

**AN ANALYSIS OF DIGITAL COMPETENCE AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PURNA SUBDIVISIONS RURAL DEGREE COLLEGES
DISTRICT PARBHANI. (MAHARASHTRA).**

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Abstract: Information technology had a profound impact on all sectors. Education, research, training, and various services are affected by these new digital media. New changes are happening day by day. Acquiring and utilizing accurate information is a challenge. Students must be able to handle the ever-increasing digital sources and services. A questionnaire includes 20 questions distributed to 150 students those who learning in graduation level. 105 filled questionnaire was receive back from arts, commerce and science streams students. This survey got to overall 70% response.

Introduction:

In human beings, history the invention of the wheel and fire is a very important milestone. In agricultural exploration and industrial trade, we make our lives easier and smoother. The industrial revolution in the Middle Ages and political revolutions in the modern era totally changed society. The inventions of paper, printing, and ink boost knowledge creation and distribution. The information and communication technology revolution brings vital changes to our daily lives. Digital tools, techniques, and services are key factors in the present environment. In our country, the government and other bodies are rapidly working on mission mode for the promotion and dissemination of digital technology. A variety of digital devices is developed from tabletop computers to smart wristbands These tools and services transformed our lives. Citizens and the educational community are also aware of this. Modern technologies offer benefits in various dimensions. The increasing availability of computers and other digital tools and services in educational institutions is very helpful for the teaching and learning processes. Especially Teacher communities are frequently using the digital tools for getting their educational and other goals. A quality education system is the key factor in our nation's development. In this system, school education plays a very crucial role. However, you teach in any language or medium, you can't live apart from digital technology. The past ICT environment was more complicated than those of 50 years ago, and the term "digital age" now provides more originality, and as a result, it becomes more complicated. Phrases such as "digital systems," "digital social order," "digital skills," "digital literacy," and "digital organization" are used in a multitude of applications. It has largely been stressed that because of these complications, there is an urgent requirement to make the role of digital skills more efficient to enable effective information contribution, which can be extended, leveraged, created, or maintained.

In this present era the technological tools and services are an integral part of education and training system. Vast and speedy digitization bring changes in our lives. The knowledge and skills acquired through traditional education are insufficient for life. Traditional type education does not lead to life. In the Indian society many social problems and challenges which affects the education and progress of rural area students. Students living in the rural areas always face difficulties related to educational progress. After independence, compulsory education, free and universal education policies make Participation in higher education has increased. Students need to have various types of computing skills while pursuing higher education. Acquiring information, processing it and storing it and using it to solve the problem at the right time is a very important aspect. Transforming knowledge and information in surviving skills is a continuous process in students' life.

3. Digital Competence Definition and Meaning:

In 1997 Paul Glister introduced this term in his book .Some definition of digital competence are given as follows,

3.1. According by the European commission, “digital competence is describe or explain ability of an individuals in the context of ICT.

3.2. According to Rizza Caroline,” Digital competence involves the confident and crit-50ical use of Information Society Technology (IST) for work or study.

Digital competence means the basic knowledge and skills about the use of information and communication technology. We can also called it e-skills or e-competencies. Draw solution of the problem with help of ICT tools and techniques means digital competence.

4. Importance of Digital Competence

The Indian Society has been transformed by the rapid development and diffusion of information and communication technology (ICT) into fields such as education, business, health, agriculture, and so on. Information users may be bewildered by a variety of digitized information. The process of identifying and selecting information has become complex. It is critical to promote Digital literacy (DL) in the digital age.

Digital skill is essential to succeed in any academic environment. The purpose of education is to enlighten the users how to use information available at their disposal. However, research will assess the digital literacy skills of graduate students in degree colleges of Raigad district. AS the students in institution of higher learning seems to have adequate digital literacy skills.



(Figure1.Digital Competence skills)

5. Scope and Limitations of the study

The study was include 150 graduate students from Purna subdivisions government granted degree colleges. In this subdivision only 2 degree colleges are affiliated and granted by government of Maharashtra. The 98% responses from Swatanrya Sainik Surybhanji Pawar College and Shri Gurubudhi Swami College Purna Subdivision District Parbhani. Mentioned both colleges have well ICT infrastructure. Three branches students includes arts, commerce and science had participants in this study Main subjects are Library science, Marathi, Hindi, English, Social sciences, Accountancy, Commerce, Zoology. Chemistry etc. The purpose of the study is identify the strength and weakness of respondent in digital competencies. The study will include survey of Graduate students of 2 degree colleges of Purna subdivision in Parbhani district in Maharashtra state. The study will cover the students of various courses including Arts, Commerce and Science stream. This subdivision is economically, socially and educationally backward declared by the Indian government. To study these rural area-based degree college student’s awareness about the digital environment is quite interesting.

