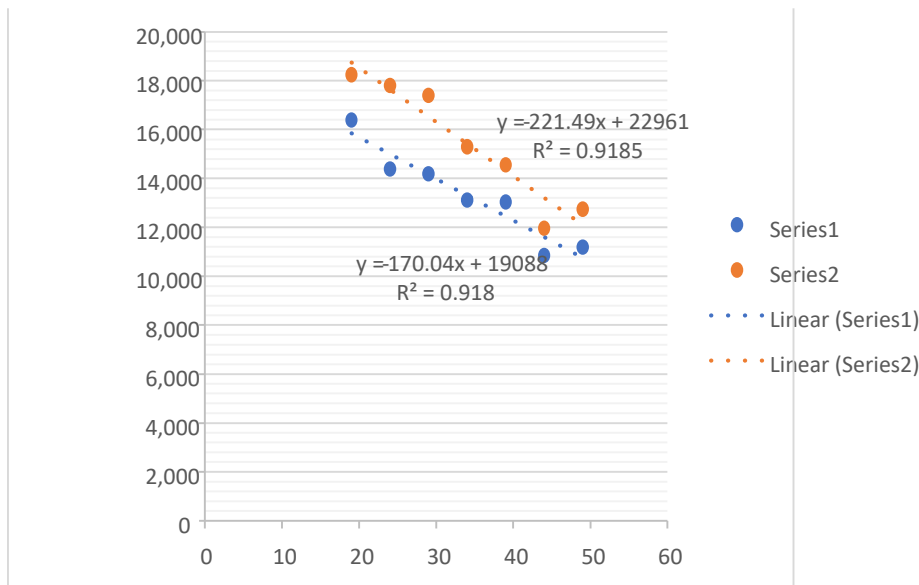
SUMMARY OUTPUT										
Regression Statistics										
Multiple R	0.93961677									
R Square	0.882879674									
Adjusted R Squa r	0.853599592									
Standard Error	567.2755986									
Observations	6									

	ANOVA								
		df	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Significance F*			
	Regression	1	9703254.914	9703254.914	30.15291027	0.005359119			
	Residual	4	1287206.419	321801.6048					
	Total	5	10990461.33						
		Coefficients	*Standard Error*	*t Stat*	*P-value*	*Lower 95%*	*Upper 95%*	*Lower 95.0%*	*Upper 95.0%*
	Intercept	18229.1219	1016.644215	17.93067982	5.68607E-05	15406.46505	21051.779	15406.46505	21051.77876
	19	-148.9257143	27.12096099	-5.491166568	0.005359119	-224.2255737	-73.62585	-224.2255737	-73.6258549
RESIDUAL OUTPUT				PROBABILITY OUTPUT					
	Observation	*Predicted 16385*	*Residuals*		*Percentile*	*16385*			
	1	14654.90476	-270.9047619		8.333333333	10846			
	2	13910.27619	284.7238095		25	11197			
	3	13165.64762	-56.64761905		41.66666667	13029			
	4	12421.01905	607.9809524		58.33333333	13109			
	5	11676.39048	-830.3904762		75	14195			
	6	10931.7619	265.2380952		91.66666667	14384			

Hypothesis Testing:

	Statement	Significance	Result
Null Hypothesis (H0)	Digital Divide has no relation to the growth of Digital India	<0.05	Rejected
Alternative Hypothesis (H1)	Digital Divide has a relation to the growth of Digital India		Accepted

Interpretation:

While the mobile connection is expanding swiftly, it is not expanding fairly. Still, women lag. A large percentage of women lack access to the web, even those who now own smartphones. The above computation shows the age-wise gender divide. According to the data collected the sample population consists more of women. In comparison to the total number of women, the percentage of them using the Internet is 42%. Moreover, the number of men using the Internet is 58%. Data were collected from people of age between 15-49.

