

# Digitization of Education: Creating Global Citizens Through Technology-Based Education

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## **Abstract: -**

“वसुधैव कुटुंबकं” an idea that the entire world is my family existed in India since the Vedic times. This ideology was lost somewhere over the period of time. “We are more divided than we are united”. The world as we know, has been divided by various factors and one can find a thousand reasons to keep it divided but, only one thing that has brought humanity closer today is the technology or social media. Since the growth of internet, information is available from around the world within seconds. This information pool is a double-edged sword. A platform to connect all has now become a new form of addiction. This addiction needs to be channelized effectively to make the students productive rather than addictive. This paper deals with various aspects of technology-based education, aiming to provide solutions for effective use of technology in classroom to create responsible citizens of the globe. The term netizen is a portmanteau of the words Internet and citizen, as in a "citizen of the net" or "net citizen." It describes a person actively involved in online communities or the Internet in general. The term was coined by Michael and Ronda Hauben. Influencing and building the values, ethics and virtues of the students at a tender age will allow them to fulfill the task and take over the responsibilities of a global citizen.

**Keywords: -** Netizens, Global Citizens, Cultural Tolerance

## **Background**

“वसुधैव कुटुंबकं” an idea that the entire world is my family existed in India since the Vedic times. This ideology was lost somewhere over the period of time. Many instances can be cited in our religious books and puranas where in the values of giving the food of your table to the hungry person standing at your door, can be seen. One

cannot forget the example of the great Karna who gave his protective armor and earrings to keep his word. Such ideals are now lost somewhere amongst the golden pages of our history which took a dark turn.

Since 1947 the generations born have seen nothing other than political boundaries and ever-changing global political map with lines being added every now and then. “We are more divided than we are united”. The world as we know, has been divided by various factors and one can find a thousand reasons to keep it divided but, only one thing that has brought humanity together today is the technology or social media

Since the growth of internet, information is available from around the world within seconds. This information pool is a double-edged sword. Use of this medium to spread and promote violence is widely seen. Many youths have been recruited through this medium by various terrorist organizations. Many youths have lost their way as to say with the unhealthy use of internet and social media. A platform to connect all has now become a new form of addiction. This addiction needs to be channelized effectively to make the students productive rather than addictive. In such times it is important to create an ideal for the younger generation to look up to and follow regarding the use of internet.

Considering the condition in today's world, it is a necessity to sensitize the younger generation on various problems that we are currently facing and those that we are yet to face. It is necessary to break down the political barriers and unite the world to stand against the problems staring at us. It is the need of the hour to create the values and understand the concept “वसुधैव कुटुंबकं” to maintain peace in the society. With the access to the knowledge available in the world, it has become a task of the teachers and education system to impart values in students that would make them think as global citizens rather than

considering themselves bound to a particular country, area, religion, caste and creed etc.

“Emerging technologies change the institution of citizenship and reconceptualize membership and belonging. While the scale of this transformation is unknown, new technologies are already blurring the lines between physical and digital, local and global”. (global citizenship.eu, 2019)

Various problems stand facing us which are not anticipated yet. Adhering to the need that we will have to stand together to face them, the whole world needs to learn to unite keeping away petty differences for the survival of humanity and the planet. The seed of the ideas and values of responsible global citizen needs to be sown in the young minds. “A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world and their place in it. They take an active role in their community, and work with others to make our planet more equal, fair and sustainable.” (oxfam education, n.d.) To fulfill this task, we need to keep away our differences and foster a healthy relationship within countries to promote peace. This paper attempts to analyze and provide solutions towards creating global citizens in India through technology-based education.