6. Review of Literature

Saxsena,K.N.(2018) Titled ,” Digital Competence: 21st Century Skill for Self-Development.” In this article stated that ability of students I meaningful use of digital sources and services. This concept mainly deals with ICT Related skills. These skills are very necessary in 21-st century. Advance ICT skills always help to achieve the educational goals.**Peterson,F.,(2018)** In the review article (On the

issues of digital competence in educational contexts) express his opinion especially on educational use of digital skills. Day by increasing interest in digital technology of educational stakeholders is a good sign for future strategic plans. Students, Teachers and policymakers is involved in digital literacy awareness among community. Sofkova,H.S.(2018) The article ,” Digital competence and digital literacy in higher education research: Systematic review of concept use”. This paper highlighted the differences between various terms related with digital environment also stated the key components of digital competency skills for learning community.

7. Objectives of the Study:

The research paper stated following objectives.

- 1.To know the Digital awareness Degree college students.
 2. To study the importance of digital Competence in study
 3. To know access and use of digital resources
 - 4.To find the motive of digital resources
- are showing the future path to proposed research topic.

8. Methodology

Research in social science is closely related to mathematical, computer and other quantitative aspects and the vast increase in the empiricism of modern social science. Never in history has so much in the way of data been collected, examined, classified, and bought to the use of social theory and social policy a linked. What has been called the triumph of the fact is nowhere more visible than in the social sciences.

The sample of the study included only the population of Graduate Students of 2 Degree college students. The study was include 150 graduate students from Purna subdivisions government granted degree colleges. In this subdivision only 2 degree colleges are affiliated and granted by government of Maharashtra. The 98% responses from Swatantrya Sainik Surybhanji Pawar College and Shri Gurubudhi Swami College at Purna Subdivision District Parbhani. Graduate students of various courses including Arts, Commerce and Science. The data highlight responses graduate Student the total percentage will above 75. % for the present research in one phases i.e. measurement of digital competencies.

10. Data Analysis

The structured questionnaire distributed to arts commerce and science faculty students. All Three years degree students includes in it 1st, 2nd and 3rd years students. The purpose of analysis we categories data in male and female in this two type category. Distribution of questionnaire total number of 150 students in all 3 streams and 3 years. Out of 150 questionnaire 105 fulfilled questioner received back from these students. Data analysis with the help of MS-Excel software and MS-Word for tables, graphs etc.

10.1. Gender wise distribution of questionnaire

Table 1 highlight that 105 respondent filled the questionnaire, mostly 66 (62.86%) male students and 39 (37.14%) were female students. Male students are more respondents as compare to the female students in this survey.

S.L.No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage
01	Male	66	62.86%
02	Female	39	37.14%
Total		105	100%

10.2. Graduation year wise response

Below table no.2 shows that graduation 1-st, 2-nd, and 3-rd year students response to questionnaire. The 1-st year students 48 (45.71%), 2-nd year 34 (32.38%) and 3-rd year 23 (21.90%) out of 105 respondents.

Table No.2.Year wise Respondent for questionnaire
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S.I.No.	Graduation Year (B.A., B.Com,&B.Sc.)	Respondent	Percentage
01	1-st Year	48	45.71%
02	2-nd Year	34	32.38%
03	3-rd Year	23	21.90%
Total		105	100%

10.3. Requirement of training

For the effective use of digital sources and services maximum respondent are in favour of proper training and education. There are out of 105 (89) 84.76% participants need the training and out 105(16) 15.24% participant no requirement of training. Most of participant wish to learn soft skills of digital technology in both colleges.

S.I.No.	Need of training	Respondent	Percentage
01	Yes	89	84.76%
02	No	16	15.24%
Total		105	100%

10.4. Awareness of digital competencies

Table no.4 shows the awareness of the concept of digital competency. Majority students out of 105 (86) 81.90% are aware. Only 19 (18.10%) participants lack of awareness in digital competence term.

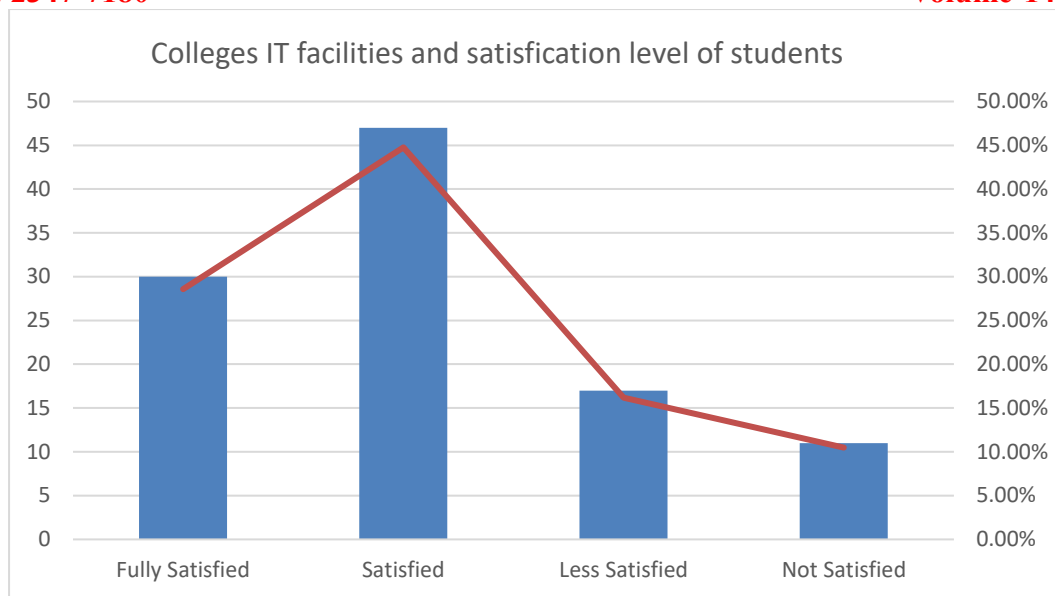
S.I.No.	A	Respondent	Percentage
01	Yes	86	81.90%
02	No	19	18.10%
Total		105	100%

