DIGITAL LITERACY AWARENESS AMONG THE P.G STUDENTS OF VIKRAMA SIMHAPURI UNIVERSITY, NELLORE

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Abstract : Digital literacy is crucial for the students in the fast changing society. Due to the enormous use of technological tools like desk tops, tabs, laptops, and the internet in the teaching and learning, it's a very important to the students not only for their course also for the day to day life. This study aims to analyze digital literacy awareness among the postgraduate students at Vikrama Simhapuri University in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. Survey method and purposive sampling method was used to collect the primary data. A simple questionnaire was prepared in Google form and shared among the PG students whatsapp group. The findings of the study will help the students' awareness and the use of digital technology and tools in an effective way.

Keywords : Digital Literacy, P.G Students. Survey

Introduction :

Definition of Digital Literacy :

- The term "digital literacy" was coined by Paul Glister who defined it as, "a set of skills to access the Internet; find, manage and edit digital information; join in communications, and otherwise engage with an online information and communication network" (Glister,1997)
- ALA's Digital Literacy Task Force defines digital literacy as "the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills." (Theme, n.d.)
- To be able to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, generate, and convey information in a knowledge society, one must have digital literacy, which is defined as the capacity to use digital technology and communications tools and networks. Students who are digitally literate learn how to compare sources, locate reliable information, and can evaluate information that present in falsified. The present study tries to focus on awareness of digital literacy among the Post graduate students of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore

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Review of Literature :

- Parvathamma and Danappa (2013) studied the digital literacy of Management students in Davanagare district , Karnnataka. The study findings shows that all the respondents are possessed own personal computer, and most of the respondents are having their own internet connectivity. The investigators proposed a model curriculum to improve digital literacy skills.

- Neera Bansal (2015) conducted a study in Hisar city in Haryana. The study used a questionnaire for collection of data, and survey as a research method. The results revealed that majority of the respondents are below average in the digital competence.

- Shabana Tabusum, Saleem, A. and Batcha, M.Sadik (2014) investigated digital literacy awareness among Arts& Science students in Tiruvalluvar district, Tamilnadu. The study concludes that People of all ages now need to be digitally literate for a number of reasons, which is unprecedented.

- Thakur (2020) study examines the digital literacy skills among the PG students of the University of Jammu. The results of the study elicit that the most of the respondents themselves opined that they have poor digital skills.

- Singh (2022) paper highlights the effectiveness of digital literacy, the findings show that majority of the respondents know the concept of Digital literacy. Unorganized element in the search page is most difficult barrier faced by the respondents. To manage the references majority of the respondents preferred Mendely.

Objectives of the Study :

The main objectives of the present study are

- To know the digital devices possessed by the students
- To determine the digital competence of the post graduate students
- To examine the familiarity of using digital tools
- To analyze the disadvantages in the use of digital devices

Research Methodology :

The study population is PG students of Vikarama simhapuri University. Survey method and purposive sampling method was used to collect the required data from the respondents.

Questionnaire and data collection :

A structured questionnaire was designed using Google form to collect the data from the respondents. The form was shared among the respondents through whatsapp. The data which were collected through the questionnaire were tabulated and analyzed by simple statistical techniques.

Data Analysis :

On the basis of responses received from the respondents through the questionnaire, the data were analyzed and results were tabulated using SPSS software.

Figure -1: Gender wise distribution of Respondents
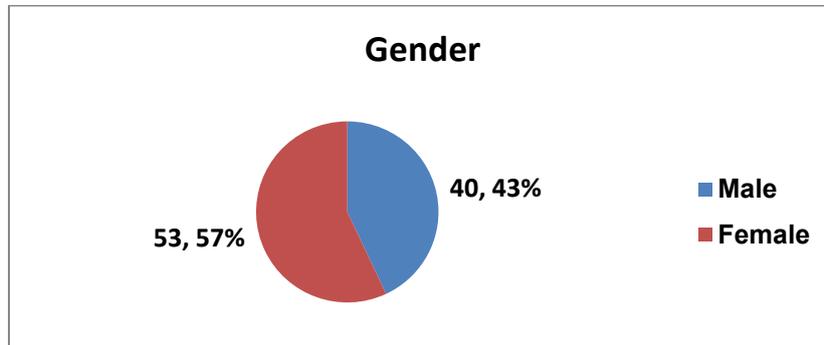
The figure-1 shows the gender wise distribution of respondents. It is cleared that majority of the respondents 53(57%) are female, and 40(43%) are male respondents participated in this study.

