

The Role of Digital Literacy to Promote the Gender Equality

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Abstract

Digital Technology is crucial part of everyone's life. This research is based on the digital literacy role to promote the gender equality in every field. According to [UNICEF, 2017](#), Digital literacy is becoming more and more recognized as a necessary skill for employability and has been associated with increased earning potential and new business opportunities. This research found that various obstacles faced by female during the usages of digital technology. There are various measures introduced to overcome this problem. Education policy should place a strong emphasis on digital literacy for both boys and girls. To reach girls at a young age and provide them the opportunity to develop their talents over time, digital skill training should be incorporated into formal school curriculum starting in the basic grades.

Keywords: *Digital Technology, Digital Literacy, Gender Equality, Digital Innovation.*

Introduction

Digital technologies are any techniques, systems, equipment, or resources that produce, store, or process data electronically. Digital technology is always increasing and changing. Internet and

mobile technologies, digital networks, content, services, and applications, traditional and cutting-edge media, communication, and information systems, connected devices and environments, virtual and augmented reality, machine learning,

robotics, automated systems, and data analytics, as well as biometrics and biotechnology, are some of the technologies that fall under this category. For kids and teenagers to flourish in a variety of disciplines, internet experience and opportunity are important. Both formal education and education access to casual learning are provided through this Introducing Online Engagement. Crucial information and assistance about one's health and well-being, engagement in artistic endeavors and cultural practices, civic responsibility, expression of ideas and opinions, and spare time ([Stoilova et al, 2021](#)). Develop a network of like-minded individuals and take advantage of job, career, and business opportunities.

Digital literacy is becoming more and more recognized as a necessary skill for employability and has been associated with increased earning potential and new business opportunities ([UNICEF, 2017](#)). All jobs have a digital component in excess of 90% (United Nations, 2018). Yet, unique geographic, economic, and social disparities in success continue, particularly those connected to disability and gender ([UNICEF, 2017](#); [UNESCO, 2019](#)). To

eliminate the digital divide for all children, each of these obstacles needs to be specifically understood and addressed.

Digital literacy has become vital to our lives. Digital literacy includes the ability to use and understand technology, and to search and access information through the internet. Children can use digital literacy to design technological devices and solutions and to solve complex problems thanks to STEM education.

Women are overwhelmingly the subject of knowledge in the gender digital divide community (above 18 years). This leaves the current generation of girls with a large knowledge gap about the reality of the digital world ([GSMA, 2020](#); [ITU, 2019](#); [EQUALS, 2019](#)). Nonetheless, the scant information that is available does show that girls experience similar trends to women, including less availability and use ([Girl Effect, 2018](#)). Similar regional differences exist, as well as large discrepancies in the use of more advanced technological instruments (such as smartphone accessibility and usage). According to Current evidence the digital world mirrors the physical world's gender imbalance. In

comparison to males and boys, women and girls accept and use digital technology at a far lower rate.

According to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), more than 50% of women worldwide are not online (ITU 2019). This is more obvious in underdeveloped nations where adult women have a lower internet access rate (41%) compared to men (53%). In developing nations, 393 million adult women do not own mobile phones, according to GSMA research, and internationally, women are 8% less likely to own a cell phone than males.

Along with this gender disparity in digital access, there is also one in meaningful digital use.

According to a number of studies, women typically use mobile devices and the internet in a different way than males. For instance, women use a lower range of digital services (typically focusing primarily on voice and SMS), as they are constrained by less expensive and sophisticated devices. Also, women visit the internet less frequently and for fewer reasons, and they use digital services less regularly and intensively (Web Foundation, 2015; Web Foundation, 2016;

[LIRNE Asia, 2019](#); [GSMA, 2020](#)).

Women's access to the full range of opportunities provided by digital is hampered by these usage discrepancies.

This article deals with gender phenomena in the context of digital literacy. The main objectives of this research are to find out the problems and challenges face by women while using the digital technology, how to overcome these problems with the help of digital literacy.

