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DO DIGITAL NATIVES AWARE ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

Digitalization is the integration of digital technologies in to everyday life by the digitization of everything that can be digitized. Digitalization is sweeping across every aspect of our daily lives. It has totally changed the educational industry and teaching learning process to a great extent. It has lessened the distance between students and their educational needs there by making education stress free. The use of digital information in the educational environment has enabled easy access to many resources. Students must develop knowledge about how to use ICT Technology to construct meaning, but most importantly in ways that are appropriate to their needs. Thus technology is proving a disruptive influence in education. Hence each and every student should be aware about these technological advancements. Today's students living in digital age called as "digital students" or "digital inmates" or "digital natives" are the pupils those who born after 1980 and those who born before 1980 are called digital immigrants. Through the present paper investigators made an attempt to find out the digital awareness among digital natives hailing from four generation groups.

***Keywords**: Digital Awareness, Digital Natives, Digital Technology*

Do Digital Natives aware on Digital Technology

Digitalization is sweeping across every aspect of our daily lives. It has totally changed the educational industry and teaching learning process to a great extent. It has lessened the distance between students and their educational needs there by making education stress free. It has made the classroom atmosphere more interactive and participative. With the advent of internet, information and communication technology has open up new vistas for education like on line learning, e-learning, virtual classroom learning, offers a variety of online courses etc.

Technology contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all levels .The use of digital information in the educational environment has enabled easy access to many resources. Students must develop knowledge about how to use ICT Technology to construct meaning, but most importantly in ways that are appropriate to their needs. Thus technology is proving a disruptive influence in education. Hence each and every student

should be aware about these technological advancements. Today's students living in digital age called as "digital students" or "digital inmates" or "digital natives" are the pupils those who born after 1980 and those who born before 1980 are called digital immigrants. With technology moving so fast drastic changes has made in the field of education. Students should be tech savvy to cope up with the changing scenario. Being digital natives they are innately able in using smart phones, ipads, tablet computers etc. They must be aware about the recent digital technologies, digital terminologies etc. Without this knowledge one cannot live in this era. That much this age has prolifered with technology.

Through the present paper investigators made an attempt to find out the digital awareness among digital natives hailing from four generation groups-viz. plus two students, degree students, post graduate students, doctoral students.

Objectives

a).To study the extent of digital awareness among digital natives.

b).To find out whether there exist any significant difference among digital natives based on gender, locality, and subject.

Methodology

Sample:

The study is carried out in a representative sample of 200 digital natives comprising 70 plus two students, 55 degree students, 58 post graduate students, and 17 doctoral students of Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Malappuram and Kannur districts. Survey method was adopted.

Description of the Tool:

Digital Awareness Self-Assessment Questionnaire prepared by the investigators was the tool used for the study. Questionnaire consists of 25 items measuring various aspects like awareness on Internet, newly developed soft wares in mobile application, digital terminologies, about new digital technologies etc. Total score is 125.

Statistical Technique:

Percentage Analysis, Test of significance difference between means.

Analysis and Discussion

Data and result of above mentioned objectives are given in tables shown below

a) Digital Awareness among digital natives based on category

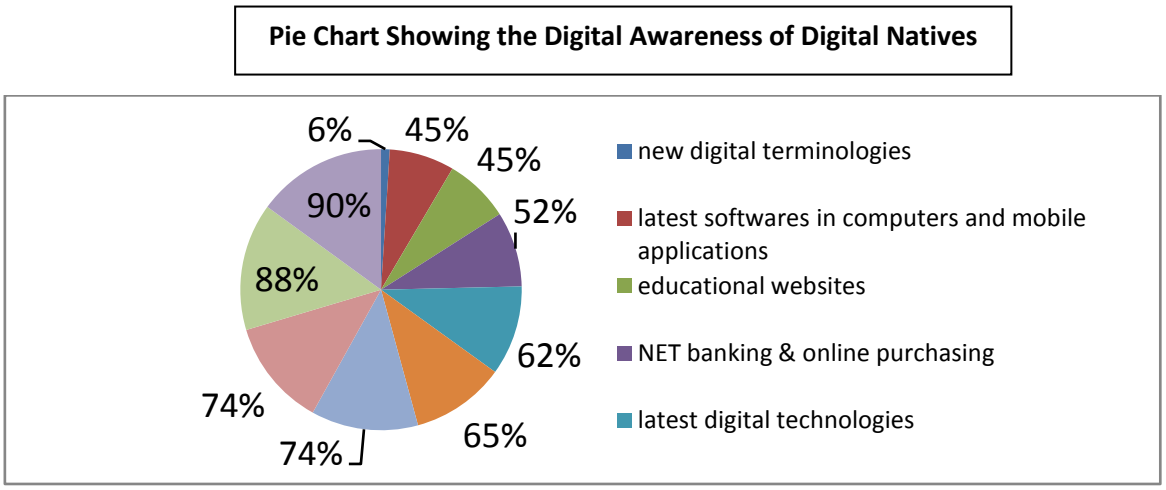
Table-1 Data and result of digital awareness among digital natives

Category	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Plus two students	70	86.028	15.14
Degree students	55	82.783	15.95
Post Graduate students	58	85.98	15.19
Doctoral students	17	96.70	12.35
Total	200	86.02	15.48

Table 1 reveals that digital awareness among digital natives is found adequate as the mean score 86.02 is above the half of the total score 125. An estimation of mean scores reveals digital awareness of doctoral students occupies first position followed by Plus two students, Post Graduate students and Degree students respectively.

b) Component wise analysis of Digital Awareness among digital natives

To get a clear picture of digital awareness, investigators carried out component wise analysis of Digital Awareness Self-Assessment Questionnaire. Pie chart showing digital awareness among digital natives is given below



The pie chart reveals the following:

1. Only 6% of digital natives are aware about the new digital terminologies.
2. 45% of digital natives update the knowledge of the latest softwares in computers and mobile applications.
3. 45% of digital natives make use of exclusive educational websites.
4. 52%of digital natives are aware about NET banking and online purchasing schemes.
5. 62%of digital natives are aware about the latest digital technologies.
6. 65%of digital natives make use of e-journals, utilize e-learning facilities etc.

