

Digital Life Skills in Education amidst Covid 19: A New Framework for Learning in 21st Century

Adrija Chattopadhyay^a, Dr. Prarthita Biswas^b

^aAssistant Professor & Research Scholar School of Education, Adamas University

^bAssociate Professor and Head of the Department School of Education, Adamas University

*Corresponding author: ^aadadrija89@gmail.com, ^bprarthita.biswas@adamasuniversity.ac.in

Abstract

With the continuous march of time education starts following the virtual road where distance becomes a trifling matter. Sudden appearance of Pandemic situation has made us concerned about the digital skills necessary for virtual learning for a student as well as for a teacher. As proper Life Skill Education teaches us the lessons of adaptability in real life, to survive in the tech world, Digital Life Skills are also needed for safety, security as well as for personal and social development. This article described various types of Digital Life Skills and their importance in covid 19 situation and it also dealt with the new Framework for 21st Century Learning where such digital Skills play a great part to be associated with the other professional as well as pedagogical skills.

Keywords: Digital Life Skills, Covid 19, Framework, 21st Century Learning

1. Introduction

Technological boom in 21st century has created outstanding and long lasting effects on all the sectors of our lives. The news of the whole universe can concentrate into our palm nowadays. Whatever the distance may be the virtual travelling via the tech time machine can take us to the faraway lands, near the far away people, to their culture, beliefs, feelings, society etc. Educational field also is greatly indebted to technology. The international seminars, workshops, lectures, teaching learning methods, innovative researches and varied curriculum have encompassed the educational sector via a single term Internet, the basic key of Technology. In the pandemic situation of Covid 19 nowadays when the whole world is maintaining physical distance to remain safe, technology is the only way to remain in touch. But everything comes in the world with some banes and boons. With the continuous development in technology human beings start using this wrongly and as a result tech safety falls in the mouth of danger. As in present situation Online Teaching is the only way of continuing study everyone whether they are students or teachers have to be well aware with the use of internet. So like life Skills, they should have expertise on all the sectors related to the skills associated with digital life and should have a humane walk through the digi platform associated with safety and security. Concept changes with the passage of time. In the rat race of 21st century the age old Gurukul system has shifted to a new learning technique where the curriculum construction, evaluation techniques, teaching learning process, classroom environment have gone through a change. Digital skills are associated with it and thus have created a new framework of learning of 21st century 'An Innovative Digitalized Concept of Learning.' Park, Y. (2016). discussed in his article about the meaning of DQ and digital citizenship. He also gave his ideas about the importance of digital Life Skills into a human being's security from grooming, cyber bullying on technological addiction. Abualrob, M. (2019) described in the paper about the teachers' responsibility in developing 21st century skills among the primary learners. Crocker, A. (2020) conversed about the various threats of digi media and every children and youth in the 21st century should be aware of the proper usage of this so that they should know what to do and don'ts and seek help in the appropriate time. L., Alexander, et. al. (2020) in their paper

described the determinants related to 21st century digital skills as well as other needed skills. The skills mentioned were communication, collaboration, creativity, problem solving skills, critical thinking, information and technical skills. Stauffer, B. (2020) in an article broke the 21st century skills in three parts such as Literacy, Learning and Life Skills and described the need of 12 techniques related to these three skills and also with it the technological intelligence. O'Neil, D. (2020) in an article wrote about the importance of digital skills in Covid 19 situation and mentioned how the Digital Divide in USA caused a grave problem in every situation as well as in educational sector also. In an article of US Digital Literacy four skills were mentioned as 21st century skills such as 'Ways of Thinking- Creativity, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making and Learning. Ways of Working-Communication and Collaboration. Tools for Working- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Information Literacy. Skills for Living in the world Citizenship, Life and Career and Personal and Social Responsibilities.'

2. Conceptual framework:

Digital life skills:

Digital Life Skills are related to some technological Skills, digital thinking skills that can make us adaptable to any situation related with the digi media. As Life Skills paves our way of journey smooth and healthy, the presence of digital life skills within an individual also make the tech voyage of an individual safe and secure.

Covid 19:

Formerly referred to as '2019 novel Coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV', this particular disease is caused due to a newly emerged strain of Coronavirus. 'CO' stands for Corona, 'VI' stands for virus and 'D' stands for diseases. This infectious disease has totally changed the decorum of human civilization where bodily distance becomes the key criteria for healthy life style.

Framework:

A framework refers to the bone-structure or composition of something. The total educational structure under which every educational area with teachers, students, curriculum, skill, knowledge, etc. are connected with each other through a thread of totality.

