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**Assessment of Digital Literacy Skills among UG students of Tangla College,
Udalguri, Assam: A Study**

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Abstract:

Digital literacy has the potential to be a powerful instrument for growth. People that are digitally literate are better able to communicate and stay up with contemporary developments. Digital literacy can be a beneficial evolution, as technological advancements can improve for the poor's economic chances, expand services to the underprivileged, improve organization, and promote social alteration. Students and teachers require up-to-date data for a variety of educational activities. The goal of this research is to examine digital literacy among the UG students of Tangla College, Assam. This article covers the level of agreement, awareness, regularity, and familiarity with digital literacy abilities among users, as well as the training literacy programme, knowledge, and benefits of digital literacy in the present day. The main aim of the study is to analyze the user's knowledge and aptitude of 'Digital Literacy'. The responded was chosen using a purposive sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 150 students of whom 126 filled questionnaires were received from 3 (three) streams: Arts, Commerce, and Science for further scrutinized, tabulated and analyzed using MS Excel and MS Word. The study examined that the majority of respondents are familiar with the phrase "digital literacy," and majority agree that the Digital Literacy Program assists incompetent usage of information sources and services. The study also reveals that digital literacy has a lot of advantageous in present era.

Keywords: Digital Literacy, Digital Tools, ICT, Information, Social Network, E- Resources, Tangla College.

1. Introduction

Digital literacy is extremely crucial in everyday life, and it has significant implications in our current society. Everything has changed as an outcome of the COVID-19 Pandemic, from studying online to working in a digital platform, and collaboratively creating new ideas and products. Digital information is fast expanding, and people are increasingly relying on digital and electronic information (Singh, 2019). In the twenty-first century, digital literacy means to the abilities required to use technology successfully and appropriately. Terminology like the

Internet, the World Wide Web, smart phones, and Facebook are relatively new when contrasted to what has been going on in schools over the previous 20 years? Digital literacy, to put it simply, is the ability to use both basic and advanced computing skills. It's a method of developing multi-modal text, which includes audio, video, and other media. There is a "gap between higher education and 21st-century skills," and that academic institutes now must modify their method to promote clear and specific and purposefully valid digital literacy techniques that connect the improvement of existing user ability with the development of newer areas of expertise (Tejedor et al. 2020). The digital world holds a lot of things for all the people of nation. When using the term digital literacy all we see is how we use the digital or social platforms. Digital literacy is all about adequately functioning in our changing digital environment, not just proficiency in education assessment tasks Meyers, Erickson and Small (2013). Basically, it's the capacity to direct multiple digital programs, comprehend how to get about them, and interact using them. In present era, Digital Literacy can be defined as the method about learning technology and it uses. The capacity to utilize ICTs is to discover, assess, make and convey data. Digital Literacy is a capacity for utilizing the data as well as communication technologies in discovering, assessing, making, along with conveying data that requires both intellectual as well as specialized abilities.

2. Definition of Digital Literacy

The American Library Association (ALA) 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.”

According to Paul Glistner, “Digital Literacy is the ability to understand information and more important- to evaluate and integrate information in multiple formats that the computer can deliver. Being able to evaluate and interpret information is critical you cannot understand information you find on the internet without evaluating its sources and placing.”

European Commission defines digital literacy as “the skills required to achieve digital competence. It is underpinned by basic skills in ICT and the use of computers to retrieve, assess, store, produce, present and exchange information, and to communicate and participate in collaborative networks via the Internet.”

3. Digital Tools

Digital tools are any software or technology that is usually used for communication and education, and they are extremely significant in today's world. Even though there are many digital tools here are eleven common tools used by research scholar in the present era: Laptop, Computer, Mobile Phones, Google Class-room, Google Meet, SPSS Statistical Product and Service Solutions. etc.



Fig. 1 Digital Tools

According to Jabari Mahiri, “Digital tools are any type of software or hardware that can be used for education.”

4. An Overview of Tangla College

Tangla College was established in the year 1970. This college used to be affiliated with Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, since 2020 Tangla College was affiliated under Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam. Today, the College works to develop students in all aspects of their lives, including academics, science, and extracurricular activities. The college offers education in all three (three) streams: Arts, Commerce, and Science, at both the Higher Secondary (10+2) and Undergraduate (10+2+3) levels. There are currently 71 faculties, with 47 permanent faculty members, 17 part-time faculty members, 3 contractual faculty members, and 4 non-sanctioned faculty members engaged in different departments.