Studies show that computer use, computer skills, and computer-related self-concept are subject to gender differences. These differences can affect classroom interactions as well as learning processes.

Digital innovation (or digital business innovation) is the spark of creativity that leads to the development of new technology or innovative applications of existing digital technology. Digital innovation is often a precursor to digital transformation.

Why am I limited even today?

Until the same struggle

It was started by Baba Nanak

Ambedkar had given the direction

The same struggle that Amrita spoke about is still going on today

How long to fight?

How long did it take me in the society?

To get equal rights with men.

Women have always been neglected in this male dominated society. We all celebrate the International Women's Day on 8th March by texting some and calling others how did it start. In fact, this Women's Day is the product of the labor movement. In 1908, 15 thousand women marched in New York City with the demands of reducing working hours, increasing wages and the right to vote. Named the day. This Clara Jetkin who was a Marxist theorist raised a lot of voice for women's rights thus it became national and international.

Why is digital innovation important?

Digital technology can help streamline processes, increase efficiency, improve productivity and save businesses money. Many companies face the dilemma of incorporating and adapting new technology into their business when their existing technology is working well.

As a starting point, we must make greater and sustained investments in women's and girls' digital literacy and exposure to technology. This will enable them to

effectively participate in the digital economy and gain access to digital services such as education, healthcare and online banking. E-commerce and technology-based businesses offer women greater flexibility, helping them manage paid and unpaid work, which is essential for economic empowerment. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is working with the government and our partners to develop and implement innovative solutions that bridge the gender digital divide in Bangladesh. Of course, many campaigns were launched for women's rights. From the earliest stages of human civilization, woman is a natural and indispensable part of the human race. The union of male and female is the basis of the origin of the world. Man and woman are two such creatures of the human race, which are complementary to each other. These two creatures are two sides of the same coin, which cannot be read in isolation from each other in the grammar of male and female relationships.

As civilization developed, so did the grammar of male-female relationships. New crises and identity issues came to the fore. In every civilization, men began to coerce and exploit women. The position of women in

historical perspective has not always been the same. He was once the moderator of the society, sometimes the equal of men, and the woman began to be coerced and exploited by the man. The position of women in historical perspective has not always been the same. He was once the moderator of the society, sometimes the equal of men, and the woman began to be coerced and exploited by the man.

The position of women in historical perspective has not always been the same. Sometimes she is the moderator of the society, sometimes the equal of men and sometimes she suffers the state of slavery. The form of woman has been changing from time to time in the context of the historical situation of humanity. Gender discrimination against women due to male predominance He had to be a victim of many injustices in the society. It is because of these injustices and discriminatory social behavior that the concept of feminism emerges. Since the existence of feminism is established, many movements arise. Feminist movements and theoretical points of thought have of course derived their origins from the West, but their major

concerns have encompassed all aspects of society and culture.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica woman is a gender related to man that performs the function of birth and upbringing of children. In Middle English, the word female is derived from the French and Latin word male and the diminutive of *familla* means woman. Its current description has come into being from a combination of ideas with the 'male-caste' group. According to various technicalities, the receiving side is often referred to as female.

It is right that women participate more in every field. Women have established a distinct identity in every field of country's security. This day should be celebrated every year in a new way with new goals. So that, children are sitting in any country of the world are not considered to be built on slavery. India is famous all over the world for its traditions. Where in India, a woman is considered to be a goddess, but there, if a newborn girl is found on the side of the road or on the arrow of a kaddan, she bows her head in shame. Globally, men are 21 percent more likely than women to be online, a gap

that rises to 52 percent in less developed countries. The problem of women's access to digital resources does not reside in the medium, but in the social context in which women are situated.

Learning can happen anywhere and anytime. Innovative solutions are at our fingertips and we have an opportunity to leverage global experience to provide high-quality education for girls, from high-tech to low-tech, to high-tech. No-Tech. With rapid technological advancements in all areas of life and work, every girl needs to be digitally literate and connected to unlock access to possibilities beyond her imagination.