Urban Rural Gender Divide:
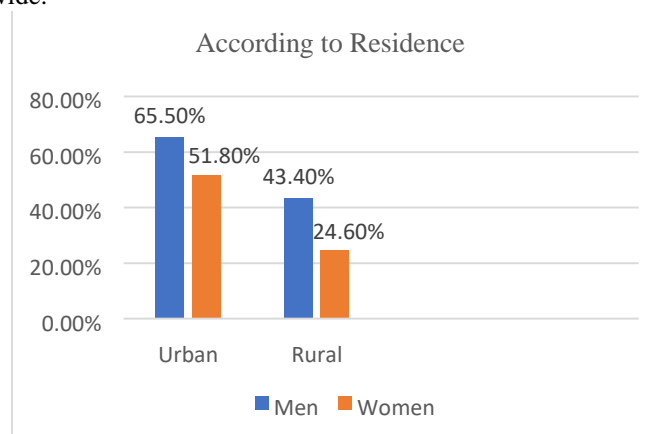
Interpretation:

The technological gap between cities & the countryside was made evident during a lockdown. The situation was clear everywhere, including in the marketplace egovernment, and e-finance, all of which during the shutdown remained mainly available online. The segregation data of the Rural-Urban divide, clearly shows that 65.5% of Urban males and 51.8% of Urban females have ever used the internet. While only 43.30% of Rural men and 24.60% of Rural Females qualify for this condition. It is important to note that across all, the Urban male is the highest and the Rural female is the lowest.

Rich Poor Gender Divide:
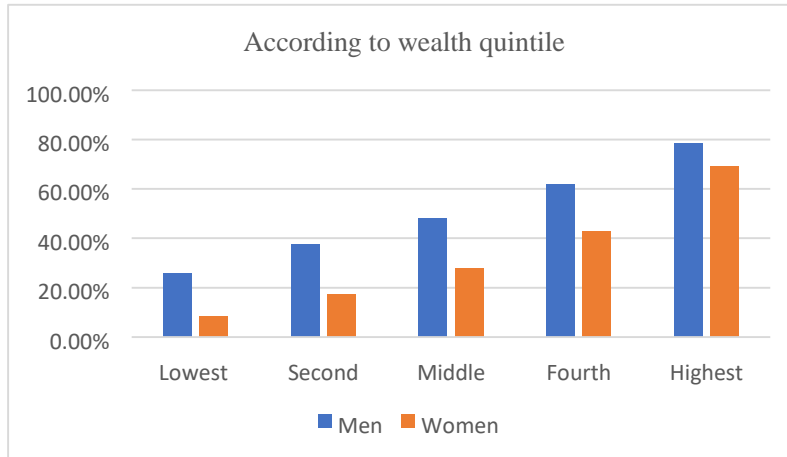
Interpretation:

Online resources continue to be more accessible to the wealthy and educated than to others. The data segregated shows income-related inequalities. The highest quintile consists of the wealthiest people of which 78.2% of males and 69.2% of females qualify. This may lead to problems like social exclusion and people with low income will not be able to afford the internet due to its cost.

State-wise Gender Divide:

