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Empowering Lifelong Learning Through Digital Transformation in Higher Education

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Abstract:

Digital transformation in education allows learners to acquire knowledge through online learning courses, e-learning platforms, and virtual interactions. Technology is an important source of continuous learning opportunities for learners at their own pace. The rapid change in technology and its increasing use in the workforce highlight the process of lifelong learning through digital transformation. Digital transformation in education helps learners and teachers enhance their educational experience and bring about qualitative outcomes. Digital transformation is a process that integrates digital technology and education into areas of improved efficiency in teaching and learning experience. Lifelong learning is a self-initiated education process that focuses on individual development. This identifies an individual nature to explore learning and growth to encourage a live quality of life and a sense of self-worth. Lifelong learning is very important, and this helps us achieve the 'Sustainable Development Goal.' There are a total of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to overcome social, economic, and environmental challenges by 2030.

Lifelong learning is a process in which an individual continuously acquires knowledge and skills to adapt to challenges and problems. Sustainable development focuses on fulfilling the needs of the present generation without considering the needs of future generations. Lifelong learning plays an important role in achieving sustainable development by fostering public awareness, understanding, and action. Institutes of higher education play a key role in generating knowledge, critical thinking, and preparing future generations. Sustainable development is increasingly confronted in higher education curricula, promoting principles of sustainability with environmental administration and by providing social justice with economic equality. Research conducted with higher education institutions helps cope with difficult sustainability challenges and ideal solutions. Lifelong learning, higher education, and sustainable development are interrelated and empower individuals to address global challenges more effectively.

Keywords: New Education Policy 2020, Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, Sustainable Development

Introduction:

The year 1947 was the most significant in the economic history of India because the government adopted various social, political, and economic programs to overcome the problems facing the Indian economy. Some of these programs address the problems of illiteracy in the rural and urban sectors of India. Education is very important in human capital formation and, hence, plays a crucial role in the economic growth and development of India. Increasing the literacy rate in India can increase the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The government of India announced the first national education policy in 1968, headed by the Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi. This is based on the report and recommendations of the Kothari Commission (1964-1966). Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi introduced the second national education policy in 1986. Narasimha modified the same policy in 1992. The third, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020, announced on July 29, 2020, focused on school education as well as higher education, including technical education, and was founded on the five pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability, and accountability. There is fostering outstanding research, which is very important for outstanding education and development. Researchers have come up with innovative and creative ideas that help find solutions to problems, gain knowledge, and help understand the world. This is becoming an important post-pandemic step to encourage economic growth in India. According to a report by the World Bank published on World Development Indicators, India spends 0.69% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on research,

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whereas Germany, the US, China, and Japan spend 3%, 2.8%, 2%, and 3.2%, respectively. India also performs poorly in terms of having patents for its credit. The reason for this is the inadequate involvement of industry and the higher education sector's lack of collaboration. The National Education Policy 2020 imparts massive transformation in education through an education system and makes India a global superpower by providing high-quality education to all to prepare for present and future national and international challenges. This technology makes available quality e-content for the capacitybuilding of teachers and learners. In higher education, valuable recommendations there are multidisciplinary holistic education, institutional autonomy, and the promotion of quality research. Digital transformation leads to the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning, support student progression, and focus on the quality of teaching methods such as online learning. Lifelong learning is a continuous learning process. This learning is not only in education but also in homes and workplaces. The learning process was applied to all age groups. Different types of programs cater to the needs of individual differences in learning and bring out qualitative changes that will help to achieve goal "Sustainable Development Goal" 4 and provide advantages to all learners. Lifelong learning refers to the integration of traditional educational methods into modern learning opportunities. It also focuses on and encourages people of all ages to learn technology and select the appropriate content. This process pursues perfection. The lifelong learning concept has a broader scope because continuing education develops human potential, recognizes individual capacity, and develops critical thinking skills. Two theories are based on the concept of lifelong learning: 'cognitivism' and 'constructivism.'

Lifelong learning is very important, and this helps us achieve the 'Sustainable Development Goal.' There are a total of 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to overcome social, economic, and environmental challenges by 2030. Sustainable development in India is related to 'Quality Education' which means 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and focus on lifelong learning for all.' There is diversification in India in terms of language, culture, geographical area, and education. Individual differences have built up capable human resources and made India an economic powerhouse. In our country, a skilled workforce is important for handling advanced technologies. The introduction of the National Education Policy 2020 places importance on holistic, flexible, and multidisciplinary approaches to continuous skill development and preparing human resources in a rapidly evolving job market. India is the most populated country and faces challenges in finding employment in its workforce. Becoming skilled is the solution to filling the gap between education and employment, and reducing unemployment in various sectors across the country. "National Skill Development" was introduced to focus on vocational training and practical skills to become

skilled in India, bridging the gap between formal education and industrial sector requirements.

