

# Pakistan is ready for digital Revolution.

Outline:

Introduction:

Pakistan in some circumstances ready for digital revolution, and on otherhand not ea. meet the requirements of digital market at Global level. But, in current scenario. advancement in technology has been observed which shows Pakistan's success towards digitalization. This stance makes Pakistan to meet the economic, social, governance challenges.

2- Acceptance of Pakistan for Digital revolution.

3- Pakistan is ready for Digital Revolution (Thesis)

- E-Governance Programs for citizens of Pakistan.
- Digitalization of Industrial & sectors provide employment opportunities
- Online learning Platforms is accessible and promote skill based learning.
- Gaming due to freelaunching increases due to digital revolution since COVID 19.
- Average citizen benefited from online health consultations and e-health services.

4) Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution (Antithesis)

- E-governance system doesnot provide fruitful results
- Due to lack of innovation and Productivity in Industrial Sector, No digital revolution is observed

c) Due to lack of Digital Infrastructure, online learning opportunities are not accessible to everyone.

d) Lack of training and awareness is a challenge to free learning.

e) E-health services are not upto mark.

5- Pakistan is on track for digitalization (synthesis)

a) Pakistan is gradually moving toward path of implementation of E-governance to increase quality of information.

b) Digitalization of Industrial sector can drive entrepreneurial innovation, productivity and regional economic growth.

c) Low cost of online courses facilitate poor and needy. So they get education from home.

d) Despite challenges in free learning, Pakistan's ranking has improved in free learning market in the world.

e) Since COVID-19, vast network of medical community facilitate people from online health services.

6. Conclusion:

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We live in <sup>an</sup> age of innovation, where digital technology is providing solutions to problems before we have even realised we needed them. We see it everyday as we find new ways to travel, eat and shop. (David Lidington). In Louis Rossetto's opinion, (Founder and editor-in-chief of Wired magazine): "No product is made today, no person moves today, nothing is collected, analyzed or communicated without some digital technology, being an integral part of it. That, in itself, speaks to the overwhelming value of digital technology - As far as Pakistan is concerned, in some circumstances, ready for digital revolution in other case, may be not. Advancement in Science and technology proved Pakistan is on the way to this revolution and meeting challenges of Global market. Governance challenges have been overcome by E-governance platform. Digitalization in Industrial sector, online learning opportunities, Freelancing, online earning platforms, e-health services and many others paved the way toward advancement. But E-governance system does not provide fruitful results. Due to lack of innovation and productivity in industrial sector no digital revolution is observed. Lack of Digital infrastructure create hurdles in learning and earning opportunities

E-Health services are also not upto marks. Pakistan is on the track for digitalization by improving E-Governance platforms, creating Entrepreneurial platforms to enhance industrialization, low cost of online courses enhance learning opportunities from home. Since COVID 19, rapid advancement in digital revolution has been observed and probability increases in upcoming years.

The expansion of digital revolution has depicted that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution or not. On one hand Pakistan has clearly shown improvement in field of information technology. Since 2013 Pakistan started to pay extra attention to the process of digitalization. Digital agenda 2020 stood on six pillars: enhancing connectivity, improving digital skills and Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2018 Chinese largest e-commerce market brought Pakistan's Daraz-pk and companies like Uber and ~~eream~~ careem also made inroads to Pakistan. It will not <sup>only</sup> improve Pakistan's declining economy, but also improves lifestyles. On the other hand, the world tries to create a life in the metaverse, Pakistan struggles to ensure reliable digital access to all citizens. The issues of connectivity, affordability

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Online safety and sporadic bans still being the pressure concerns, a lot of work remains to be done. Pakistan could not keep pace with the dynamics of digitization. Therefore Pakistan should pay extra attention to it. This is the aspect of either Pakistan is ready for digital revolution or not.

The role of E-governance in Pakistan has prominently observed since COVID-19 in combating challenges and promoting sustainable development. E-governance is noteworthy because it minimizes corruption, enhance transparency, increases convenience, increases gross domestic product (GDP) growth, allows a way for citizens to be involved directly with their country. Through an efficient e-governance system, the government increases the amount and quality of information and services delivered to the local public by using ICT in a simple, economical and productive way. E-Government has had a remarkably positive influence on the success and development of underdeveloped countries (A Comparative Study of China and Pakistan; Review (2021)).