However, there is a gender digital divide: when it comes to digital adoption, girls are at a disadvantage, have lower levels of access to and use of digital technology than boys, and often do not benefit from digital technology as much as boys are taking. Digital products and services need to be designed with girls and to meet their realities. Digital solutions, products and content are designed for a 'default' user and fail to consider, developing a toolkit of best practices to help close the digital divide.

Beyond the economic benefits, increasing women's safe and equitable access to digital technologies offers tremendous opportunities to address development and humanitarian challenges and to introduce innovative and creative solutions that address women's needs and empower them

Gender Digital divide for Girls

[Tyers A and Banyan Global, 2020](#) conducted survey research on inequalities between genders in young children's access to digital media. The little information that is currently available does, however, point to a pattern of reduced access and use for girls as compared to women. Girls aged 15 to 19 were less likely than males to have used the internet in the previous year in the nations with data, and they were also less likely to own a mobile phone. South Asian nations had the highest discrepancies. For instance, in Pakistan and Nepal, boys' rates of internet use were quadruple and twice that of girls, respectively. In Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, the percentage of boys who owned a phone was over 30% higher. Adolescent girls in Nepal, India, Afghanistan, and Timor-Leste had much

lower weekly access to information media than did boys in these countries.

Problems and Challenges faced by women while using the Digital Technology

The biggest obstacles to women using and accessing digital technology are as follows, all of which are connected and frequently have a strong foundation in social and economic structures:

The presence of necessary Infrastructure:

This is a reference to infrastructure that is physically unavailable or inadequate, including network coverage and the electricity needed to power devices. Due to low connectivity, women who reside in underdeveloped and isolated areas frequently find it extremely challenging to access the Internet.

Public access facilities may provide a different option, but they might only be accessible in places that women deem hazardous or inconvenient, or where societal norms and safety concerns restrict their freedom of movement. In some societies, it might be difficult for women to obtain the identification documents needed to open bank accounts or register SIM cards.

Price and accessibility

For many men and women, the highest obstacle to owning a mobile phone is cost. This barrier includes both the purchase price of the equipment and the cost of usage. Women are frequently more impacted by cost because their incomes are typically lower than men's.

Also, compared to men, women frequently have lower financial independence and have more difficulty accessing capital. Because of this, women are more price sensitive than males when purchasing gadgets, and frequently opt for models with lower quality and connectivity that provide them less access to the Internet and other services.

Usefulness and Aptitude

Also, women lack the knowledge and self-assurance needed to use digital technology effectively at all levels, starting with fundamental usage. In many nations, girls have lower access to school than boys and, as a result, more are illiterate. Low literacy results in a lack of digital skills and a lack of confidence, which makes it harder for women to utilize internet services.

Women are less likely than males to use transformative services (like mobile internet) and are more likely to limit their use to a select few services and applications.

Security and Safety

Digital technologies have the potential to both empower and disempower women.

For many women, online abuse, assault, and harassment can be quite prohibitive.

Women have suffered internet abuse in various nations, ranging from minor harassment and trolling to stalking and sexual intimidation. However, studies also demonstrate that women can use mobile and digital services to safeguard and improve their personal security, such as anonymous top-up services where women are not required to give customer service representatives their mobile phone number, panic button apps, emergency credit, helplines, and harassment mapping apps.

Knowledge and pertinent information

Many women in underdeveloped nations are unclear of or uninformed about how communications services might improve their lives. Recent research by [LIRNEasia](#)

demonstrates that Internet awareness is quite low, especially among women. Rather than the various varied services the Internet offers, many Internet users, especially in developing nations, associate it with social media platforms like Facebook. Women who lack disposable income, free time, literacy, or knowledge of the Internet are less likely to be motivated to invest the time and money necessary to get access. This issue is further complicated by the dearth of pertinent information. ICT apps and services are frequently criticized for being overly male-centric or not giving enough consideration to women's needs, such as private access to reproductive health information.