Table- 1 Age wise distribution of Respondents

S.No	Year	Frequency	Percent
1	21-23	88	94.6
2	24-26	3	3.2
3	27 Above	2	2.2
Total		93	100.0

Table-1 clearly explains the age group wise distribution of the respondents. It is evident that majority of the respondents in this study are in the age group between 21 -23(94.6%).

Table- 2 Area wise distribution of Respondents

S.No	Area	Frequency	Percent
1	Urban	37	39.8
2	Rural	54	58.1
3	Semi Urban	2	2.2
Total		93	100.0

Table-2 shows the area wise distribution of the respondents. It is evident that majority of the respondents in this study are in Rural setting 54 (58.1%) followed by 37 (39.8%) in the urban area.

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Table-3 Year of study wise distribution of Respondents

S.No	Year	Frequency	Percent
1	I year	38	40.9
2	II year	54	58.1
3	III year	1	1.1
Total		93	100.0

The table- 3depicts the year wise distribution of respondents. It is clear from the above table that majority of the respondents i.e., 54(58.1%) are II year students and 38 (40.9%) are I year students. Only one respondent were final year.

Table -4 Digital devices Owned students

S.No	Devices	I have	I don't have	Total
1	Smart Phone	54	0	93(100.0)
2	Lap top	36 (38.7)	57(61.3)	93(100.0)
3	Desk top	9(9.7)	84(90.3)	93(100.0)
4	Smart watch	17 (18.3)	76 (81.7)	93(100.0)
5	Digital camera	6 (6.5)	87 (93.5)	93(100.0)
6	Tablet	8 (8.6)	85 (91.4)	93(100.0)
7	Digital Pen	5(5.4)	88(94.6)	93(100.0)
8	IPOD	5(5.4)	88(94.6)	93(100.0)

(Values in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

Table-4 narrate the digital devices owned respondents. It is evident that all the respondents having smart phone, followed by laptop 36 (38.7%), smart watch 17 (18.3%), desktop 9(9.7%), tablet 8(8.6%) and the remaining devices like digital camera, digital pen, IPod are possessed in very less number.

Table- 5 Digital Competency

S.No	Digital Competency	YES	NO	Total
1	Installing a software	78(83.9)	15(16.1)	93(100)
2	Connect to Wi-Fi or Bluetooth	88(94.6)	5(5.4)	93(100)
3	Creating a website using Google sites	59 (63.4)	34(36.6)	93(100)
4	Create a strong password	89 (95.7)	4(4.3)	93(100)
5	Create a profile on a social network	81(87.1)	12(12.9)	93(100)
6	Search and collect information	87(93.5)	6(6.5)	93(100)

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7	Identify the fake information	69(74.2)	24(29.8)	93(100)
8	Saving file in specific location	81(87.1)	12(12.9)	93(100)
9	Evaluating the information in online sources	82(88.2)	11(11.8)	93(100)
10	Presenting through a video	68(73.1)	25(26.3)	93(100)

(Values in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

Table - 5provides the data relating to the digital competency among the respondents. It is evident from the data that majority of the respondents 89 (95.7%) are able to create a strong password, followed by Connect to Wi-Fi or Bluetooth 88(94.6%) and search and collect information. 87(93.5%) are able to evaluate the information in online sources. Among the respondents 82(88.2%) are able to evaluate the information in online sources, 81(87.1%) are opined that they can save files in specific location and able to create a profile in online social networks.

Table-6 Familiarity of using digital tools

S.No	Digital Tools	YES	NO	Total
1	E-mail	93	0	93(100)
2	Drop box	8(8.6)	85(91.4)	93(100)
3	Skype	7(7.5)	86(92.5)	93(100)
4	Google Drive	84(90.3)	9(9.7)	93(100)

(Values in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

The above table-6 represents the data relating to the respondents familiarity of using digital tools. It is clear that all the respondents are familiar to use e-mail followed by 84(90.3%) Google drive. Only 8 (8.6%) are Drop box and 7(7.5%) are able to use the Skype .