Digitalization in industrial sectors has been observed in Pakistan. Pakistan's effort to stimulate digital transformation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) improved the business environment and attract

domestic and foreign investment, thus speeding up the economy's sustainable development (Adnan Khan, a socioeconomic development specialist). Moreover, the Pakistan Vision 2025 aims to make the country a strategic enabler for an accelerated digitisation ecosystem to expand the knowledge based economy and spur socio-economic growth. Since the launch of the digitisation policy, Pakistan has seen its IT exports increase by 70% during last 3 years, creating immense opportunities for the tech-savvy generation, mostly under 30, who make up 64% of Pakistan's total population. According to the Centre of Economic Research in Pakistan, the country's economy has to be fast digitised for sustainable development.

Online learning platforms are very effective and helpful in skill-based learning. During COVID-19 pandemic, the institutions in Pakistan have started online learning. The advantages included remote learning, comfort, accessibility, and cheaper mode of learning. Studies conducted in different areas shows satisfactory results: Two studies at Dow University of Health Sciences and Lahore Medical and Dental College, Lahore reported high student

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satisfaction with online learning modalities. Hence good technology access, online skills, and preparedness for online discussions were the result of research conducted at different institutes in different provinces.

The scope of freelancing and eaming through various online platforms has been increased since COVID-19. Despite COVID 19, Pakistani freelancers earn \$150mn in FY 2019-20. The report in [brecorder.com](http://brecorder.com) revealed that the most popular positions of the orders in the freelance market are web development, logo designing and programming. As per the Pakistan Software Export Board's latest report "Pakistan's IT Industry" for the year 2020, regarding the state of the country's IT industry on the achievements of the sector. During last several years the number of freelancers has been increasing exponentially in Pakistan and the number of clients and projects has been increasing. Payoneer's Head of Business Development in Pakistan Mohsin Muzaffer says, "There have been many public and private initiatives that have resulted in a better quality of freelancers", further adding, "Pakistan's digital workforce is recognized as one of the best and Payoneer will continue to be part of growth."

At the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, the e-clinic has evolved into a subsidised medical centre with doctors, nurses and technicians. With almost 70% of the Pakistani population living in underserved rural areas, where there is lack of medical personnel, sparse healthcare facilities, and high cost of treatments. Healthcare services via electronic information and telecommunication technologies offer virtual medical consultations to patients in remote locations, and in the comfort of their homes. Many people cannot afford to physically go to a doctor. Our e-health initiatives makes consultations affordable and available to low income communities

\* E-Governance system do not provide equal opportunities to all citizens. Internet access is not possible in far-rural areas. Secondly, citizens may not be able to distinguish between accurate and inaccurate information which could lead to misinformation.

Hidden agendas of Government is a great concern. E-Government can lead to the disintermediation of the Government and citizens, which can impact power dynamics and potentially lead to social unrest. Although a large amount of money is spent on the



development and implementation of e-government  
the outcomes and effects of trial internet-  
based governments are often difficult to  
gauge or unsatisfactory.

No doubt, CPEC will transform the  
economic landscape of Pakistan by tourism,  
trade and business. Unfortunately, there  
is always room for misadventure and  
mistakes that can devastate the frame  
of expected benefits. Weak economy of  
Pakistan can result in weak output.

(CPEC's utility and concerns under OBOR initiative:  
A Pakistani Industrial Perspective). Secondly,

an organization's inherent culture can  
make or break an organization's transformation  
initiatives. Unfortunately, industrial setup in  
the country lack collaborative culture of accepting,  
'Challenge'. According to Edwards Antony:

"Regardless of whether it's changing products,  
internal operations or customer engagement  
methods, digital transformation always involves  
getting different departments and different  
groups to work together in coherent and effective  
way." Failing to assemble the right digital  
transformation team is another reason of  
collapse of digital transformation.

