

M T W T F S

Date: _____

Awqis Ahmed

Batch # 367

English Essay

Is Pakistan ready for digital revolution?

Outline ::

1) Introduction

Thesis Statement :: Pakistan is ready for digital revolution. The widespread of telecommunication and internet penetration in youth, and growing e-commerce business, and digitalized services indicates that Pakistan is no exception to this trend.

2) Understanding the pre-requisites for digital revolution.

3) Why there is need of digital revolution?

4) Factors showing readiness of Pakistan for digital revolution.

i) Policy implementation to make conducive environment for digitalization.

Case in point :: Digital Pakistan Policy 2018.

ii) Government investment in technical & vocational and skill development program.

Case in point :: Digiskill and NAVTTC program started by government of Pakistan.

ii) Increased internet penetration and desire of Pakistan youth.

Case in point: 110 million internet users and 180 million mobile subscribers.

iv) Revolutionized working of institution through e-governance.

Case in point: revolutionized e-governance services such as e-courts, e-portals, e-services etc..

v) Switching of education system to online learning methods

Case in point: During COVID-19 Pandemic old traditional system of schooling shifted to online learning system.

vi) Spreading of private digital business in the country.

Case in point: Acquisition of daraz.Pk platform by e-commerce giant Ali baba in 2018.

vii) Digitization of economic system and Job opportunities

Case in point: Daraz, Freelancing and other online economic activities.

5) On what grounds do critics argue that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution.

- i) Economic obdorm is impending digital revolution.
- ii) Lack of competent human capital to facilitate the digital revolution.
- iii) Lack of infrastructure and connectivity all across the country.
- iv) Lack of IT sector is a hurdle in digital revolution.
- v) Lack of institution for digital literacy.

6) Expected rebutal to anti thesis.

i) IT exports has increased by 70 per cent in last three years as per Board of Investment Pakistan (BIP).

ii) Pakistan is one of the largest producer of digital audience, World Economic Forum (W.E.F).

iii) 4G penetration and 800km long optical fibre line through CPEC.

iv) 20,000 IT graduates and engineers are produced each year.

v) Kamyab Town program, largest development program for 50,000 through 300 training center.

7) Conclusion:.

The world is witnessing a digital revolution with the advancement in technology and innovation. Digitalization is reshaping the world, in the field of business, communication, and trade. According to World Trade Organization report, digital services increased from 39 per cent in 2015 to 55 per cent in 2022. This is a remarkable achievement that shows world is rapidly digitalizing.

As for as Pakistan is concern, Pakistan is ready for digital revolution. The widespread of telecommunication, and internet penetration in youth, and growing e-commerce business, and digitalized services indicates that Pakistan is no exception to this trend. Further, the recent government initiatives create a favourable environment for digitization. The government recent measurement such as digital policy

~~is~~

vision 2018 provides numerous incentives for business, organization, public private partnership and individual growth. Moreover, government has launched online and vocational program such as digiskill, NAVTC etc. for youth, where students are learning skills and providing online services such as content writing, web development etc.

On the other hand, critics argue that the precarious economic state is impeding Pakistan's way to digitization.

Further, they argue that weak human capital is major hurdles, as over 60% per cent is youth due to lack of digital awareness and digital skill they are not able to compete at global level. However, these arguments are failed to comprehend that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution. The policy formation and infrastructure development

and favourable environment examines that Pakistan is already entered in the digitization phase. IT exports increased by 70 per cent in the last three year and Pakistan's 65 per cent of population is of youth and internet penetration among the masses show readiness of Pakistan. Furthermore, Pakistan ranked 4th most prominent hub of freelancers in the world. Thus, it can be said, the recent initiatives of government provides a conducive environment for the masses and leads the country towards readiness for digitization.