21st Century Learning:

To be a successful person in the rat race of Globalization some skills, knowledge, technological awareness, character traits and habits are needed. Besides the bookish knowledge these particular skills are needed by all teachers, students and by all educational personnel to cope up with the situation.

3. What are digital life skills?

According to WHO 'Life Skills are abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that can enable human to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of life.' Termed also as Psycho-social Competency this special type of skills are needed to cope up with all challenges of life and to adapt with the changes of society. System changes with the passage of time. With the advent of technology the globe into a miniature form has come into our home through internet. Overshadowing the Mass Medias like T.V., Radio, newspaper our life was totally surrounded with a single word 'Internet.' And with this comes digitalization where printed books have lost their importance and the 3d presentation of cybernated words is nowadays the most famous companion of the students. To make the digital world one's best friend one has to know the perfect usage as well as the pros and cons of digitalization. To get the whole universe within the clasp of our little palm we have to apply the new virtuality with some particular skills named as Digital Life Skills. Entering into unmonitored digital world the students are entangled with various dangers, issues and problems. Proper guidance from the teachers as well as from the parents about the proper usage of digital Life Skills can lead them to a safe and successful digitalized education. Like IQ and EQ for developing Digital Life Skills DQ or Digital Intelligence is needed to be measured for high digital adaptation. There can be three levels of DQ-

i) Digital Citizenship-

Referring to a skill of using digital technology with safety, responsibility and effectiveness.

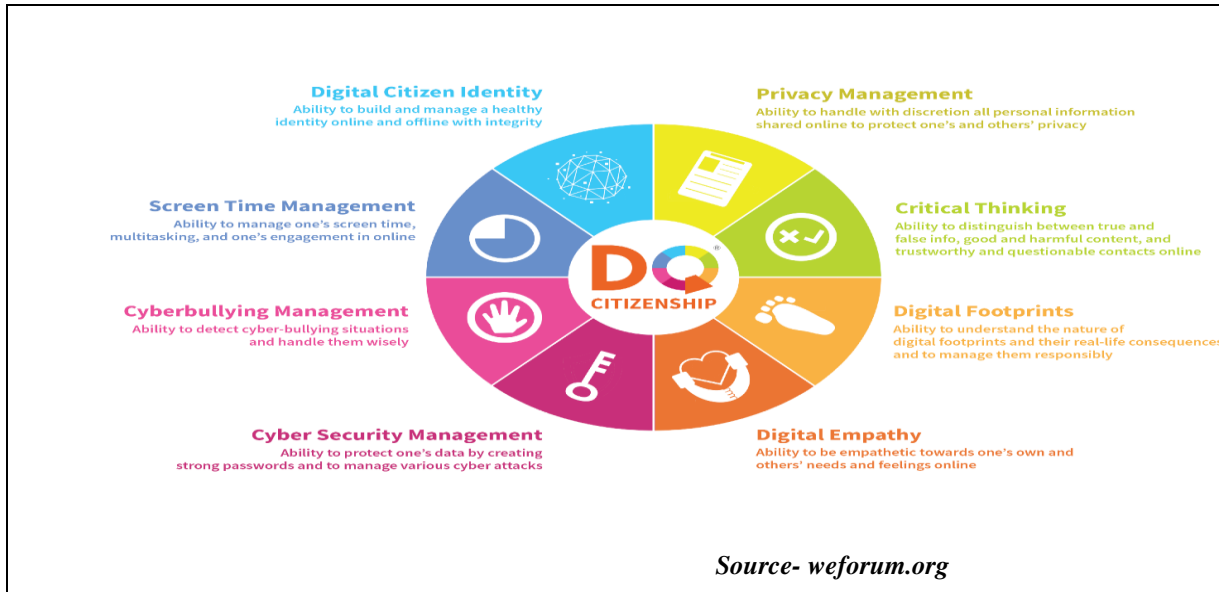
ii) Digital Pioneer ship-

Referring to a skill of creating new opportunities while maintaining the global challenges safe handedly.

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iii) Digital Innovation-

Being an integral part of digital eco-system this special skill helps for co-creating new digital content and creative ideas can get its shape into reality with the proper utilization of digital tools.



iv) Digital Citizen Identity-

It is a particular type of recognition associated with integrity both online as well as offline.

v) Privacy Management-

Reaching to the people of the whole world does not mean to be an open book to everyone. Every digital user can be attentive of managing their own privacy as well as of others.

vi) Screen Time Management-

Power of self control in one's own engagement with online games, media or any act related to versatility in fact it refers to the perfect time management.

vii) Critical Thinking-

A person with DQ will have expertise enough to be distinguished within right and wrong, good and bad, true and false as well as malware or genuine messages.