7. 74% of digital natives are aware about browsing, surfing, uploading , downloading etc.
8. 74% of digital natives are aware about the presentation softwares , spread sheets etc.
9. 88% of digital natives are active in social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp etc.
10. 90% of digital natives use tablet computers, laptops, smart phones etc.

c). Group Difference of Digital Awareness among digital natives based on gender

Group difference is found by means of t-test and it is given in table-2

Table-2 Data and result of test of significance of difference between means of digital awareness among digital natives based on gender

Category	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Plus two	Male	42	90.88	15.67	3.55
	Female	28	78.75	11.01	
Degree	Male	7	91.71	10.26	1.61*
	Female	48	81.46	16.29	
Post Graduate	Male	11	87.00	11.55	.25*
	Female	47	85.74	16.03	
Doctoral	Male	6	101.67	10.96	1.24*
	Female	11	94.00	12.70	
Total	Male	66	91.30	14.41	3.47
	Female	134	83.42	15.38	

*not significant

From table 2, it is evident that male and female plus two students differ significantly in digital awareness as the obtained t value 3.55 is above 2.58 the required value of significance at .01 level. Digital awareness of male students is significantly higher than that of female students. It is also revealed that digital awareness of degree students, post graduate students, and doctoral students do not differ significantly as the obtained t values 1.61, 0.25 and 1.24 are below 1.96 the required value of significance at .05 level. Mean scores indicate that male students of this groups have more awareness than their female counterparts. It is also evident that male and female students of the total sample differ significantly in digital awareness as the obtained t value 3.47 is above 2.58 the required value of significance at .01 level.

d). Group Difference of Digital Awareness among digital natives based on locality

Group difference is found by means of t-test and it is given in table-3

Table-3 Data and result of test of significance of difference between means of digital awareness among digital natives based on locality

Category	Locality	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Plus two	Rural	53	84.08	15.62	1.94*
	Urban	17	92.12	11.99	
Degree	Rural	43	80.28	16.35	2.27
	Urban	12	91.66	10.82	
Post Graduate	Rural	37	85.35	14.96	.42*
	Urban	21	87.09	15.91	
Doctoral	Rural	10	96.00	10.69	.27*
	Urban	7	97.71	15.28	
Total	Rural	143	84.09	15.73	2.84
	Urban	57	90.86	13.83	

*****not significant

From table-3, it is found that the test of significant difference between means of digital awareness between rural plus two students and urban plus two students is 1.94, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Also found that the test of significant difference between means of digital awareness between rural degree students and urban degree students is 2.27, which is significant at .05 level of significance. Degree students from urban area have higher digital awareness than that of from rural area. The study also reveals, the digital awareness of post graduate students and doctoral students based on locality, do not differ significantly as the obtained t values are below 1.96 the required value of significance at .05 level. It is also evident that rural and urban students of the total sample differ significantly in digital awareness as the obtained t value 2.84 is above 2.58 the required value of significance at .01 level.

e). Group Difference of Digital Awareness among digital natives based on Subject

Group difference is found by means of t-test and it is given in table-4

Table-4 Data and result of test of significance of difference between means of digital awareness among digital natives based on subject

Category	Subject	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value
Plus two	Arts	30	91.10	15.77	2.52
	Science	40	82.23	13.64	
Degree	Arts	30	79.83	15.98	1.51*
	Science	25	86.28	15.49	
Post Graduate	Arts	32	86.19	15.44	.11*
	Science	26	85.73	15.19	
Doctoral	Arts	5	93.60	11.43	.66*
	Science	12	98.00	12.97	
Total	Arts	97	86.12	16.05	.08*
	Science	103	85.93	14.99	

*not significant

From table-4, it is found that the test of significant difference between means of digital awareness between plus two arts students and plus two science students is 2.52, which is significant at .05 level of significance. Digital awareness of arts and science students of degree, post graduate, doctoral level and the total sample do not differ significantly as the obtained

t -values 1.51, .11, .66 and .08 are below 1.96, the required value of significance at .05 level.

Findings

1. Digital awareness among digital natives is adequate.
2. Digital awareness of doctoral students is significantly higher than that of other groups.
3. Male digital natives have more digital awareness than that of their counter parts.
4. Students from urban area have higher digital awareness than that of rural students.
5. Digital natives lack awareness on new digital terminologies.
6. Nearly half of digital datives are aware about NET banking online purchasing etc.
7. Digital natives take advantage of educational websites and properly updating latest technologies are found less in number.
8. A good number of digital natives are expert in dealing with e-devises like laptops, tabs, smart phones etc.

Conclusion

The study yield remarkable results. Digital natives possess adequate digital awareness. Among the four groups greater awareness of doctoral students indicates higher

education contributes significantly to the digital knowledge. It can also be concluded that male students and urban students have good understanding of digital world. Digital knowledge and understanding of female students and rural students should be improved. Study also throws light on the subject of study does not contribute significantly to digital awareness of digital natives. A good number of digital natives are expert in dealing with e-devises like laptops, tabs, smart phones etc. Digital natives take advantage of educational websites and properly updating latest technologies are found less in number. Digital Information is essential to almost every aspect of modern life. That is, there is a need as never before, for students and teachers who are information literate in a digital context.

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