

INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN DIGITIZATION THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Women are an equal part of the society. They represent almost half the race and are contributing equally to the economic output of the country and the world. However, it has been noticed that not all women are able to keep up with the pace of changing society- especially digitization. Many women find it difficult to adopt to the change as they uneducated to be able to read the content online, not afford the required devices like smart phones or laptops, feel scared to go ahead as they are unaware of the correct procedures and in some cases are forbidden to use technology. The objectives of the present paper are to understand the exposure of women to digitization, to analyse the barriers to adoption of digitization among women, to investigate digitization as a barrier to higher education among women, to solutions. The research is based on secondary as well as primary data. The data has been collected from two slum areas of Malad suburb in Northern Mumbai. The study concludes that women belonging to the poor strata are digitally challenged; because they lack the necessary skills and understanding of digital platforms. They have the zeal to learn and complete their studies, they also know that there are several options available online, but they cannot take due advantage of the same. Hence including them in the digitised system of higher education is very difficult at present. If we fail to include the womenfolk especially belonging to poor economic background in the circle of higher education, a large section of the society will remain uneducated.

Keywords: digitization, digitally challenged, higher education, uneducated, women

Introduction

Women are an equal part of the society. They represent almost half the race and are contributing equally to the economic output of the country and the world. However, it has been noticed that not all women are able to keep up with the pace of changing society- especially digitization. Though many social, economic and administrative changes have taken place in the past to which people have adjusted to, digitization is among the most recent change. Many women find it difficult to adopt to the change as they uneducated to be able to read the content online, not afford the required devices like smart phones or laptops, feel scared to go ahead as they are unaware of the correct procedures and in some cases

are forbidden to use technology. This poses a great challenge to the sect of women who want to pursue higher education but cannot leave their house making it difficult to pursue online courses and give exams online. The present paper tries to analyse similar challenges and go deeper into the problem with the help of a small area so that solutions can be thought of.

Review of Literature

(Murugan and Manimekalai, 2015) The women in India are systematically disadvantaged and excluded from the mainstream. They are therefore excluded from basic and higher education. Due to everyday exclusions at home, women are unable to pursue education further.

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