The College has a very well library with computers and study amenities. Since the 2016-17 academic years, the Central Library has given students the "Best Library User Award". On all working days of the week, the library is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tangla College has already registered for the N-List Program, which gives it access to more than 6000 e-Journals and 135,000 e-Books. An e-resource centre, in collaboration with Bibliotech Smart Library, has been established in the library building itself to enlarge the scope of e-resources in the college which has fully digital facility. During Library Hours, a library service such as Internet access is offered to teachers and students. (Retrieved from <https://tanglacollege.ac.in/>)

5. Scope and limitation of the Study:

The study would only include 150 undergraduate students from Tangla College in Udalguri, Assam. The respondent comprises of both male and female students from 3 (three) streams: Arts (Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Economics, Education, English, History, Political Science), Commerce (Accountancy, Commerce, Finance, Management), and Science (Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Zoology, Computer Science, Environmental Science). Tangla College is one of the emerging colleges in Assam having good infrastructure and information resources. But the study will be able to notify and reveal the area where the College required improvement for better tomorrow.

6. Review of Literature

Emiri (2015) examined that library professionals obtained Digital Literacy Skills (DLS) through coworker aid, experiment, IT programmes, and schooling, but librarians' degree of use of DLS is low, among other findings and electricity, internet connectivity, lack of training, and managerial funding are all major impediments to DLS use. Spires, Paul and Kerkhoff (2017) studied the implication of digital literacy and academic integrity, as well as the effects of digital literacy on current education and the digital environment. Singh (2019) examined that, it is the high time for the users to adapt the digital literacy skills in search of information with the emergence of the advancement of the technology and digitization for which users require orientation programme to change their digital skills. Panchamia (2019) studied the importance of the digitization and development of the emerging technology among the youth and India as a country is likewise working towards this goal. Government of India has been working hard to ensure that people are digitally empowered, but only with the proper knowledge and utilization of technology. Mulat and Natarajan (2020) discussed about the significant digital literacy skills among library personnel i.e., such as email, world wide web, social media, and mobile phones, and state that these abilities are acquired through workshops, academic schooling, and YouTube. Tejedor et al. (2020) analyzed that internationally imposed lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic have put off the regular educational systems worldwide and the consequences in their research paper point out to improve the quality such as teachers' digital skills, adaptable learning sources, communication between educators and students, and instructional practices that are adequate to the modern scenario. Tohara et al. (2021) discussed how that the concept of digital literacy skills

helps teachers to enhance their teaching and learning practices for SNS in Malaysia. In addition, the digital literacy skills paradigm will be able to enhance the teachings and relearning practices required for Special Needs Students (SNS) in the internet world. Subaveerapandiyam and Sinha (2021) analyzed that digital and media literacy is exclusive to reach the paperless community and library, because when one person is literate, they know how to make use of the technology in different need to access the technology. Pawar (2021) studied that in order to accomplish quality education there are two major terms i.e., Info- Tech application and digital literacy and these two concepts led to the advancement of the educational curriculum in day-to-day life of the people. Egeli and Sagdinc (2021) discussed that digital literacy skills plays a dynamic role in present education system besides that the resources that are carried out while teaching the pupils.

7. Objectives

1. To know the Digital Literacy Skills of the Students.
2. To find out the perception and usage of different user groups towards Digital Literacy.
3. To evaluate the knowledge of Digital Literacy among the Students.
4. To determine the difficulties face by the students while using ICT tools.

8. Methodology

The methodology used for this paper is structured questionnaire for gathering data from UG students of Tangla College, Udalguri, Assam. The responded was chosen using a random sampling technique. A structured questionnaire was distributed among 150 students of whom 126 filled questionnaires were received for further scrutinized, tabulated and analyzed using MS Excel and MS Word.

9. Data Analysis

9.1 Distribution of Questionnaire

A total of 150 questionnaires have been distributed among the UG students. Out of which 126 (84%) filled questionnaire were received back for further analysis as shown below.