### **Practices for a change:**

“Dr. Jung describes an epiphany she had regarding the nexus of educational training, intercultural communication and technology. “I saw a Korean man who was practicing English using his cell phone. In a flash, I had an image of students here sitting on a playground here and there in groups and working together on school tasks using mobile devices.” Her doctoral thesis at the University of Virginia dealt with “Intercultural Competence Development: Implementing International Virtual Elementary Classroom Activities for Public School Students in the U.S. and Korea.” Out of this research grew the IVECA (Intercultural Virtual Exchange of Classroom Activities) program, an international online schooling platform that Dr. Jung founded and now directs. According to Dr. Jung, IVECA harnesses the recent affordable developments in information and communications technology to enable elementary and secondary school as well as university students from different backgrounds around the globe to interact directly with each

*other. She sees IVECA's virtual learning experience as promoting a new sense of “living together”. Partnered school students can communicate in a genuinely reciprocal manner, indeed, in a way that offers some distinct advantages over what is all-too-often a “one-way learning environment” in which visiting students must adapt to their host country and assimilate to the local culture. Dr. Jung believes that IVECA helps create a learning space especially suited to global citizenship” (ACADEMIC IMPACT, 2017)*

Such practices need to be introduced in our academics where in the technological learning and curriculum would go hand in hand. A national level online platform can be created connecting various schools across the country at the initial stage. This platform would connect schools from India and allow them to share their teaching learning practices live to the viewers across country. Teachers can record an upload their ideas and practices on this platform enabling other teachers around the country to be able to show these videos to their students fostering a tolerance for various cultures and develop inter-cultural learning amongst their students.

Using the same platform “**Students Exchange Programs**” can be initiated to states with totally different culture than their own. This exchange should allow the students to stay in a different place and learn, experience the new culture fostering tolerance, Pluralism, Multi-Culturalism, ethnicity and acceptance of diversities that exist in India. Once these barriers within the Indian youth are broken, creating global citizens out of them won't be a difficult task.

### **Technological Values through Parents**

The main reason why today's generation is misusing the available technological resources is because they do not get introduced to the social media and technology in the appropriate manner. Parents at home play crucial role in imparting values and ideals in children but, since today's parents themselves are digital immigrants, they are unable to fulfill the role effectively leaving the child exposed. Being born in the digital era they stumble in the usage and with trial and error learn to use the internet which doesn't always turn out productive. This process of uncertain learning should be curbed and a set framework

should be developed to introduce the students to the technology. The technology education should be introduced as an elementary subject at the primary level to channelize the curiosity and interests of the students in technology learning positively.

**Digital Citizenship Curriculum** in Education will prove to be an effective tool to create global citizen. Implementing social media-based learning to create a learning space larger than classrooms. Freedom should be given to students to choose a place of their choice for learning rather than enclosing all in one classroom. This will develop a sense of responsibility amongst the students to use the freedom that they have been bestowed upon reducing the ill-effects of social media. Use of WhatsApp by the teacher to forward education related notes, articles, blogs etc. and initiate discussions on various topics will induce good habits in students. Creating Facebook page where in students of various schools around the globe can join and take part in discussions to find solutions to a problem or just share ideas and opinions on current happenings around the world is an ideal practice. Enabling students to write blogs and publish them on online sources for people across world to read. Creating student's forum for publishing and discussing ideas can help bring students of societies together. *"Education for global citizenship is not an additional subject - it's a framework for learning, reaching beyond school to the wider community. It can be promoted in class through the existing curriculum or through new initiatives and activities"*. (oxfam education, n.d.)

At a later stage, once the values and ethics of efficient use of technology are infused and the sense of discrimination is reduced increasing the inter-cultural tolerance, a global citizenship scenario can be actualized.

At the school level, live videoconferencing can be initiated to allow various speakers to communicate with the students enabling them to think and learn at a global level rather than just their own teachers. Arranging international conferences providing exposure to the students to understand foreign culture and aspects of the modern society. Allowing students to think critically and evaluate the situation of various countries and societies by keeping in mind their

culture and ethics, and to provide solutions to the problems. Various social media applications can be used by the teachers to share articles, blogs and other materials that will educate them on to the current status in the world.

The term netizen is a portmanteau of the words Internet and citizen, as in a "citizen of the net" or "net citizen." It describes a person actively involved in online communities or the Internet in general. The term was coined by Michael and Ronda Hauben. Influencing and building the values, ethics and virtues of the students at a tender age will allow them to fulfill the task and take over the responsibilities of a global citizen. The global citizens are the people who act responsibly towards countering the problems faced by the world for a peaceful united society. Engendering these values amongst students through social media will facilitate the production of such global citizens which is the need of the hour.

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