



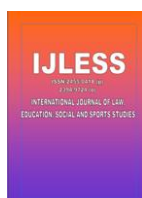
Physical Performance of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

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Abstract

Education is the crucial important component for every individual as it leads to the development of the country also. India is a country which is dominated by the rural people. Government of India is striving hard by implementing various literacy schemes to ensure every individual of the country is educated. During 2017, Government of India started with the scheme Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan focusing One person (age group of 14-60 years) from every eligible rural household is trained. This government scheme aimed at promoting digital literacy in rural India. It is a digital literacy program run by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to make rural citizens digitally literate. The research article focuses on physical performance towards the success of the programme in the southern Indian states which is used secondary data for the period from 2017 to 2024. Karnataka state is having maximum number of trained candidates under the scheme among the registered candidates among the southern Indian states. The scheme helps to reduce the poverty and promotes towards the economic progress of the rural people which in turn will lead towards the improve the economic condition of the country

Key Words: Percentage, Education, Scheme, Poverty, Economics.

Introduction

Education is one of the important and crucial important component for any country as it is one of the focus towards the development of the nation. Its quiet critical for a society as well as the individuals of the society. For an individual it empowers an indusial with the enhancement in the knowledge, skills for the routine activities and critical thinking for development which will certainly aid towards the personal growth as well as better prospects from the focus of the nation. For a society in point of view every individual education leads towards the economic growth, promoting towards the social harmony as well as strengthens the democracy. In order to uplift and make every citizen to be with digital literacy mainly in the rural regions. The government of India introduced the “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)” in 2017. This initiative focuses on boosting digital literacy in rural regions. Around 7. 35 crore people signed up for the program, with 6. 39 crore receiving training,

leading to 4. 78 crore earning certification. Comprehensive statistics categorized by States/UTs are presented at the end. This initiative empowers rural citizens by equipping them with the skills to use computers or digital devices (such as tablets and smartphones), communicate via email, navigate the Internet, access government services, search for information, and perform cashless transactions. As a result, it enables them to leverage Information Technology to engage actively in nation-building efforts. The program's objective is to close the digital gap, focusing on the rural demographic, particularly disadvantaged groups, including Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), minorities, those living below the Poverty Line (BPL), women, and individuals with disabilities.

The key aspects of the pmgdisha program

The initiative focused exclusively on rural regions, specifically Gram Panchayat/Village, targeting 6 crore rural households, ensuring one participant from each household. Participants underwent 20 hours of training divided into five modules: (i) Introduction to digital devices, (ii) Operating digital devices, (iii) Introductory concepts of the internet, (iv) Internet-based communications, and (v) Internet applications (including citizen-centric services) alongside the utilization of financial tools for conducting digital cashless transactions. The training material was accessible in 22 scheduled languages plus English. This material was offered in both online and offline formats. Additionally, to support the government's emphasis on promoting cashless transactions via mobile devices, training content on digital wallets, mobile banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), and Point of Sale (PoS) was included. Following the training, a third-party assessment of the candidates was conducted by recognized certifying bodies, including the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Haryana Knowledge Corporation Limited (HKCL), and ICT Academy of Tamil Nadu (ICTACT). Digitally Signed Certificates were issued to all successful participants and were directly uploaded to their DigiLocker accounts. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan aims to enable six crore people in rural areas across states and union territories becoming digitally literate.

Implementing agencies for pmgdisha

- National level: The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the nodal agency responsible for the overall implementation of the program.
- State level: The State Implementing Agencies (SIAs) are responsible for implementing the program at the state level.
- District level: The District e-Governance Society (DeGS) is the agency responsible for the implementation of the program at the district level.
- Training centres: The Training Centers (TCs) are responsible for providing training to the beneficiaries under the program.

Status of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan in Karnataka

Number of Registered and Trained Candidates under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) in Karnataka		
(As on 31st March, 2024)		
State	Registered	Trained
	Candidates	Candidates
Karnataka	2964726	2440957
India	73571963	63941716

Form the above table it can be observed that a total of 2964726 candidates have registered for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan out of which 2440957 candidates have been trained comprising of 82.33 per cent. While with respect to entire nation it can be observed that around 73571963 candidates have registered out of which 63941716 candidates have been trained comprising a share of 86.91 per cent.

