TOPIC: Is Pakistan Ready for Digital Revolution

OUTLINE:

1- Introduction

Pakistan's precarious economic condition and weak human capital often hijacks its prospects for development; however, the concrete efforts for digital revolution has successfully made its way; proving that Pakistan is ready for the digital revolution.

2- Using the pre-requisites for digital revolution

(A)   Digital Infrastructure

(B)   Skill Development

(C)   Public - Private Partnerships

(D)   Policy making

3- Pakistan's Contemporary Industrial State

4- Factors proving that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution

(A)   Developing policies to assist transferring the digital revolution

[Instructor's notes in red:]
Points are ohkay
Overcome your grammatical errors
Try to follow proper structure of body paras
Convey ur ideas in a well coherent and articulated way
NO

Case in Point: Pakistan Digital Policy, 2018.

(B) Drafting laws to facilitate conducive environment for digital revolution

Case in Point: Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016

(C) Providing facilitations for digital revolution

Case in Point: Tax incentive credits for Pakistan Software Export Base, IT start-ups.

(D) Developing infrastructure such as China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor

(E) Promoting the e-commerce market to improve the digitalization.

4- On what grounds do critics argue that Pakistan is not ready for Digital Revolution

(A) Economic doldrums which renders the digital revolution

Refute: High IT exports

(B) Weak Human Capital which is not contributing in digital literacy.

Refute: Pakistan with prominent freelancers.

5- Conclusion

Technological advancements and innovations, sweeping across the globe as industrial revolutions, are cherished and adopted by countries worldwide. As many countries have mastered the first three waves of industrial revolution, now seek to integrate the fourth wave of digital revolution into political, social and economic system. Similarly, Pakistan aspires to incorporate the digitalization in the country, for which Pakistan is earnestly working to build a feasible environment to facilitate the force of digital revolution. To elaborate, Pakistan has developed policies such as digital Pakistan policy 2018 that provide numerous incentives for businesses, organizations and individuals' digital growth. Additionally, CPEC and other private investments have channeled a way out for the construction of digital infrastructure. Moreover, an extension of vocational training and access to widening internet usage is ensured by tech-based educational programs to facilitate conducive environment for

the development of digital revolution in Pakistan. Despite all these efforts, some analysts argue that the dependent economic conditions and weak human capital of Pakistan often hinder its chances for development; however, the proponents of this discussion fail to comprehend that Pakistan has already ~~eaten~~ entered the fold of digital economy with its high IT exports increasing by 70 percent in the last three years and Pakistan has become the fourth largest hub of freelancers globally. Thus, it can be said that the developments and efforts have created a safe roof which proliferated the digital revolution for Pakistan.

" The biggest part of our digital transformation is changing the way we think."

~ SIMEON. PRESTON.

To begin with the discussion, it is essential to understand digital revolution and how a country can get ready for its adoption. Digital Revolution refers to the fourth wave of industrial revolution supported by technological innovations and Information and Technology (IT) advancements in political, social, and economic system of a country. A country trying to adopt the digital revolution all in all, must fulfill the prior criteria such as a protected and professional environment for the digital advancements.

Moreover, as per the article of 'World Economic Forum, the critical achievements towards digital development includes development of infrastructure, drafting the policies and laws, sound economic support, and last but not the least is skill development which is the important of all.' Pakistan is working on the development of above listed criteria's, making the digital economy of the country abreast of the digital developments and innovations to excel globally.

Follow proper structure of body paras

Moving forward towards Pakistan, the country has successfully integrated the previous industrial revolutions in the form of establishing the industrial units like Textiles and sports goods, since its inception. Now, Pakistan is trying to explore the zenith of production capabilities associated with technological advancements. For instance, the textile and sports goods industries contributed to the (GDP) gross domestic product market at 59 percent overall, in Pakistan's economy.