Review Of Literature:

Kaplan (2016) studied lifelong learning from a literature review. This research paper is based on an understanding of the lifelong learning approach, as per the literature review of various research paper sources. In this paper, different reviews from different papers discuss the basic features of lifelong learning: "doing and experiencing" without any barriers, such as time limit, age, or socio-economic status. There are programs lifelong learning, occupational for education, collaboration, supporting educational institutions and foundations, training qualified manpower, and employment opportunities to shape the European Union. Communication skills are very important for effective worldwide. This study was based on documents from previous publications. Mamdouh Alenezi (2021) argues that the role of digital transformation is significant in higher education institutions to meet new technologies and transform practices, business models, and processes. The mission of higher education institutions is to develop qualitative human resources to cater to the need for employability in specific careers and survive in the labor market. Higher education focuses on the individual self-efficiency skills of students with the help of critical and abstract thinking. Higher education institutions face challenges because transformation tends to give importance to immediate results and delays the task of critical investment in building the capabilities of time-consuming students. This problem can be solved with the help of a preplanned digital transformation that adopts suitable teaching methods and develops learning models. The role of teachers is also important for running any institution efficiently, so teacher orientation programs are needed to guide technology. Roe, Junius, and Bjerke (2022) studied research papers on active digital learning pedagogy. The digital education action plan focuses on how digital technology is reshaping society by being flexible, student-centered, creative, and collaborative. Studies have discussed how technology supports existing education systems. A studentcentered approach helps develop decision-making skills, learning skills, and shape the teacher's role. Engage students with meaningful tasks and projects and assess their performance. Feedback is important for enhancing student learning and for guiding the use of various sources of information. Teacher feedback must be specific, detailed, and appreciative and must develop the capacity of students. Excellence in finding new research and educational activities must be given equal importance, but there are insufficient digital classrooms available for students. There is a need to redesign physical infrastructure to achieve the goal of digital transformation and familiarize students with technology. Kumar Jha (2020) studied digital transformation initiatives in Indian higher education. In 2020, the world, the outbreak of COVID-19 will have impacted human life, including higher education. Technology plays a crucial role in education. A large digital transformation took place, and society adopted

technology in education. As per policy and planning, the government of India focuses on digital transformation in higher education, so the government will develop a digital infrastructure, particularly in higher education. With proper planning, expanding access, and qualitative changes in higher education, qualitative e-content and e-learning platforms can fulfill the objectives of quality online education. In India, digitalization helps to reach remote geographical areas to connect digitally, so will get equal opportunity to learn.

Objectives:

- 1. To access online courses, virtual classrooms and interactive learning materials and opportunities.
- 2. To understand individual interests, preferences, and learning styles.
- 3. To study and develop students for self-directed learning and critical thinking.
- To understand the professional development of students.
- To encourage students to pursue continuous selfimprovement through digital learning.

Methodology:

Research methodology is an important step in writing a research paper.

This procedure was used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about the research topic. To study this research topic, secondary data included books, journals, newspaper articles, websites, and government records.

Findings:

The role of digital transformation is very important in higher education, as it helps improve the learning of students in remote areas of India. Digital transformation in online education courses and virtual experience. The classrooms enhances learners' benefits of this innovation in higher education include a higher level of productivity, which makes learning more engaging and interactive. The main feature of digital transformation is the use of the latest technology to form a connection between a wide range of digital services and resources. In the world of globalization, education requires updating content and focusing on a qualitative level. It has emerged as the most revolutionized in higher education, providing accessibility and affordability, and bridging the gap of geographical boundaries. Bring transformation by focusing on innovation and research collaboration by connecting researchers, students, and industries worldwide It promises greater gender equality and enables women to overcome social barriers, access online educational opportunities, start businesses, and enhance their contributions to the global economy. This platform allows people to share their stories and experiences, especially in rural areas. Technology plays a key role in the teaching-learning process in higher education, allowing administrators to monitor the progress of students, track their outcomes, and improve performance. Through digital transformation, higher education provides opportunities for working adults, individuals, and physically disabled learners through online courses that promote education. This

flexible path of online learning caters to individual differences and creates a flexible learning environment with the help of online courses and study materials. Lifelong learning is essential to grow in a career and acquire knowledge and new skills for continuous skill development to sustain the current job market. Digital transformation impacts not only students but also educators. Educators need to change their teaching practices according to the changes in educational areas. Universities can focus on faculty development programs such as workshops based on digital pedagogy and technology integration. Empowering lifelong learning through development and the use of effective tools enhances digital transformation. Teaching quality is very important for promoting lifelong learning among students and teachers. In addition, there is a requirement for technological infrastructure and digital literacy, which are mostly lacking in rural areas. The government also plays an important role in digital transformation in India, with the help of established policies and their implications for higher education. The allocation of funds for infrastructure development and providing grants that bring digital transformation to higher education institutions include training programs and research projects. Collaboration exists between educational institutions and the industrial sector to promote innovation and knowledge in digital transformation. Research development is very important in higher education related to technology, which enhances quality, accessibility, and the role of education in the digital age. Lifelong learning refers to the continuous learning and skill development processes in an individual's life beyond formal education. The syllabus plays a crucial role in self-directed learning. Learners were free to choose courses based on their interests. This freedom of course choice provides learners the opportunity to connect with different disciplines through a holistic approach. In this lifelong learning process, continuous assessment and feedback are required to monitor the progress and growth of learners.

Recommendations:

In higher education courses, digital literacy skills must be integrated into the curriculum. Teachers must adopt innovative teaching methods based on their content. Faculty development programs for teachers contribute to professional growth. Every institution must build a culture of continuous learning and understand that employees have digital skills to succeed in this digital era. Students and teachers participate in workshops, seminars, and conferences to stay updated about the industry and new technologies.

Conclusion:

Innovation and invention continuously take place worldwide, so lifelong learning has become very important in developing human resources that contribute to Skill India. This enables individuals to think critically, develop problem-solving abilities, and achieve continuous self-improvement. Higher education facilitates lifelong learning by focusing on learning-by-doing and providing educational

opportunities. Higher education provides the foundation for national development, and human capital is the main economic resource.

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