Table1 shows the number of respondents received from the different streams. It shows that 45 (35.71%) students from the Arts have responded, as well as 42 (33.33%) from Science and 39

(30.96%) from the Commerce stream. In comparison to Science and Commerce, it reveals that the arts have the highest number of respondents.

Table No. 1 Distribution of Questionnaire				
Sl. No.	Designation	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Received	Percentage
1	Arts	50	45	35.71%
2	Science	50	42	33.33%
3	Commerce	50	39	30.96%
Total		150	126	100%

9.2 Gender Wise Distribution of Questionnaire

Table 2 revealed that out of 126 respondents, majority of 74 (58.73%) were male candidates while 52 (41.27%) were female candidates. The analysis shows that the male respondents are higher than female respondents.

Table No. 2 Gender wise distribution			
Sl. No.	Gender	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	74	58.73%
2	Female	52	41.27%
Total		126	100%

9.3 Awareness of the term Digital Literacy

Table 3 shows the awareness of the term digital literacy among the students. It reveals that majority of 102 (80.95%) students are aware of digital literacy out of 126 students and only 24 (19.05%) students are not aware. The study reveals that the institute needs to organize digital literacy awareness.

Table No. 3 Awareness of the term Digital Literacy			
Sl. No.	Awareness	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	102	80.95%
2	No	24	19.05%
Total		126	100%

9.4 Digital Literacy Programme attended by students

Table No 4 shows the Digital Literacy programme attended by students of Tangla College, Tangla. Less than half of the respondents 64 (49.21%) respondents have attended the digital literacy programme whereas more than half 62 (50.79%) respondents have not attended Digital Literacy programme. The study reveals that organizing digital literacy programme is very essential in Tangla College.

Table No. 4 Digital Literacy Programme attended			
Sl. No.	Programme attend	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	62	49.21%
2	No	64	50.79%
Total		126	100%

9.5 Importance of DL Programme

The digital literacy programme helps incompetent use of information sources and services. Table 5 and figure 1 depict that majority of 75 (59.53%) students agree about the importance of digital literacy, followed by 31 (24.60%) students strongly agree, and only 20 (15.87%) students are neutral and none of them disagree. The study depict that the majority of students believe that digital literacy programme is important in the present era.

Table No. 4 Importance of DL Programme			
Sl. No.	Level	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Strongly Agree	31	24.60%
2	Agree	75	59.53%
3	Neutral	20	15.87%
4	Disagree	0	0%
Total		126	100

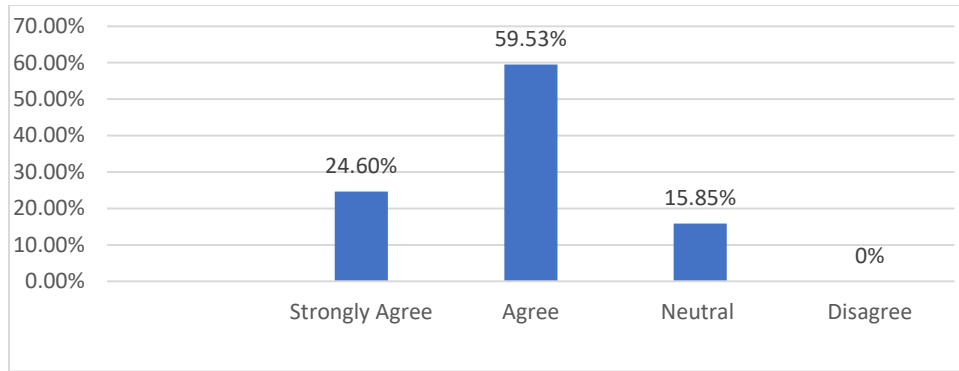


Fig. 2: Importance of DL Programme

9.6 Knowledge about the Digital Literacy

Table 6 shows the knowledge of digital literacy among the students of Tangla College, Tangla. The findings reveal that majority of 82 (65.08%) respondents has responded that they have little knowledge about the digital literacy, while the remaining 38 (30.16%) respondents have some knowledge and only 6 (4.76%) have much knowledge. The study shows that the vast majority have little knowledge about the digital literacy.

