# Topic

## Is Pakistan Ready for Digital Revolution?

## Outline

A. **Introduction**
1. The digital revolution is far more significant than the invention of writing or even of printing. Douglas Engelbart
2. What is digital revolution?
3. Thesis statement

B. **Understanding The Pre-requisites for the Digital Revolution**

C. **Factors Proving that Pakistan is not Ready for Digital Revolution**
1. Persistence of paper-based

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Your arguments are not strong enough to prove your point mainly in 3rd heading
Write pertinent points

bureaucracy prove that Pakistan is not ready for digital transformation;

   a. Over 6000 paper printed just to notify Eid holidays.

2. Institutional Disconnection in Pakistan;

   a. Lack of coordination between even the most digital government bodies. NADRA and PTA, 5 million sims active on expired or deceased CNICs.

3. Digital transformation in words, not action in Pakistan;

   a. No central data of shops, school, clinics and graveyards. 80% of death go unrecorded.

4. Ghost employees plus pension fraud in the State of Pakistan;

   a. 20% – 30% of the salary plus pension budget is lost due to ghost employees and ghost pensioners.

5. Out-dated administrative structure of Pakistan;

   a. 75% of government employees perform obsolete support roles, which include, Qasids, naib qasids UDCs, and LDCs.

6. Slow justice in Pakistan;

   a. Due to undigitized land records 1.4 million out of 2.26 million cases are pending which (1.4m) involve land and property disputes.

7. Neglected civic responsibilities issues;

   a. Birth, death, marriage are not registered

effectively.

8. Falling short of technological advancement;
   a. Pakistan's technology is nascent as compared to other nations.

9. Access to digital tools is undermined in Pakistan;
   a. Over 116 million internet users in Pakistan, UN's e-government development index ranks Pakistan on 118 out of 193 countries.

10. The huge gap in mobile users between male and female, proving that digital revolution is move ahead;
    a. 194± million mobile users in Pakistan out of which 83% male and 52% female,

## D. Grounds on which Critics Argue that Pakistan is Ready for a Digital Revolution

1A. Recently, Pakistan has become the second largest digital service workforce provider in the world.
   a. The growing interest of youth in digital services.

2B. Will of state regarding technological advancement is an indicator that shows Pakistan is ready for for digital revolution;
   a. National AI Act 2025

3. Growing cashless economy of pakistan;

a. Easypaisa through Raast payment is transforming the banking system in Pakistan. 18 million active users of easypaisa application.

# E. Conclusion.

# Essay:

In words of Douglas Engelbart, the digital revolution is far more significant than the invention of writing or even of printing. Moreover, the digital revolution is the historic shift from mechanical and anlog electronic technologies to digital technologies. There are some pre-requisites for digital revolution, including digital infrastructure and policy making. Pakistan is not still ready ready for the digital revolution. The ground realities prove that Pakistan is far behind regarding this transformation. The persistence of paper based bureaucracy and institutional disconnection between the digital bodies of the state. Moreover, digital transformation only exists in the speeches not on practical grounds. Pakistan administrative structure is out-dated. Along with justice delay, civic responsiblities are also neglected. The state is also failing short in digital achievement. The concept of ghost employees still prevails in pakistan which is draining the budget of the state. Furthermore, there is also gender discrimination regarding the access of digital

tools. All these shows that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution. On the other hand, some argue that pakistan is ready for digital revolution. The AI act of 2025 and growing cashless economy of Pakistan, Although these steps seem revolutionary, while same initiatives have been taken in past. The national IT policy of 2000 fail drastically. in this sense it looks like past as future. Hence, Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution.

There are some pre-requisites of digital transformation, that ensure the transformation of digitalizing a state. These include, digital infrastrue, skill development and digital literacy. moreover, The public private partnership and policy making are also essential to ensure digital transformation. Hence Pakistan is lacking in all aforementioned pre-requisites.

To begin with, the first and foremost factor that shows pakistan is not ready for digital revolution is the persistence of paper-based bureaucracy. The entire system of Pakistan bureaucracy is working through files and paper documents. despite email being public for 30 years, still bureaucracy of pakistan runs on paper work, photocopier and file movements via naib qasids. over 6000 papers printed just to notify eid holidays. So

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persistence of paper based bureaucracy shows that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution.

Secondly, the institutional disconnection is another leading factor which manefests that Pakistan is not ready to transform in digitalization. The mega digitized government bodies of Pakistan, NADRA and PTA lack coordination. There are more than 5000000 active sims on those CNIC, which are expired or the owners are dead. Hence, the institutional disconnection prove that, nation is not ready for digital transformation.

Thirdly, the digital revolution is in the words of stakeholder, not in actions. The government stakeholders just talk about transformation but there is not practical outcome. There is no central data of shops, schools, clinics and graveyards in Pakistan. 80% of the death go unrecorded, which is an evidence showing that the state is not ready for digital revolution.