Due to the lack of Digital infrastructure,  
online learning opportunities are not  
accessible to everyone. In rural and  
backward areas. A huge majority of

Students are not able to access the good internet facility due to the technical and financial issues. The study conducted in Institute of Education and Research, Pakistan addressed the effectiveness of online and challenges faced by students who are taking online classes. As per this study 88% of students had not proper internet facility and they faced lots of internet issues and 65% of students are satisfied with online learning.

There are challenges and hurdles for freelancers in Pakistan. There are plenty of issues that are the root causes of career failure and successful freelancer. The mega issue for Pakistani freelancers is they don't have much authentic and credible knowledge about freelancing market trends and variations. They don't know what they are going to deal with. It is famous saying "Your network is your net worth". Pakistani freelancers are poor at building and retaining professional networks. Poor communication is the key reason for career failure for any struggling young freelancer, solopreneur, or thriving student. The other serious issue is that many people and private institutions are

offering freelancing and digital skills and training. Their main objectives is to earn money and trick innocent and illiterate people. False and misleading guides and training are the huge gaps in the successful career of Pakistani Freelancers. Presently, in Pakistan health information system infrastructure is deficient in resources to meet the demands and needs of increasing population in developing countries. Healthcare systems of developing countries have major barriers in using information technologies include poor or inadequate infrastructure insufficient access to the hardware and inadequate or poor resource allocation. Many studies reveal that doctors and physicians in developing countries are not given an opportunity to be take part in information system development process consequently IS/ICTs do not possess the features which are according to the needs of healthcare providers. (Rezaei-Race et al., 2012)

The E-Government dilemmas can be resolved by improving IT knowledge, Literacy and skills related to the adaptation of technological applications and tools might help to solve current difficulties in the public sector.

(Future of e-Government in Pakistan: A case study). IT Professionals can give low-cost services to people who are unable to use E-Government programmes.

It would provide unemployed people with new opportunities. Monitoring of e-systems through organizations like E-SPINT can increase its efficacy. If the meaning of the letter "e" in the phrase e-governance must be changed from electronic to efficient and vision

of experts is added, the challenges can be resolved.

In the Industrial sector, before the improvement in digital strategy, there is need to understand current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. SWOT analysis or digital maturity are the methods to evaluate current digital capabilities, performance and alignment with our business objectives. We should also analyze our competitors, customers and market trends to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. Whether we are in retail healthcare, education or any other industry we can benefit from improving digital strategy to stay competitive and relevant in the digital age.

Low cost of online courses facilitate poor and needy. So they can get education from home. The government should spend on making the infrastructure better and ensure the provision of internet facilities all over Pakistan including villages and remote areas. And, all educational institutions should arrange proper training for students and teachers to make them familiar with the use of technology and the e-learning environment. A survey conducted in different villages clearly indicates improvement of technology

in the upcoming years.

Despite challenges in freelance market, Pakistan's ranking have improved and will further reach the height of glory if major problems addressed in an effective way. Effective communication is the key ingredient for success in every field of life. Pakistani freelancers should focus on the art of Professional networking false and misleading guides are gaps in the successful career, these should need to be addressed. Our freelancers use many international freelancing projects due to rare payment options. These are only the few challenges if addressed properly Pakistan will be the better freelance market.

Since COVID-19, vast network of medical community facilitate people from online health services. Healthcare technology advancements have been rapidly transforming the landscape of healthcare in Pakistan over the past decade. Telemedicine has gained immense popularity in Pakistan, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when physical visit to healthcare facilities became challenging. From telemedicine and EHRs to AI-powered diagnostics and mHealth apps, these innovations are improving access to

healthcare, enhancing patient care, and streamlining healthcare operations.

As a healthcare technology landscape continues to evolve, Pakistan is poised to embrace a more digitized and efficient healthcare system for the benefit of its citizens.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is ready to face challenges of digital world. E-governance system, online education and learning system, E-health services, rapid advancement in industrialization due to digital literacy are all success of Pakistan since Pandemic in 2019. Much improvement have been observed in digitalization. It will result in increasing economic growth, up to date learning mechanism, solving social issues of our society, providing health and education facilities to rural areas where access to technology is nowadays is easy as compare to the past few years.