Status of pradhan mantri gramin digital saksharta abhiyan in southern India

State-wise Number of Registered and Trained Candidates under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) in Southern India		
(As on 31st March, 2024)		
States/UT	Registered	Trained
	Candidates	Candidates
Andhra Pradesh	2301731	1917452
Karnataka	2964726	2440957
Kerala	177165	118132
Lakshadweep	142	35
Puducherry	22079	15801
Tamil Nadu	1704537	1407880
Telangana	1456226	1210448
Southern India	8626606	7110705
India	73571963	63941716

The above table reflects the status of the pradhan mantri gramin digital saksharta abhiyan in Southern India. It can be observed from the table till March 2024, among the states of Southern India, Karnataka state stands with highest number of registered candidates as well as with the trained candidates. A total of 8626606 candidates are registered in Southern India out of which 7110705 candidates are been trained constituting around 11 per cent of the total in the country. The state in Andhra Pradesh around 2301731 candidates have registered out of which 1917452 have been successfully trained constituting around 26 per cent among the Southern Indian states. In Karnataka state around 2964726 have been registered out of which 2440957 are trained with 34 per cent of the total southern Indian states. In Kerala around 177165 candidates have been registered out of which 118132 are trained comprising with 2.05 per cent. Even in the union territory an effort is been made to make the citizens of India to be digital literate which can be observed with 142 candidates registering and around 35 are successfully trained. In Puducherry around 22679 candidates are registered out of which around 15801 are trained. In Tamil Nadu state around 1740537 candidates have registered and out of which 1407880 candidates are successfully trained. In Telangana state 1456226 candidates are registered and out of which 1210448 candidates have been successfully trained constituting around 16 per cent to the total.

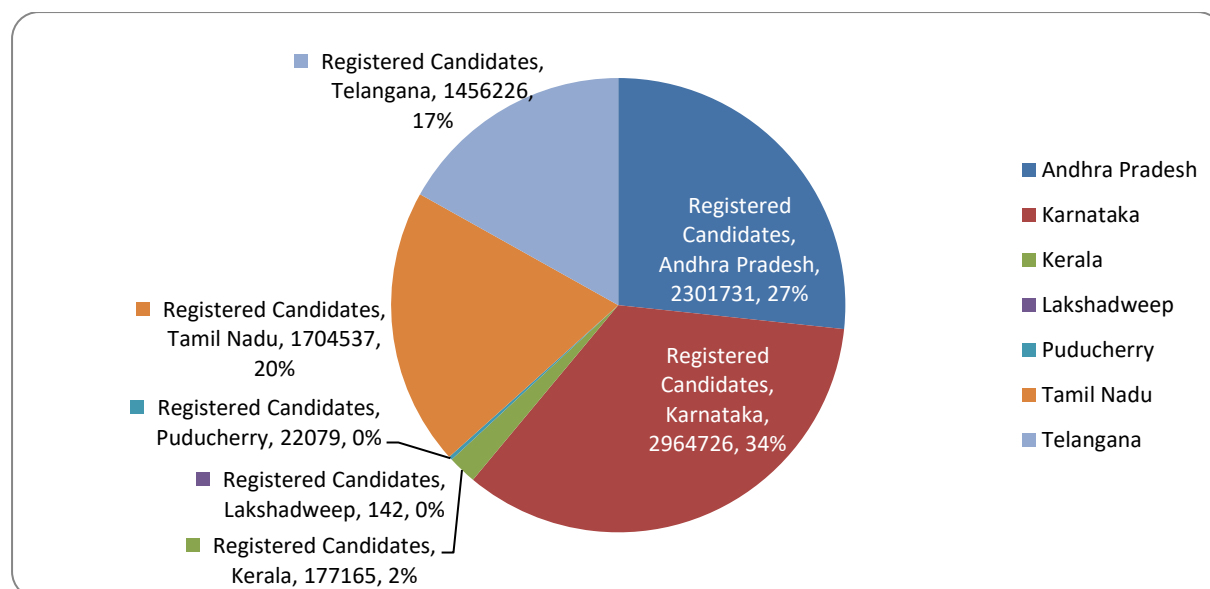


Figure 1. Registered Candidates for PMGDISHA as of 31.03.2024 in Southern Indian States

Challenges faced in implementation

The PMGDISHA initiative is facing several challenges in implementation, including limited digital infrastructure, language barriers, and low digital literacy levels among the rural population which is one of the major issue in successful implementation. The program also needs to focus on improving the quality of training, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms. To address these challenges, the way forward is to develop a comprehensive and sustainable digital infrastructure that can support the growth of digital literacy in rural areas. This involves installing high-speed internet connectivity, computers, and other digital devices in remote areas. The program should also consider providing training in local languages, as this will enhance its effectiveness in reaching more people. Furthermore, the program needs to be evaluated regularly and made necessary improvements to ensure that it is meeting its objectives.

Conclusion

The government can collaborate with other stakeholders, including NGOs and private organizations, to coordinate efforts to improve digital literacy in rural areas. By addressing these challenges and implementing these solutions, the PMGDISHA initiative can continue to bridge the digital divide in India and improve the lives of millions of people.

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