viii) Cyber bullying Management-

Malpractice through electronic medium threatening in nature is called cyber bullying. DQ refers to the ability of a person to secure himself from such situation by wise management of system.

ix) Digital Footprints-

It is referred to as the information present about a particular person in the internet as a result of the person's online activities. So one should be aware enough to create a successful reputation online.

x) Cyber Security Management-

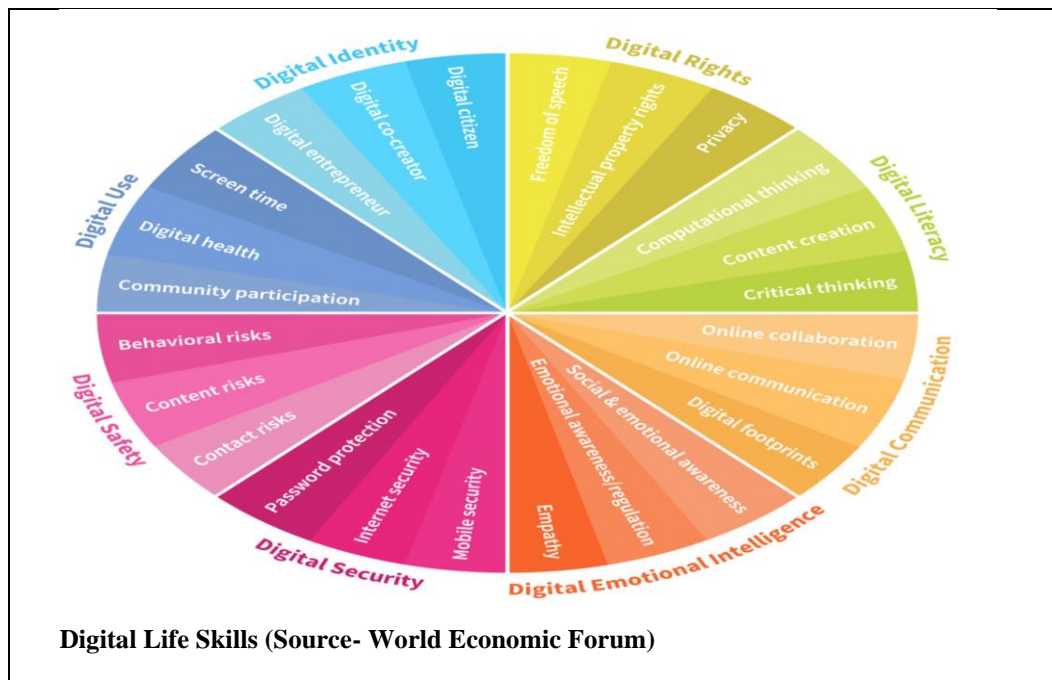
This kind of skill can be described as everything an organization or a digital user does to protect their information, computer networks and systems from intrusions, malware, cyber attacks and also different types of data breaches.

xi) Digital Empathy-

Can be termed as Soft Touch, this skill has a touch of human heart where three core principles of empathy-cognition, emotion and compassion are used in designing technology to develop the user's experience.

From the above said DQ skills, a student as well as a teacher can use the Digital Medias with ease and comfort. In the rat race of 21st century where the libraries can be found online then to have such skills of DQ is a very important matter of fact for proper discrimination.

According to the World Economic Forum there are 24 Digital Life Skills-



4. What are the importances of digital life skills in education in covid 19 situation?

According to WHO ‘Coronaviruses (nCoV) are large families of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus Covid 19 (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.’ This prevailing virus in the present situation has caused havoc in the world and human life style has gone through a great change all through the universe. Education always needs bodily presence where the existence of teacher students and books are the mediums to transfer knowledge. But today in the crisis time the face to face transaction remains impossible and digital learning through online mode via internet is the only resource for teaching learning activities. Though nowadays with the development of digital medias usage of technologies are not totally unknown to a person, the expertise that are needed for using these medias in education lacks in them and thus various sites like Pornography, Digital Hacking, Adult Websites, Digital threat, Life threatening games like Momo have brought storm to human existence. So to employ the boon of this digital media in practical field of Education the Digital Life Skills are needed at a large scale to be effective and successful. Some importance of Digital Life Skills in Covid 19 situations are as follows-

- i) For using Digital Volunteer to track the students in a limited area.
- ii) To reach out to the Low tech students via phone calls, text messages, voice messages etc.
- iii) Addressing the areas of Digital Divide.
- iv) Reorientation of the curriculum according to the need.
- v) Teaching the students secure usage of internet.
- vi) Creation of new content through critical and creative thinking process.
- vii) To secure community participation in teaching learning process.
- viii) Developing innovative digital health solutions.
- ix) Promoting security lessons through password, screen lock, face lock etc.
- x) Maintaining privacy of assignments and the Democratic Right of Freedom of Speech.
- xi) Regulating emotional awareness of students through digital mode.
- xii) Promoting Online Communications through Webinars, Online Workshops, Conference, Discussions among various educators and students.

