

THE WAVE OF DIGITIZATION RESULTS DIGITAL DIVIDE: A STUDY FROM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE OF RURAL BACKWARD CLASSES

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ABSTRACT

A major societal concern, especially in developing nations, is the digital divide between urban and rural locations. There are several barriers to rural India's access to ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and its services, despite the fact that the world's overall penetration of the Internet. Developing countries have both new opportunities and new constraints as a result of information and communication technology (ICT). Digitalization, automation, and the adoption of ICT open up a wealth of new opportunities in terms of greater efficiency and production, as well as the creation of new services. Social and economic implications of each wave of digitization are unique.

Keywords: Social, Digitization, Digital divide, Economic.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to the survey, the number of people in India who own devices is shockingly low. Only one out of every ten (10.7) homes own a computing device, including desktop, laptop, notebook, palmtop, and tablet devices. The discrepancy between rural and urban computer device ownership is considerable. Among rural homes who own a computer, Schedule Tribes (STs) are at the bottom of the list at 2.47 percent, followed by Scheduled Castes (SCs) at 3.27 percent, and Muslims (3.58 percent). When it comes to owning a computing device in metropolitan areas, Muslims and SCs are the worst-off groups (12.7%), while STs and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are marginally better (over 19 percent).

The number of internet subscribers has risen substantially in the recent decade, from 267.4 million in December 2014 to 687.2 million in September 2018. This is due to the arrival of several internet service providers. Because of the increased competition among internet service providers, the internet is now more accessible than ever before. Internet access is available to fewer than 15 percent of rural families in India compared to only 9 percent of ST households. With 42 percent of urban homes having internet connectivity in 2017-18, despite the discrepancy between social categories, it is clear that urban households are.

ii. IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH

When it comes to the most important aspects of scalability, computing, broadband, and mobile phone networks have been helpful in helping traditional sectors of the economy grow more quickly. Many conventional sectors of the economy are confined in their expansion due to a lack of access to resources such as raw materials or distribution channels, and hence A mature technology-based approach to digitization has allowed firms to develop further, addressing higher end demand and producing an increasing requirement for factor inputs, such as labour, in this context. Several pieces of study have highlighted the initial push for easing the scalability constraint:

- The adoption of more effective corporate procedures enabled by ICTs, as well as the marketing of excess stocks and supply chain optimization, have improved productivity.
- Revenue growth resulting from extended market coverage.

In addition, it has an impact on the composition and deployment of industrial Information processing and remote service delivery capabilities of first wave digital technologies can attract workers from other places. Outsourcing and the establishment of virtual customer care centres are the services that are most affected. Using a large dataset of UK enterprises, Abramovsky et al. (2006) determined the likelihood of a firm exporting business operations and services increased from 6 to 12 percent when using broadband Internet.

For example, software development and business process outsourcing are growing industries within the services sector.

Clarke (2008) evaluated the influence of broadband availability on industrial and service enterprises' exports, focusing on revenue growth. Eastern Europe and Central Asia were included in the study. Business size, industrial sector, foreign ownership, firm performance and level of domestic competition were all taken into account, as well as membership in an international trade organisation as well as progress in privatisation and telecommunications Broadband-enabled enterprises in the manufacturing sector made 6 percent higher foreign sales than those without it, according to the author.

According to Katz and Callorda (2017), an increase of 1 percent in a digital ecosystem development index, which corresponds primarily to the first and second waves of digitization (including all telecommunications technologies and digital services such as ecommerce, e-government, and ehealth), results in a 0.13 percent increase in per capita GDP growth, meaning that a 10 point increase in a ten (which includes direct and secondary effects). Countries in the OECD have a higher coefficient than emerging economies,

As a result of their good impact on the growth of new firms, ICTs have been found to be particularly This is the result of connectivity's network effects. The incentive to establish new enterprises around information search, advertising and electronic commerce increases when a significant enough proportion of households are linked to broadband.

II. DIGITAL DIVIDE!!

When it comes to using ICTs and the Internet for various purposes in everyday life, there is a digital divide between those individuals, groups, businesses, or geographical areas at different socio-economic levels. It truly refers to the split of society into two groups: those who are economically equipped to gain from the economy (haves) and those who are not (have nots). Digital gap reinforces class-based social exploitation (as Karl Marx put it) and is one of the key causes of socio-economic inequality.

Sociological implications of Digital Divide during Lockdown:

Democracy and the free-market economy are two more principles that are fundamental to the concept of digital divide. Individuals in different countries and regions have varying levels of it on a local, regional, or national level. It's crucial to understand the difference between those who have and those who don't. Our culture is heavily reliant on digital platforms at this point in time, and this is dividing the population into two groups: the information-rich and the information-poor. In this case, the Internet connection plays a crucial role. A good internet connection is required to participate in this digital world, and those without it are left behind in this post-modern race. In this case, a highly essential variable should be: People who do not have access to a reliable internet connection do not always lack the financial resources to get one.

People may not have sufficient internet access despite their economic resources. In certain cases, it is determined by the region. Because of the regional internet challenges, persons who do not have economic resources have now joined those who do not have economic resources in the information-poor category. On the basis of the current situation, we can all get a general estimate of the ratio between information-rich and information-poor. When it comes to knowledge, women and the older generations of our society are particularly at risk. Thereby, a new definition of poverty enters our culture, one that does not fully adhere to Marx's concept of "haves" and "have nots" in society.

