Scope of Quality Education in a Digital Society

Education is a fundamental right of every individual. Transformation of education is a continuous process, and is one of the most influential instruments shaping and reshaping societies. The current century is one of technology and digital revolution, which has completely changed individual and societal thinking. This has also brought a paradigm shift in the scope of education planning and management.

Given rapid advancements in technology and digitalisation, the gap between the developing and developed world has been widening due to various modes of information sharing, knowledge management and teaching methodologies. One of the most powerful factors controlling global knowledge resources is technology-based education.

There is a dire need to visualise the density and momentum of digitalisation in all spheres of life. Experts predict that in a rapidly digitalising world, a large part of basic jobs would be based upon digital skills across the globe, which will be a major challenge for the non-digitalised societies. Developing societies are struggling with two major issues in this regard: 1) challenges of quality education; and 2) challenges of adoption of and access to digital technology for transforming education. The traditional classroom dynamics with its analog teaching model will not serve the needs of emerging societies.

We are in the midst of a digital revolution where the digital landscape is in a state of constant motion. It is very important, therefore, to formulate a forward thinking approach to education that will help to narrow the digital skills gap and give tomorrow’s workforce the resilience to capitalise on new opportunities and challenges.

According to the Digital Marketing Institute (n.d.), ‘one of the most positive elements of the evolution of digital technology in the educational sector is the fact that it has highlighted the realization that the computer screen is not just an informational display, but it's a versatile tool for collaboration, creation, and well, creativity…. This new digital age has empowered students and tutors to explore and experiment with their educational efforts, once again, taking activities and methodologies far beyond the traditional blackboard and textbook approach…. The influence of digital technology in higher education is entirely prosperous …. giving everyone access to a wealth of invaluable information without bias, barriers or restrictions…By embracing [the] evolving digital society and harnessing new platforms, developments and methodologies with a creative, strategic approach, driven by a passion for teaching, [it will be] possible to enhance the higher education experience’ in eastern societies in general and in South Asian societies, in particular. ‘As a result, universities, colleges and educational institutions will nurture future creative, innovative and forward-thinking’ generations to create a peaceful, proactive and prosperous global society.

The panellists would be discussing the pros and cons of technological advancement and how this advancement is beneficial for the improvement of education and what are the key challenges which actually need to be addressed to improve the education quality standards for greater impact.
Reference

Panel Organiser
Mr Shahid Minhas, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: shahidminhas@sdpi.org