It's vital to take social norms into account while examining the hurdles mentioned above because they have a varying impact on women's life in various nations. It is challenging to overcome deeply ingrained cultural elements that operate as barriers to the use of digital technology because they are frequently so subtle that it is difficult to see how they affect people. These hurdles include, for instance, the tendency to prioritize boys' education above girls' or women's dread of the Internet because they

think the information may be rude, improper, or detrimental to them.

Why is it crucial to eliminate the gender digital gap?

Following the pandemic, the world's digitization is accelerating, with the workforce and economy becoming more and more reliant on people's technological aptitude. If the gender gap in technology is not closed:

The potential of young girls will continue to go unrealized since they are underrepresented in STEM fields and other employment opportunities in the digital economy.

Girls will face more obstacles to entering the economy and fewer career options without improved digital uptake and use, which will widen the gender pay gap.

The digital world will continue to be created by and for male users and customers, and inequality will endure in both the offline and online worlds.

Gender equality in education can be advanced through rethinking Digital Literacy.

Girls have the right to receive a high-quality, all-encompassing education that equips them with the digital literacy, critical thinking, and innovation needed to develop technology while preparing them for a wide range of vocations. Reimagining digital literacy can be done by;

Gender-responsive classroom settings

Classrooms and learning environments, whether physical or virtual, must be free of negative gender stereotypes and customs that discriminate against females in particular. Every child, regardless of gender, needs to be inspired to learn, succeed, and thrive in the subjects or career paths they select.

More cheap digital services and increased digital connectivity

Girls must be given the chance to use cutting-edge digital learning resources and be equipped with the means to interact with them. It is important to improve females' access to the internet in remote and conflict-affected areas.

Training on digital skills for young females

It is possible to increase digital literacy and interest in STEM fields by creating STEM clubs for girls or offering community-based digital skills training to out-of-school girls.

Changing the gender roles

To reflect freedom of choice, interests, opportunities, and access to education, gender norms must be reinterpreted. Girls' aspirations for the future should be encouraged, and safe entryways into the STEM profession should be established.

Attracting boys and men

Boys and men should be given the tools they need to understand and support the contributions, values, and capacities of women. For both girls and boys, improved involvement and inclusion in digital and STEM education can be facilitated by positive masculinity, male allies, and safe environments.

Exemplary role models

It's important to have female role models represented. When girls are exposed to strong female role models like teachers, their interest and sense of ambition grow. More gender equality in STEM education

and jobs may result from establishing mentorship relationships between STEM experts and female students in schools.

We are members of the digital generation. Girls have a right to high-quality, all-encompassing education that closes the gender wage gap and promotes STEM education, digital literacy, and digital skills. Here's to bringing up future leaders who will change the game in the digital world— young girls!

Conclusion

Education policy should place a strong emphasis on digital literacy for both boys and girls. To reach girls at a young age and provide them the opportunity to develop their talents over time, digital skill training should be incorporated into formal school curriculum starting in the basic grades.

Education policy can encourage girls to study STEM fields in inclusive, nondiscriminatory settings that offer opportunity for learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Partnership with the commercial sector, such as cell operators, may aid in the development of digital literacy among females, particularly

those who may not be in school or who reside in more distant areas.

In order to effectively build programmes and initiatives that strive to bridge the gender digital divide for girls, more study and data are required.

This can be accomplished, for instance, by conducting national or regional demand-side surveys that concentrate on youth under the age of 18, incorporating sex-disaggregated data on youth digital adoption into regular national surveys, or investigating cutting-edge methods for gathering data and understanding trends, such as big data. To comprehend girls' digital experiences, the security and safety dangers they can encounter online, and any concerns and challenges in their community around girls' use of technology, context-specific research is also required.

More girls will be able to access digital opportunities for civic engagement, work, and education by increasing their digital usage. To give a new generation of female's access to these digital opportunities and the increasingly digital workplace, we must close the digital gap.

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