Union Territory Gender Divide
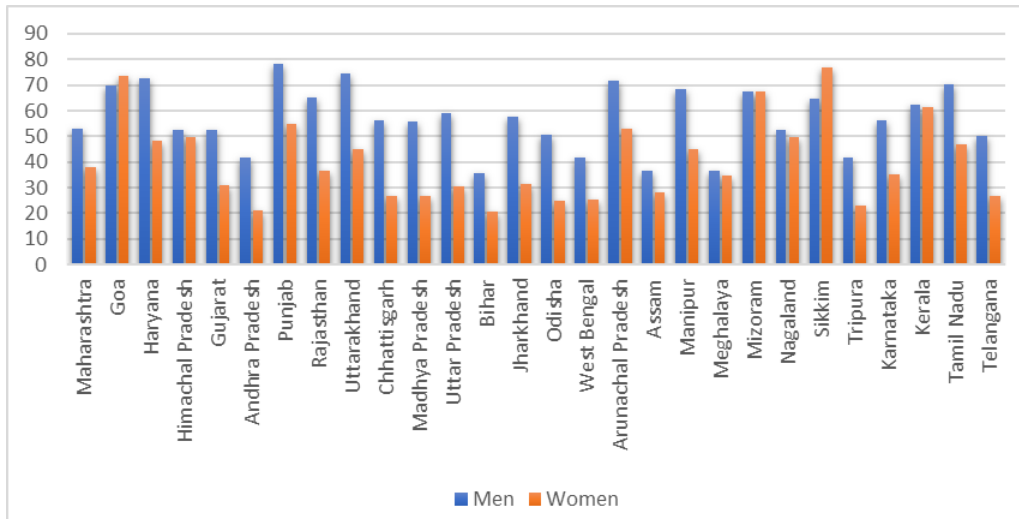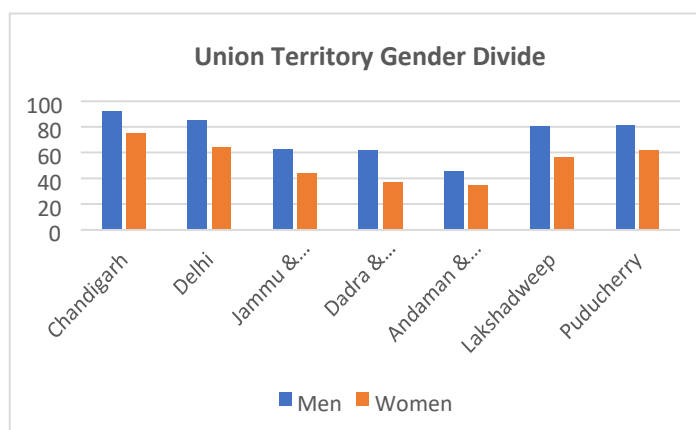
Interpretation:

Only 43% of individuals in India, pursuant to the ITU's World Telecommunication, utilize the web. The NFHS-5 Report, although, shows a notably larger gender gap in web usage. This gender divergence exists across all states. It is noted that among all states and Northern India, Chandigarh has the eminent number of internet users, and after that follow up Delhi. The lowest users were found in Bihar, an eastern state. In Central India-Uttar Pradesh, Northeast India- Arunachal Pradesh, West India- Goa, and South India- Puducherry, qualify for the highest users.

V.   Analysis & Discussion

Digital incongruity can be elucidated as the disparities in accessibility to the web and ICTs between digital haves and have-nots. The digital divide can be measured using complications including accessibility, cost-effectiveness, and proficiency in digital technologies. This study takes a straightforward outlook and gives weightage to the utilization facet. Internet users can also help to measure the growth of Digital India because people having a smartphone and a better internet facility will be able to take advantage of digitalization. Due to digitalization, more facilities are available across India without any geographical barrier. In the above study, various digital divides were analyzed. Men have inordinate access to internet technology and own more cell phones, according to general observation. While there may be minor differences, urban men far outnumber others in terms of cyber availability and phone ownership when compared to metropolitan women, rural men & women. And their internet access is also less.

VI.   Conclusion

The phrase "Digital India" serves as a metaphor for India's modification into a society that is empowered by technology and is evolving knowledge economy. The Digital India program's slogan, "POWER to EMPOWER," sums up its objective of moving the nation forward economically, digitally, and effectively. However, the digital divide has profound social effects. Access to modern tech has the power to make prevailing social exclusions worse and dispossess individuals of essentials. India is increasingly dependent on the internet and digital technologies; hence the country is affected by the digital divide. This divide is one of the challenges encountered by Digital India. The numerous Digital India Schemes do not allow participation from people from all different geographical and economic backgrounds. Nevertheless, each year has seen improvement. Government should also incorporate the general community in the process of any initiative and take their suggestions and feedback also. It can also be eradicated by providing proper framework, digital literacy, and regional language promotion.

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