Fourth, along with lip servicing, there is an alarming factor that prove digital revolution in Pakistan is utopian. The ghost employees and pension fraud are those alarming factors. 20-30% of the salary plus pension budget is lost due to the ghost employees and ghost pensioners. These ghost entities are prime

example that Pakistan is far behind the digital revolution.

Fifth, another factor is out-dated administrative structure of Pakistan. This sector of Pakistan is most dependent on employees rather than digital tools. 75% of the government employees perform absolete support roles, which include, Qasid, naib qasid, UDCs and LDCs. Moreover, the role of steno and translators are also included. Therefore it can be argued that Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution.

Sixth, the slow justice mechanism in Pakistan. It also shows that Pakistan is not ready to integrate digital transforms. There are 2.26 million cases pending on the tables of the judges. Out of which 1.4 million cases are land and property disputes. Due to undigitized land record, the justice is too much slow. Hence the slow justice process in the state proves that Pakistan is not ready to adopt digital transformation.

Seventh, the neglected civic responsibilities are highlighting the unpreparedness of Pakistan into the transformation of digitalization. This incompetence is on both sides, the citizens do not bother to certify their children birth, deaths and marriages nor the state is willing to facilitate the citizens. Hence

the neglection of both are proving that pakistan is not ready for digital transformation.

Eighth, the entire nation is falling short of technological advancement. Technology is most important part in digital revolution, but Pakistan is nascent in this field. The countries which are ready for digital revolution have the advance technological tools. Estonia, china and india are most advance in technological advancement but Pakistan is a new player in this game. This shows Pakistan is not ready to jump in digital revolution.

Nineth, another factor proving the unpreparedness of Pakistan regarding digital shift is access to digital tools is undermined in the country. Over 116 million internet users in Pakistan, where are the rest of the people? moreover UN, e-Government development index place Pakistan on 118 out of 193 nations. It shows that Pakistani lack in access of digital tools which is vital for digital shift.

Last but not the least, the mobile phone user gap between male and female is an indicator which proves that the nations is prepared for digital revolution. There are 194 million mobile users in Pakistan, only 53% female own phones while 83% male do access to phones. Hence gender inequality in accessing digital tools is a prove that

Pakistan is still unprepared for digital revolution.

The aforementioned paragraphs prove that digital revolution in Pakistan is an utopia, because the nation is not ready now, based on arguments. The upcoming paragraphes will discuss the points of those who believe Pakistan is ready for digital revolution.

Point to consider, there is a school of thought who believe that Pakistan is very ready for digital revolution. They argue that recently Pakistan has become the second largest provider of digital workforce. These individuals are on the platform of freelancing and e-commerce. There is no denying the fact that Pakistan is providing second largest digital workforce, however this service is limited to urban areas not whole of population have the access, moreover the internet infrastruce is backlogging these individual, that's why freelancing are escaping the country. Hence only a small chunk of Pakistan population is excersing these platfoms which mean the whole nation is not ready.

Similarly, some argue that the will of government is an indicater that Pakistan is ready for digital shift. They argue on the base of AI Act 2025. The AI act 2025 is revolutionary act which opens the door for digital transfermation of

Pakistan. However, AI act of 2025 is a better transformaling idea, but past as the future, Pakistan's government also passed such act in past one of those is national IT policy 2000, and Digital Pakistan vision both have proved to be failed and Pakistan is still working on traditional footprint. So a single Act is not enough to transform a entire nation without proper mechanism.

Finally, this school of thought believe that the culture of mobile based banking and cashless economy is a revolutionary indicater which show nation is ready for digital revolution. The concept of Easypaisa is gaining attention and Raast payment is transforming banking system in Pakistan. There we 18 million active users of easypaisa application. Although it is true that People of Pakistan ave prioritizing cashless economy and transforming into moble banking. However, Easypaisa was introduced in 2009, it took almost one and a half decade to gather 18 million users, the rest of population is still dependent on paper currency. Moreover the huge population of pakistan is still living in rural areas where internet is not accessable. Hence these arguement are not enough to transform Pakistan into a digitalized structure.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is not

prepared for digital revolution, while some argue that on the bases of AI act 2025 and a small number of Easypaisa application users are the indicators of digital revolution. On the contrast, these tiny indicator are not enough to transform the entire nation. The persistence paper based bureaucracy and dissunity among institution of Pakistan are examples that show the nation is not ready for the digital shift. Moreover there are some pre-requiste, which ensure the digital revolution, including, digital infrastructure and degital litracy. The out-dated administrative structure and neglected civic responsibilities are prime reasons that Pakistan is not prepared for digital revolution. Hence, the critical path for any digital transformation is digital leadership and culture, not the technology.