

Topic : Digitalization of Judicial System
will surely Provide Justice
to Pakistan's Public

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis Statement

2- Current judicial challenges in Pakistan

3- Why digitalized judicial system is important (thesis)

- a- It can speed up the resolution process
- b- It can minimize the expenses
- c- Digital courts will enhanced accessibility for remote areas
- d- Through e-courts, pending cases can be proceed
- e- Digital courts can save the records of the cases and no one can change the evidences

4- If digital judicial system is beneficial, it is not for everyone (Antithesis)

- a- Technical glitches and connectivity issues will slow down the process
- b- Online payment can be difficult for people
- c- Remote areas lack the basic infrastructure facilities

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- d- Storing data of the court proceedings are not very secure
- e- It is expensive to transform the entire system of judiciary into digital courts

5- Digital judiciary system has far more benefits and it can reduce its disadvantages

- a- Establishment of dedicated technical support team could resolve the issues
- b- User-friendly (online) payment platforms particularly for courts can ease the payment method
- c- Collaboration with telecommunication and internet companies to make network accessible for remote areas
- d- Proper cybersecurity measure can overcome the data hacking issue
- e- Identification of critical areas first to digitizing justice system

6- Conclusion

Essay

In the contemporary era, the digitalization of judicial systems is reshaping the landscape of legal proceedings globally. Today technology has greatly transformed our lives and the way we interact with each other these days. Technology has transformed things completely in almost every field of life, and simpler to discover solutions whenever an issue arises. On International level the use of technology has also been acclaimed for dispute resolution in different legal systems. This advancement through the use of technology delivers a considerable opportunity to expeditions justice. Although the COVID-19 pandemic created a situation of panic and chaos and caused huge harm to world economy. At that time the technology-oriented methods were adopted by the contemporary litigation and court system. For example in India, due to social distancing norms, the courts are leasing the court proceedings via a virtual courts. In this context, Pakistan's move toward digitalizing its judicial system hold significant promise for providing swift

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and justice to the public.

Pakistan's traditional judicial system has faced challenges related to inefficiencies, delays, and limited accessibility, hindering the timely and fast resolution of cases. The backlog of cases in courts has been a persistent issue, contributing to a sense of frustration among citizens seeking justice.

Digital transformation is the judiciary's golden opportunity to equip itself in the interim and emerge as the leader in public service delivery. Digital courts can speed up the resolution process. It can expedite the legal process, reducing the backlog of cases and ensuring swifter justice delivery.

Digital courts systems are cost-effective. The shift of digital platforms reduces the financial burden on litigants by minimizing travel expenses and paperwork costs. It can overcome the disproportionate expense as well as efforts. These are affordable and citizen-friendly and in addition, greater access to justice is offered by these courts.

Digital courts will enhance the accessibility for people in remote areas. Online platforms make legal proceedings

more accessible to citizens, especially those in remote areas who may face geographical constraints. In reaching physical courts, Pakistan ranked 135th out of 139 nations in its adherence to the rule of law and the less accessibility of justice to the people live in remote areas (World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index, 2021). Digital courts can be easily accessible for them.

Through e-courts, pending cases can be proceed. Around 2 million cases are still pending in all courts of Pakistan (National judicial policy making committee, 2021). With the opening of digital courts, some of these pending cases could be transferred to these courts, thus, reducing the burden of pending cases on the Pakistani judicial system.

Digital courts can save or secure the records of the cases through software applications. As the data of the court proceedings would be stored in digital applications, it would be available in one place and information sharing would become easier. In Pakistan, a lot of cases are pending due to corrupted evidences.

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Though ^{digital} judicial system is beneficial and easily accessible but it also has some problems. The technical glitches and poor digital connectivity issues in Pakistan pose a major challenge to the hearings that are conducted on the digital courts especially if they happen during the peak working hours at a time when many people log into the video conferencing system. Pakistan ranked 159 in internet speed in the world which is the lowest rank ever (World Internet Speed Index, 2023). It may slow down the proceedings.

Online payment system can not be easy for everyone especially for people who use it for the first time and they may avoid it. Most of the people find it easy to pay by cash and digital payment can not be understandable for everyone.

Advocates who reside in remote and rural regions lack the basic infrastructure facilities and do not have access to an internet connection with high speed and thus, it becomes difficult for them to participate in the virtual hearing of the cases. A vast majority of Pakistan's population suffer

from this issue which makes access to justice for them unaccessible and unaffordable.

The reliance on digital platforms introduces a new set of challenges related to cybersecurity. Certain applications and software used for storing the data of the court proceedings are not very secure. If any confidential data is stored in such applications, it could be corrupted and erased through a single virus attack in the computer system. Thus, data privacy can be subjected to cyber crimes like hacking. Recently, 7966 cyber hackings were reported in Pakistan (Cyber crime statistics, 2023). Thus cyber threats may undermine the legal proceedings.

It is very expensive to transform the entire system of the judiciary in Pakistan into digital model. In a country like Pakistan where there are 5 High Courts and 170 plus District Courts (Dr. Faqir Hussain, JSP, 2015). Huge costs and time will be incurred in digitizing every subject matter of the legal system with 2 million pending cases and in implementing advanced technology.

The issues related to digital courts can be resolved in different ways. By establishing a dedicated technical support team to assist users with troubleshooting, and investment in a reliable and high-speed internet connectivity to facilitate all the participants.

Developing a user-friendly online payment portal specifically for court-related transactions and make a dedicated mobile apps for easy access so that everyone can easily use it. Through this, digital courts can create a seamless and user-friendly online payment experience, contributing to overall efficiency of the legal system.

Collaboration with telecommunication companies and government agencies to expand high-speed internet coverage in remote areas to facilitate them with legal system. Satellite-based internet connectivity solutions for areas with limited network infrastructure, and make them aware of digital system of courts.

For securing evidences or data from hacking or misusing, implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive legal information. Conduct regular

security audits to identify and address vulnerabilities. Educating users about best practices for maintaining a secure digital environment for everyone.

Transforming the entire judiciary system into a digital system can indeed be a significant financial undertaking but these issues can be resolved though it will take time. Identifying critical areas within the judiciary system where digitalization will have the most immediate impact. Implement the digital system in phases, focusing on one aspect of the judiciary at a time and for financial burden, collaboration with private companies can be effective.

The digitalization of Pakistan's judicial system stands as a beacon of progress in the pursuit of justice. As the nation embraces cutting-edge technology, accessibility, and transparency. Pakistan's commitment to digital transformation in its judicial system can be the rise of new era, where justice is not only blind but catering to the evolving needs of a progressive society.