

Is Pakistan Ready for Digital Revolution?

Outline

1/ Introduction: Although
Thesis statement - Pakistan's digital readiness is hindered by various factors such as economic stagnation, a low literacy rate and lack of competent human capital. However, initiatives at the political level, the growth of digital economies, and steps towards digitalization at the social level indicate the country is on the path toward a digital revolution.

2/ How is Pakistan Ready for the Digital Revolution?

(2.1) Political

(i) Launching of e-voting website for overseas Pakistanis to facilitate in casting their vote.

(ii) Political parties use social media accounts to mobilize masses.

(Case study of February election - increased in voter turnout)

(iii) Drafting laws to make a cond

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active environment for digitalization.

(Case in point: prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016)

2.2 Economic

(i) Developing digital infrastructure. (Case in Point: CPEC laying 820 kilometres of fibre optic)

(ii) Spreading of digital business (Case in Point: Tandem completed 299 million rides in Pakistan and a leading food delivery app complete roughly 150,000 orders a day)

2.3 Social

(i) Conducting of online classes by various institutions through Zoom and Learning Management System (LMS)

(ii) Investing in digital skill developments.

(Case in Point: Taking initiative like National Freelancing Training Programs)

1 On what grounds do critics argue that Pakistan is not ready for a digital revolution?

(i) Economic doldrums impede prospects of digital development.

Refute: High IT exports.

(ii) Lack of competent human capital to facilitate the digital revolution.

Refute: Rising freelance economy.

4/

Conclusion

The world has witnessed an unprecedented digital revolution in the 21st century, transforming various facets of human existence — from communication to commerce, and governance to education. This digital revolution has not only redefined people's interactions with the world but also reshaped economies, societies and cultures across the globe. Amid this global transformation, it is imperative to assess whether Pakistan, a country with rich cultural and a diverse socio-economic landscape, is prepared

embrace the full potential of the digital era. Pakistan's readiness for the digital revolution can be examined through its political, economic and social initiatives. In the political realm, the launch of an i-voting website for overseas Pakistanis to facilitate in casting their votes. Political parties have also increasingly used media to expand their voter base and the government has drafted laws to prevent cybercrime. Economically, there has been a rise in digital businesses across the country, and the government has invested in digital skills. On the social front, various institutions are conducting online classes. However, several challenges hinder the full realization of digital revolution, such as economic constraints, low literacy rates and a lack of skilled human capital. Although, Pakistan faces several challenges, ongoing political initiatives the growth digital economies and

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social efforts toward digitalization
suggest that the country is on the
path toward a digital revolution.