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xiii) Formulating and solving problems through logical organization and analyzing data through digitalization.

xiv) Creating empathy among students through technologies for the backward classes.

xv) Making the students aware of safety download and choosing proper websites.

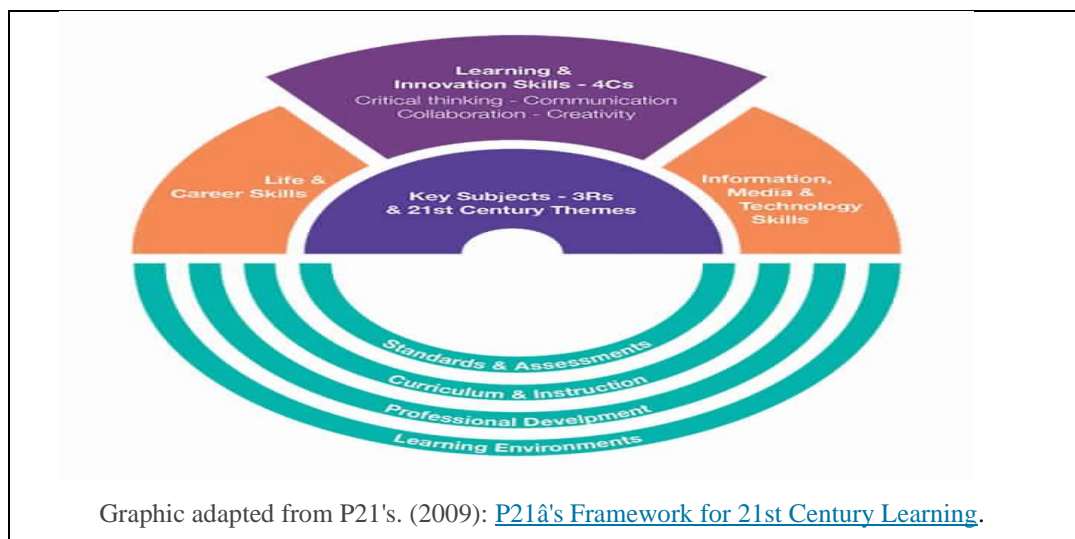
xvi) Continuing good profile in tech-world by maintaining proper digital footprints.

xvii) For the Professional development of the teachers.

xviii) For developing new innovations like Evaluation Rubrics and other assessment tools.

5. How digital life skills help in creating the new framework for learning in 21st century?

Learning in 21st century has seen a paradigm shift from face to face to virtual, where the physical distance cannot be constraint for the flow of knowledge from teachers to students as well as among various educational personnel. Most of the Government as well as private sector employees or teachers are now equipped with the skills comes to be known as Digital Life Skills needed for this digi communication. As nowadays our life becomes intimately associated with the digital world not only the ten Life Skills prescribed by WHO are necessary but also they should be incorporated in the application of digital world. The emergence of Covid 19 in this situation arises as the need of these digital skills urgently because it is only way now for communication. Education is now not customized in the small sector of boundary of a particular country; it has earned the position of globalization where digital medium is the only way to voyage through the virtual space. So it is very much essential to develop a new framework of learning that can make us aware of different skills side by side the digital skills of learning. Spante et.al. (2018) depicted his view on the importance of digital literacy for the 21st century learning where he described about his ideas how technology could be used in higher education. So it can be said that 21st century Education System can create a new framework given below-



The graphic adapted from P21 learning describes some necessitated skills which are important for the new generation learners as well as for teachers where developing digital skills, personal professional development, development of life and career skills everything have come to the forefront and the proper amalgamation of those processes can make an education system healthy. The 21st century Frameworks for Learning sets out five categories of essential digital skills for life and work:

- i) Transacting
- ii) Problem Solving
- iii) Communicating
- iv) Handling Information and Content
- v) Being Safe and Legal Online

6. Conclusion:

Nothing is permanent on our Earth. Everything changes with the passage of time. Education also grows with time towards maturity when face to face communication decreases itself to a small word called 'Network'. From

conversation to conference and now even virtual face to face communication become possible. So in the area of education some skills are needed to be an expert of this tech generation where real life knowledge in collaboration with techno-skill shifts into a new world of Digital Life Skills needed to be alive in this tech-dominated educational arena happily and healthily

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