To begin with the discussion, it is essential to understand the term digital revolution and pre-requisites for it. The term digital revolution refers to the technological innovation and information technology advancement. For a country

to be digitalize it must fulfill the criteria for digital revolution. According to article by world economic forum (WEF), Digital policy, digital infrastructure, digital skill and law making and conducive environment for sound economic support are the areas to facilitate digital revolution. There must be a conducive environment for proliferation of digitalization and technological innovation. As for as Pakistan is concerning it is fulfilling all the criteria required for digital revolution.

Besides, why there is need of digital revolution? As world is changing rapidly, so is the global structure. Digitalization is crucial for several reason. Global economic system is changing from hard to soft economic system. According to WTO, the

The digital services are increased from 39 per cent to 55 per cent. In the modern world, the concept of warfare is utterly changed. The 5th and 6th generation warfare is linked with social media and space technology, respectively.

In Kargil war and Pulwama attack, the Pakistan ^{state} owned PTV channel have not created that influence, which Indian private channel did. It has severely damaged the image of Pakistan at global level.

Further, the changing means of communication and culture assimilation is due to globalization. Hence, the world is a global village and digitization have transforms the methods of communication, so, it become the due need of today.

Moving forward towards Pakistan, the country is successfully implementing the policies and providing

a favourable environment for the socioeconomic well being and encouraging IT sector investment and spreading of the technology. For example, the digital Pakistan policy 2018 developed to facilitate the advancement of technology for socioeconomic wellbeing. Resultantly, Pakistan is among the top performer and user of technology and doing well. To illustrate, Pakistan is competent provider of textile and sports good in 2022. Therefore, Pakistan efforts towards digital policy making is encouraging for digital revolution.

Further, the keen desire of youth in digital technology creates a favourable environment for digitization. After ensuring the policy making, next step for digitization is to literate the masses regards digital skills.

Recently, ~~Govt~~ Government of Pakistan has launched skills development program such as digiskills and NAVTC, where youth is youth is learning digital skills and playing a essential role in the Pakistan's prosperity path. Hence, Government investment in technical and vocational program and the recent initiatives, creates a suitable environment for digitalization.

Furthermore, For digital revolution, the seamless adoption of internet services is essential. Internet is not only facilitating the transfer of information but also crucial for conducting business, communication and economic activities.

The increased number of internet users and the positive attitude among public regarding internet is the sign of readiness of Pakistan for digital revolution. According to a report, the internet users in

Pakistan have exceed 110 million which is almost 46 per cent of the total population in the start of 2024. The number of internet user in 2001 was only 2.1 per cent, 6.5 percent in 2006, and 16 per cent in 2012. Resultantly, the keen interest of youth is pushing the country towards digitization.

Additionally, as the world is digitalizing, the government of Pakistan is also taking decision to digitalize the country. Government has launched multiple e-services in various areas and institution such as e-portals, e-courts, e-payments etc. These services not only create ease for people but also save their time. In 2019, Pakistan introduced e-courts. It will strengthen Pakistan's judicial system, ensuring speed and cheap justice. The E-services not only beneficial for public but also enhance working performance of institution. It

is a step towards digitization.

Moreover, During the COVID-19 pandemic, all socioeconomic activities were switching towards online systems and world education system as well. So, how can Pakistan behind itself and isolate all activities. In that Pandemic condition Pakistan also switched toward online system specially the education system.

Together, Government, Institution and universities make efforts to run the all academic activities and old traditional system of schooling ~~shift~~ switched to online learning system.

Besides, Private digital bussiness is spreading all across the country, which is not only playing a pivotal role in country economy but also ~~created~~ creating job opportunities. The online growing e-commerce bussiness

such as acquisition of daraz.pk platform by e-commerce giant Ali baba in 2018 is an example. The spreading of the online business created ease for people. This shows that Pakistan is already on the path of digitalization.

Also, Gradually Pakistan's economic activities are digitalizing.

It created ~~easy~~ ease and job opportunities as well, specially for women. Digitalization has unleashed enormous opportunities for women. People are preferring online economic activities, job, shopping. According to Gig Economy Index (GEI), Pakistan was ranked as the fourth largest country in the world who is providing online services such as freelance, content writer etc. The Digitalization of economic activities shows that Pakistan is digitalizing.