10.5. Level of satisfaction

Above selected both collages have IT infrastructure so we like to know the satisfaction level of students about these IT facilities. In the questionnaire a special question give for mapping this level.

S.I.No.	Satisfaction Level	Respondent	Percentage
01	Fully Satisfied	30	28.57%
02	Satisfied	47	44.76%
03	Less Satisfied	17	16.19%
04	Not Satisfied	11	10.48%
Total		105	100%

In above table out of 105 (77) 73.33% students are quite satisfied about IT facilities given by colleges to them. The unsatisfied ratio is 105(28) 26.67% less but important and to give hint for improvement the facilities of IT^s in selected colleges.

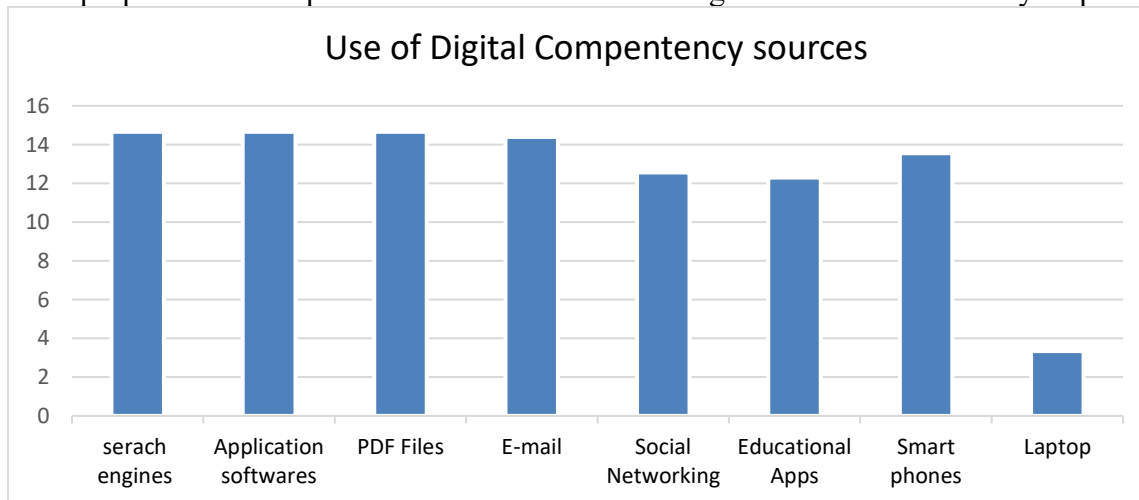


10.6. Use of Digital Competency Sources

Table no.4 described the use of different search engines and application software by the respondents. Majority students used search engines, software, files and emails. Search engines for searching various information 100% respondent used the Google search for information.

S.I.No.	Digital Competency Sources	Responses in Numbers	Percentage
01	Search engines	105	14.66%
02	Application Software	105	14.66%
03	PDF Files	105	14.66%
04	E-mail	103	14.39%
05	Social Networking	90	12.57
06	Educational Apps	88	12.29%
07	Smart Phones	97	13.55%
08	Laptop	24	3.35%
Total		716	100%

The 7 different type questions included in questionnaire. Each question had 4 options for answer. The main purpose of these question is find out the use of digital tools and devices by respondents.



11. Findings

From the analysed data given below findings was found

- a) The maximum students are actively used the digital devices for the purpose of study and get knowledge.
- b) Majority of students know the role of digital technology in life and they want to learn digital skills for betterment of them life.
- c) Very less students was unaware about the digital competency concept.
- d) Analysis shows that the 1-st year student's response was quite well for questionnaire.
- e) Students have advance level skills as like content creation on social network sites and it sharing to others.

12. Conclusions

Digital competency is a set of skills it deals with how an individual effectively use the ICT sources and services for solve the issues. In present era it is necessary to adopt soft skills of ICT. There are various types of technological devices developed for educational purposes students should aware about these digital revolution. Social networking, Artificial intelligence and robotics entered in everybody's life. The complex of devices and information has become a challenge for community now a days.

According to this study found that both selected colleges students has need to proper guidance and training for develops their digital competency skills. Colleges should provide advanced digital sources and services to learners. The study underlined the importance of digital competency in achieving educational as well as life goals. Above findings are helpful for further development of educators and institutes.

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