Table-7 Use of Online learning platforms

S.No	Online Learning platforms	Frequency of usage	Percentage
1	Swayam	93	100
2	Coursera	6	6.5
3	Edex	11	11.8
4	Khan Acdemy	1	1.1

It is evident from the data in the above table that all the respondents are using the online courses digital platform Swayam, where as very few are using other platforms like Edex, Coursera etc,

Table-8 Online Job information seeking

Sources	Yes	No	Total
Govt. websites	87(93.5)	6(6.5)	93 (100)
Online News papers, Magazines etc.	64(68.80)	29(31.20)	93(100)
LinkedIn online profile	63(67.7)	30(32.3)	93(100)
Online Job portals	79(84.9)	14(15.1)	93(100)

(Values in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

Table - 8 provides the sources using by the respondents for seeking job related information. It is cleared that majority of the respondents 87(93.5%) are using Govt. job sites followed by online job portals 79(84.9%) , online news papers& magazines 64(68.80) , Linkedin online profile 63(67.7%).

Figure-2 Importance of Digital Literacy
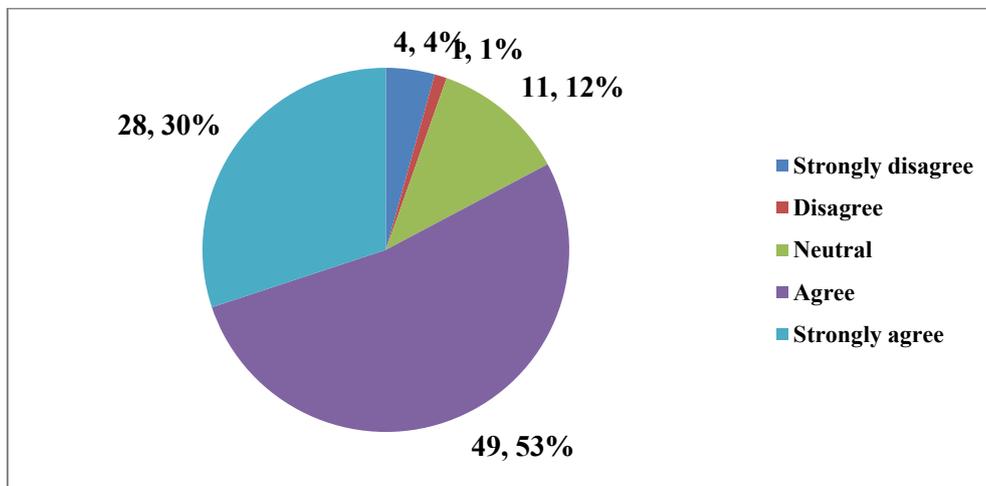
The above figure represents the data relating the respondent's opinion on the importance of digital literacy. It is clear that majority of the respondents 49 (53%) are Agree followed by 28(30%) are strongly agree the digital literacy is essential. Only few11(12%) are neutral and 1(1%) disagree.

Table-9 Opinion on Disadvantages of Digital Technologies

Disadvantages	Yes	No	Maybe	Total
Distraction	42(45.2)	10(10.8)	41(44.1)	93 (100)
Cyber bullying	48(51.6)	20(21.5)	25(26.9)	93(100)
Lack of Reliability of Information	36(38.7)	30(32.3)	27(29)	93(100)
Decreased physical activity	62(66.7)	13(14.0)	18(19.4)	93(100)
Reducing Human contact	63(67.7)	11(11.8)	19(20.4)	93(100)

(Values in the parenthesis indicate percentage)

The above table depicts the disadvantages involved using digital technologies. It is clear that majority of the respondents 63(67.7%) are opined that it reduces human contact, followed by 62(66.7%) decreased physical activity, 48(51.6%) fear of cyber bullying, and 42 (45.2%) distraction in their studies.

Conclusion & Recommendations :

The paper discus with the awareness of Digital Literacy among the P.G students of Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore. The results of this study demonstrate that several ICT tools are unfamiliar to the respondents. Cultivating digital literacy is the need of the hour therefore the study recommends that the university should organize awareness programs, workshops and provide hands on training at regular intervals. University library and the staff also take initiative on creating awareness of various digital tools and teach them how to use them more effectively.

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