Table No. 6 Knowledge about the Digital Literacy			
Sl. No.	Knowledge	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Little	82	65.08%
2	Somewhat	38	30.16%
3	Much	6	4.76%
Total		126	100%

9.7 Benefit of Digital Literacy in present era

Table No. 7 examine the benefits of digital literacy in the present era. The analysis shows that majority of 115 (91.27%) has responded that digital literacy is beneficial and only 11 (8.73%) have disagreed. The study depicts that digital literacy is advantageous in today's world.

Table No.7 Benefit of Digital Literacy			
Sl. No.	Benefit	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	115	91.27%
2	No	11	8.73%
Total		126	100%

9.8 Familiarity of Digital Literacy tools

Table No. 8 and figure 3 show the familiarity of digital literacy skills among the respondents of the Tangla College, Tangla. According to the analysis, majority of the students were familiar with mobile phones 123 (16.78%), internet 123 (16.38%), social networking 118 (15.71%), electronic conferencing 94 (12.52%), e-mail 86 (11.45%), while only few are familiar with photoshop 58 (7.72%), video creating 57 (7.59%), graphic design/drawing 33 (4.39%), MS Office 28 (3.73%), powerpoint presentation 28 (3.73%).

Table No. 8 Familiarity of Digital Literacy Skills			
Sl. No.	Digital Literacy Tools	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	E-mail	86	11.45
2	Internet	123	16.38
3	Power-point Presentation	28	3.73
4	Photo-shop	58	7.72
5	Electronic Conferencing	94	12.52
6	Mobile phones	126	16.78
7	Video Creating	57	7.59
8	Graphic design/drawing	33	4.39
9	MS-Office	28	3.73
10	Social Networking	118	15.71
Total		751	100

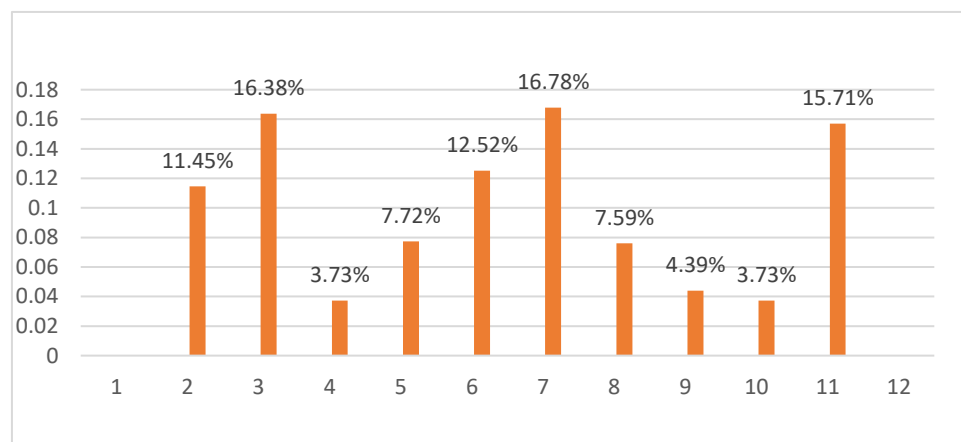


Fig. 3: Familiarity of Digital Literacy Skills

10. Major Findings:

- The majority of respondents are familiar with the term "digital literacy," while only 24 are not.
- Maximum number of respondents agreed that Digital Literacy Programme helps incompetent use of information sources and services.
- Analysis shows that a smaller number of students have attended Digital Literacy Programme.
- The study reveals that most the students have little knowledge about Digital literacy.
- The majority of the students believe that digital literacy is beneficial in present era.
- Internet, Social Networking Sites, Mobile phones and Electronic Conferencing are the primary digital literacy skills among the students.

11. Conclusion:

Digital literacy focuses on skills needed to survive, educate, and perform in an environment where interaction and data are rapidly delivered via digital services including the web, social networking sites, and portable devices. In today's information age, digital information is rapidly developing, and people are inexorably gravitating toward digital and electronic information.

The study has proved that Digital Literacy plays an important role in the 21st century education scenario. The study's findings have important implication for students, faculty and staff. Access of Digital resources enables the users to save the time, advance in getting the latest information, regular and authentic. According to the study it is found that, Tangla College students in Assam require an awareness/orientation programme to strengthen their technology abilities and advance in the Digital facilities.

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