Despite the fact, Pakistan has created a favourable environment for adoption of digital revolution, some critics argue that, due to precarious economic state Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution. They argue that economic downturn is impeding digitalization. They believed that Pakistan is caught by complex and multifaceted problem, and not able to attract the foreign direct investment. Hence, they overlooks the earnest efforts ^{made} ~~created~~ by Pakistan for the adoption of digital revolutions.

Moreover, analysts argue that there is lack of competent human capital to facilitate the digital revolution. As Pakistan is under developed country hence the quality of education is substandard and

60 per cent population is youth, they are unaware of digital literacy. It creates issues related to cyber security that's leading Pakistan toward unfavourable environment.

Further, they contend that the lack of infrastructure and connectivity ~~and~~ all across the country is a serious issue. It creates hindrance in the internet usage.

Due to weak connectivity and core technology infrastructure, digitalization is not on that level. Furthermore, the absence of legal framework is additional challenge to digital growth. These loopholes in framework and infrastructure leads country prebehind and digitization is lagging.

Moreover, they argue that Pakistan's digital readiness is also hindered by shortage of IT sector. Due to the lack of universities and institutions Pakistani youth is unable to aware themselves regards the digital literacy and that is trigger the digitalization phase of Pakistan. Hence these problems creates hurdle in digital revolution.

Lastly, they argue that shortage of institution for digital skill is also a big challenge. As technology is rapidly evolves and becomes more integral to everyday life and work, the gap between the digital skills and who lagging behind it will also triggered the digitalization.

To elaborate, analysts argue that precarious economic state is not creating suitable environment for digital revolution. However the overlook the policy formation such as digital Pakistan vision 2018 and development that are setting the environment for digitalization. Further to elaborate, IT exports increased by 70 per cent in last three year as per Board of investment Pakistan (B.I.P). The progress in IT industry is showing that Pakistan is on path of digitalization.

Further, arguments of lack of competent human capital to facilitate the digitalization is failed to elaborate digital revolution. To evidence that, According to World Economic Forum (W.E.F), Pakistan is one of the largest

producer of digital audience. Youth budge of Pakistan is seeing on different platform as an user content writer, web developer, ~~from~~ freelancers etc.

Hence the argument of lack of human capital is failed to elaborate that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution.

Besides the competent human capital, 4G penetration is developing a futile ground for digitalization.

In this regard, Pakistan is working together with China in developing of digital infrastructure. For example, CPEC has envisioned an 820 km long optical fibre line which will be extend to Gwadar, Balochistan. This will ensure the internet access and that will paved the way for digitalization.

Further, the argument, is failed to interpret, lack of IT sector and universities is hurdle in digitalization. To explain, 20,000 IT graduates and engineers are produced each year with current number of IT professional standing at 30,000 in the country. They are working remotely from Pakistan and providing their services in the developed world as a freelancer, this encourage more people to pursue IT degrees. Hence it can be examined that Pakistan is on path of digital revolution.

Adding more to it, the argument that there is shortage of institutions and center for digital literacy and skills development program. However, they failed to elucidate the phenomenon. Pakistan is gradually working on skill development program. To explain

that, Kamyab Jawab program, largest development program for 50,000 youths through 300 training centers across the country. In this program students are learning soft as well as 'hard' skills. such as auto AutoCAD, 3D designing, video editing course, Project management, Health and safety course etc. Hence, Pakistan is moving toward digitization.

In conclusion, Pakistan ^{efforts} ~~commitments~~ towards creating favourable condition for digital revolution interprets that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution. The keen interest of youth in internet usage, widespread network of telecommunication, and growing e-commerce business indicates digitization. Further, the recent initiatives of Pakistan

such as Digital Pakistan vision 2018, law and policy making and implementation of that elucidate digitalization.

Furthermore, Pakistan's skills development program such as Digishill, NAVTTC etc. is evidence to that. Thus, Pakistan has progressively created a conducive atmosphere for digital revolution and making Pakistan ready for digitization.