This digital gap also creates a distinction between developed and developing countries in terms of information wealth and information poverty. Due to this newly emergent "must do" of social separation, the social contact arena has undergone tremendous changes. Think about human beings as social animals and human beings with social distances! It examines therefore not only an individual's but also society's mental and physical well-being.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for a democratic society to sustain its democracy when it comes to essential human rights such as education, health, and religion because of the digital divide. When we travel to villages from big cities, the situation gets worse. There is thus a perpetual threat to our society's digital platform dominating and reshaping our entire society for a new transformation. We're not just making 'history,' we're living it. Our obligation is to attempt to narrow this digital divide so that democracy may continue to function in the best way possible.

As a result of the pandemic, the brief's empirical findings indicate that the digital gap along racial/ethnic and socioeconomic lines has been reproduced. It's a conclusion that's supported. Businesses and schools have provided computers to kids in response to this educational issue, and local governments are given or plan to offer free internet access. However, these measures simply serve as a deterrent to a

rapidly deteriorating scenario There are "still inadequate" remedies to this problem, as California Governor Newsom recognised Covidian infections and mortality will surge again in the next months, resulting in a higher reliance on virtual schooling. As a result of this, kids and teachers will experience a level of separation that has Monitoring near-term trends in a timely manner is essential, as is using the knowledge gathered to formulate effective and focused policy solutions. Es istebenfalls crucial, the long-term damages, such as an increasing achievement gap and the resulting loss of human capital must be scientifically assessed. So that we do not end up in a dystopian future, we must provide relief in order to minimise present concerns and plan for In addition to addressing the pandemic's ill impacts, policies and measures must aim to eliminate the digital divide

III. IMPACT ON SOCIAL WELFARE

On various Sustainable Development Goals, such as Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Fair Work and Economic Growth, as well as Sustainable Cities, the third wave of digitization promises to have major benefits for social welfare (SDG 11). There's a chance that applications, particularly those related to health and e-government services, can provide the public with information about environmental sustainability. These applications should also help reduce automobile traffic, especially in urban and suburban areas, on the other hand. To a similar extent, eGovernment applications cut the amount of time required to travel to and from This has become a very common occurrence around the world, as several of these applications

A few examples of how improvements in wave of digital technologies have improved

Application	Technology	Impact
Horizon Scanning Center (United Kingdom)	• Big data	• Platform forecasting the impact of climate change on food and water availability, among other factors
Prediction of vacant residential property (United States)	• Big data	• Help predict and prevent vacant residential property
ATISMART	• Big data • CAS mathematical core	• Traffic flow simulation platform based on the use of smart traffic lights, network sensors, and signals
Foot and mouth disease syndrome prevention (South Korea)	• Big data	• Analysis of data streams coming from animal disease overseas, customs/immigration records, breeding farm surveys, livestock migration, and workers in the livestock industry
Fraud detection in Social benefits payment (United States)	Machine Learning (Unsupervised Learning performing anomaly detection using unlabeled data)	• Fraud reduction in Medicare payments
Public transportation management	• Machine Learning	• Provide just-in-time access to public transportation • Expected to be faster, cheaper and more accessible to the public
Criminal Justice System (United States)	• Machine Learning	• Improve crime reporting, policing, bail, sentencing, and parole decisions (Data Driven Justice, Police Data Initiative) • Aid for decision-making in the criminal justice system

IV. IMPACT OF DIGITIZATION DURING LOCKDOWN ON VARIOUS SECTORS OF INDIA:

India's economy has been severely disrupted by government efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus outbreak during the past few weeks. Millions of individuals have lost their jobs as a result of the closure of restaurants, hotels, and retail stores, as well as the decline in air and rail travel, as well as the emptying of museums, casinos, and sports stadiums. On the other hand, daily wage earners and migrant workers are the ones who are After being separated from their families due to the lockdown, they are all stranded in various cities, unable

It was in response to the misery of these individuals and their families that the Obama administration increased unemployment benefits, provided financial aid to small businesses, and provided direct payments to individuals working for private companies It's now up to local leaders to notify and connect

the impacted workers with local emergency "bridge" programmes that can help them while they wait for federal assistance. It's not just the low-wage earners who are affected by Lockdown.

Until now, the concept of digital divide and how it separates the rich from the poor has been well understood. As a result, it's important to keep in mind that the majority of migrant workers and daily pay earn Digital divide has isolated and stigmatised them, as they are not monetarily well-off enough to use digital media to communicate with others. People who are well-educated or well-off will gain more from digitization than workers and labourers who are suffering because of the pandemic problem.

V. CONCLUSION

In summary, the initial wave of digitization has had a substantial impact on corporate growth and cost efficiency, as shown by studies on its social Job creation appears to be affected differently by industry sector. After unlocking scalability in certain industries and increasing productivity elsewhere, the initial wave of digitization may have simultaneously produced employment creation and job destruction. As a result, while broadband has the potential to create jobs by reducing scaling restrictions in certain industries, its productivity impact can result in capital-labor substitution, which could lead to a net loss of jobs in other According to the initial wave of study, employment creation in certain labor-intensive industries outpaces workforce reduction by a wide margin.

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