

# DIGITAL LITERACY IN PAKISTAN: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES

## 1. Introduction

Overview of the digital age and its transformative impact; significance of Pakistan; analysis of the emerging phenomenon is essential for Pakistan's prosperity.

Thesis statement: Digital literacy will offer immense economic, academic and governance benefits to Pakistan. However, there are several challenges including lack of awareness, cyber security threats, internet disruptions and traditional practices in institutions. In this regard, some reforms need to bring out Public and Private level.

## 2. Encompassing the term 'Digital Literacy'

### 3. How Digital Literacy can be a Prospect in Pakistan?

a) Digital literacy offers new economic vista to burgeoning youth



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- b) Freelancers remittance will increase with the help of digital literacy
  - c) Digital literacy among government personnel can ensure the good governance in country.
  - d) Digital literacy would be a blessing for SME's owners
  - e) Digital literacy bridges the 'digital divide' and empowers marginalized communities

#### 4) Challenges for Digital Literacy in Pakistan

- a) Lack of awareness about digital literacy and rights
- b) Outdated equipment and lack of training in educational sector
- c) Traditional literacy rate is too low in Pakistan that hinders the progress of digital literacy
- d) Often internet shutdowns and disruptions become the biggest obstacle in fostering digital literacy



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e) Growing threat of cyber security issues is one of the challenges for digital literacy in Pakistan

## 5. Strategies to foster Digital Literacy in Pakistan

- a) Updating school curricula to educate about digital literacy, rights, and skills
- b) Use of awareness campaigns through NGOs and influential personalities

## 6. Lessons from Other Countries about the Enhancement of Digital Literacy

- a) Republic of Korea prioritized the digital literacy in Public sectors
- b) Oman redesigns the curriculums according to digital age to prepare its youth for employment

## 7. Conclusion



"Empowering citizens with digital skills is the first step towards a truly digital society" ~ Sundar Pichai. The 21<sup>st</sup> century is considered as digital age and it <sup>has</sup> tremendous impacts on the globe. Pakistan is ready for digital revolution with massive number of young minds. Digital literacy is a significant part to prosper Pakistan. It offers economic opportunities to the youths, allows them to generate revenue, and give employment. Digital literacy also beneficial for governance and SMEs owners. It will help to bridge the digital divide and empowers marginalised communities. However, there are number of obstacles for digital literacy in Pakistan. It includes, the lack of awareness about digital literacy and rights, Outdated equipments in schools, lack of training in educational and public sector. In addition to this, traditional literacy rate is too low



in Pakistan that hinders the masses to adapt digital learnings. Also, the limited penetration of internet to remote areas, internet shutdown, and disruptions are some challenges for digital literacy in Pakistan. Apart from these challenges, strategies can be design to foster digital literacy in Pakistan and other countries' model can be adopted to implement those strategies.

In a nutshell, there is no doubt in the fact that digital literacy will offer immense economic, academic, and governance benefits to Pakistan. However, there are several challenges including lack of awareness, cyber security threats, internet disruptions, and traditional practices in institutions. In this regards some reforms need to bring at Public and Private level.