

Country: India

Committee: UNESCO

Agenda Item: Reducing Inequalities in Digital Education



India is the 7th largest country by area in the world. It is around 3,287,000 km². India is the most populous country in the world. Its population is around 1 billion and 460 million. It is located in South Asia. India's GDP is 17.6 trillion USD. GDP per capita is 2,878 USD. The capital is New Delhi and the largest city is Mumbai. Official languages are Hindi and English.

According to the 2025 report, only about 55% of people can use the internet in India as of 2025. Only 54% of schools have internet connectivity as of 2024. When we look at OECD countries, we see that almost 98% of students use the internet. So, the ratio of students who use the internet in India is very low compared to developed countries. India is working hard to change this fact. Through Digital India and related efforts such as BharatNet, India has expanded internet connectivity and digital services across rural and urban areas. The government SWAYAM platform, which is an open online course portal, offers free courses from high school through post-graduation. This platform makes quality learning accessible to those who cannot afford expensive private education. Digital libraries, virtual classrooms, and ICT-based education efforts aim to bring digital learning to a wider population regardless of socio-economic background. Through partnerships between government and private organizations, there are digital literacy efforts such as Internet Saathi, which trains women in rural areas to use the internet and access digital services and education.

Despite efforts, large disparities remain in digital education. Rural internet usage is still very low in India. Lack of devices, insufficient internet bandwidth, and low digital literacy continue to limit the reach of online education. Due to lack of training, even when digital content exists, some students and teachers struggle to effectively use it. India's large rural population is one of the main reasons for unequal internet usage. How can India improve digital education more? It can make digital and AI literacy mandatory parts of teacher education. India can make investments in rural and poor urban areas to enable schools to have better internet connection. It can expand school digital labs and community digital centres. India can support students from low-income families. It can build digital literacy from early grades. It can have stronger public and private partnerships. With determined policies and inclusive strategies, India can transform digital education from a privilege into a right for every child.

REFERENCES

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