Furthermore, with the passage of time, Pakistan has drafted policies which originates new ventures and ideas for digitalization. The formation of 'Pakistan's digital Policy 2018' has made deployments of digital technologies for socio-economic well-being and also promoted the investments in digital markets. Above all else, this scheme has attracted the foreign consumers who readily invested in the digital freelancing markets of Pakistan. This shows that Pakistan is ready for the digital revolution.

In addition to that, as the digital developments have increased it lead to the rise in cyber and digital crimes in the society. Pakistan as whole was aware of the repercussions, so progressive response was made against it. The **Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act 2016 (PECA)**, was introduced to deal with the cyber and digital attacks such as illegal activities like hacking, Tipping off the stock markets. Such a profound response shows that Pakistan is making its way for digital revolution.

Another way of excelling into digital economy by Pakistan is the tax incentive scheme. The government has proposed tax-incentive allowances such as tax-credits which will facilitate the foreign investors and the nationals of Pakistan in digital marketing. The alpha and omega of this scheme is to welcome investors from developed countries so that there is exchange of digital technology. It has also expanded the market of freelancing all across the borders for Pakistan.

Moreover, Pakistan is working on digitalization through CPEC project. The China-Pakistan Economic corridor is 820 km long optic fiber around the Gilgit Baltistan and 8299 km of wire under sea water, starting from Guadar Port till Djibouti, connecting Pakistan straight with Africa. This project displays the digital prospects abounds in success for Pakistan. Thus, this shows that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution.

The promotion of e-commerce platforms are another source of digitalization for Pakistan. These platforms include The Ali Baba, Daraz which are the virtual source of marketing for the country. It is also connecting the people with digital aspects of purchasing things online. All and sundry look upto the best available online markets for shopping in Pakistan. For instance, Japan International agency teaches about the use of online markets for retailing purpose. It is also expanding the developmental routes for Pakistan in digital markets across the globe.

Despite of all these developments, some analysts argue that Pakistan is lagging behind in digitalization due to its economic doldrums and poor human capital. Not only Pakistan is connecting to digital forum, but it is also letting no stone unturned for achieving the digital revolution.

Firstly, the debate after economic doldrums gets refutted by looking at the high IT exports of Pakistan. The IT exports have increased by 70 percent in last three years. Pakistan's position in IT exports, as well as, in freelancing proves that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution. For instance, Pakistan is casting 20,000 freelancers and educating around 600,000 IT professionals every year.

Secondly, the literacy rate has improved by 0.99 percent since 2018. There is a Information and Communication Technology forum for girls in Pakistan. They are educating the girls about digital technological advancements and innovations.

which is producing a market of digital leaders without any gender discrimination.

Thirdly, another criticism includes weak human capital which is a false statement too. There is a wide access to internet usage for the young youth of Pakistan. There was impediments in internet services earlier. As of now, the digital expansion in the form of internet usage is found everywhere.

Additionally, The government of Pakistan is providing vocational training at Digiskill.pk, where around 600,000 digital professionals comes out every year. Moreover, the government has introduced the venture of using 'cloud first' in every province for any public-private partnerships. From providing online e-services to conducting electronic elections, Pakistan's envisioned towards digital revolution has become a part to excel at, globally. This proves that Pakistan is ready for digital evolution at political, economic, social levels, making The digitalization a leap of faith for The country's progress globally too.

To conclude my discussion, Pakistan has faced the menace of economic, political, and social instability. However, with time the developments and efforts made have carved a way of progress in the digital world for Pakistan. From making policies for digital development, drafting laws for digital crime preventions, and providing allowances to appreciate digital private investment, Pakistan profoundly contributed in digital economy. The efforts made in constructing the digital infrastructure such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of its biggest digital revolution. The presence of e-commerce platforms, where people are educating themselves about retailing and small businesses is another example of digital revolution. For instance, the high IT exports, and prominent freelancing hub across the globe has proved that Pakistan is ready for digital revolution.