

# Is Pakistan ready for digital revolution?

## OUTLINE

37/100

1. Introduction

2. The digital ecosystem of Pakistan: Current scenario

3. Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution due to multifarious challenges:

3.1 Economic Hurdles

a) Low GDP Growth

Case in point: 3.4% in last 4 years

b) High external debt

Case in point: 124\$ billion as of 2023

3.2 Political barriers

a) Political instability decreasing FDI

b) Prevalence of exclusive political institutions

Case in point: Why Nations Fail by Robinson

### 3.3 Technological challenges ✓

a) Underdeveloped digital infrastructure

b) Weak legal frameworks ✓

Case in point: Cyber security attacks

### 3.4 Social obstacles ✓

a) Increasing poverty rate

Case in point: 3.4 million poor people - WB

b) Prevailing gender disparity

Case in point: Global Gender Gap Report 2021 ✓

## 1. Pragmatic measures to make Pakistan revolutionized digitally ✓

4.1 Boosting economy through inclusive economic institutions ✓

4.2 Maintaining political stability

4.3 Establishment of vocational educational institutions ✓

4.4 Funding Information Technology (IT) sector ✓

## 5. Conclusion

Digital is the new trend in the modern era of 21st century. It is imperative for every country to adopt digital reforms to excel in every sector. The world has reached the heights of glory in digital revolution.

However, while Pakistan is still struggling to provide a good standard of living to its major chunk of population. To start with economic hurdles: it has high external debt with low growth rate of GDP. Then comes political barriers; the prevalence of political instability and ruling of the exclusive political institutions add fuel to the fire. Furthermore, underdeveloped digital infrastructure slows down the speed of internet. Cyber security attacks due to weak legal frameworks is the another challenge. Therefore, it is imperative to take audacious steps to make Pakistan digitally revolutionized in the near future. Reforming economic system, maintaining political stability, and promoting

skilled-based education are some key measures. In ~~conclusion~~ <sup>with some other word</sup>, Pakistan is not yet ready for digital revolution due to multiple challenges. However, it can be digitally revolutionized in the near future through practical and bold measures. <sup>Therefore, Thus etc</sup>

To begin with, the digital ecosystem of Pakistan is looming in crisis currently. Although the ~~former governments~~ <sup>certain steps have been taken</sup> ~~in the past years~~ <sup>has</sup> taken many initiatives to improve Pakistan digitally. The efficient performance of NADRA is asserted by an international report. Likewise, government's Digi Skills is an initiative to train its youth skillfully. China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) is the another project to boost digital economy. These all are positive developments, but it is an ~~inadequate~~ overall progress. <sup>is inadequate</sup> Much needs to be done to make Pakistan digitally revolutionized. Thus, Pakistan's digital ecosystem is at the critical juncture.

work in your sentence structure

Pakistan is not yet ready for digital revolution due to multi crises. These include: economic challenges, political challenges, Technological as well as social challenges.

Primarily, the most prevailing economic challenge is the low GDP growth rate. Pakistan's economy is export oriented, which makes it run low on foreign reserves. There is outflux of dollars due to import of non-essential items. Pakistan's GDP growth rate has not been more than 3.4 per cent since last 4 years. Thus, the low GDP growth rate does not let bloom Pakistan's economy. As a result, it lags behind in digital prosperity.

Then comes another economic challenge in the way of Pakistan's progress is the high external debt. The inability of Pakistani policy makers to make inclusive economic institutions has cost much. James Robinson

in his book "Why Nations Fail", has rightly affirmed it. "The inclusive economic institutions are crucial for the economic growth and sustainability."

However, Pakistan is suffering from economic crisis due to high external debt. The external debt of Pakistan is approximately 124 billion dollars as of 2023. In the recent past, Pakistan was at the verge of economic default.

Although, the default has been avoided due to foreign aid, but it is not a long term solution. Hence, high external debt is a real hurdle in the way of its growth.

Furthermore, political barriers deteriorates the already suffering state of Pakistan. The persistent argumentation between the government and opposition, keeps heated the political arena. This way political instability prevails. Due to political instability, the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)

are decreasing. The investors feel hesitant to invest in Pakistan due to political chaos. Even Pakistanis themselves are shifting their businesses to foreign countries. It is all because of the fear of unsafe environment of business. As a result, the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) has been decreased due to political instability.

The prevailing exclusive political institutions hinder the countries prosperity. Countries with inclusive political institutions have risen the heights of glory. According to Robinson and Acemoglu, the two countries of the United States has seen different growth rates. One with inclusive political institutions was more developed. While, the one with exclusive political institutions has seen multiple crises. Thus, exclusive political institutions are not favourable for the progress of Pakistan.

The under developed digital infrastructure of Pakistan makes digitalization sluggish.

Due to less investments and funding in the Information Technology (IT) sector, the infrastructure is not developed. This way, the internet service slows down in the country.

Due to malfunctioning of the internet in the country, the software companies face losses. Hence, the inefficient working of the internet prevents Pakistan from digital progress and digital revolution.

The weak legal frameworks makes Pakistan vulnerable to cyber attacks.

The hacking by the foreign hackers leaks all the essential and confidential information of the state.

Many times, the official websites of Pakistan have been hacked and attacked by foreigners. This shows the weakness of



legal frameworks. As a result, the inefficient cyber security prevents the country to revolutionize digitally.

Additionally, the emergence of poverty in the country is ~~not~~ detrimental to digital prosperity. Prevalence of poverty makes it hard for the citizens to make their <sup>both</sup> ends meet. According to the World Bank Report of 2023, approximately more than three million people in Pakistan live in poverty.

The country is struggling to provide better human capital due to high poverty ratio. Therefore, Pakistan is not ready for digital revolution. Because it is struggling with basic necessities for its people.

The prevailing gender disparity in the country lags it behind in every field. Due to discriminatory practices in hiring the workforce, the true

potential of the country remains unrealed. According to a survey 38 per cent less women have access to internet facilities than men. If the provision is not equal then the outcome will not be sufficient. The report of Global Gender Gap 2023 states, Pakistan's rank 142nd out of 146 countries. Thus, gender discrimination curtails the efficiency of the workforce.

However, pragmatic measures have to be taken to make Pakistan revolutionized digitally.

First, economic prosperity is imperative for the success of every sector in the country. With improved economy, the sufficient funds will be provided. In order to improve and boost the economy, the institutions must be formulated inclusively. Inclusive economic institutions are dispensable **quintessential**

to increase GDP growth rate. Hence, economic reforms are crucial to make economic institutions inclusive.

Second, there can be no progress without political stability. When the political arena is safe and secure, the other institutions work efficiently. Political stability also empowers the economic growth. The citizens and investors feel safe in a politically stable country. Therefore, political stability should be of the utmost importance to make Pakistan revolutionize digitally.

Third, establishment of vocational educational institutions will produce skilled-based workforce. Approximately sixty-four per cent of the population is young. To make this huge chunk of population an asset, skilled-based education should be provided diligently. This will

Makes no sense here.

improve the efficient workforce in the country. As a result, Pakistan will be successful in digitalization. Last, the Information Technology (IT) sector should be provided with enough funds to bring reforms. When they are provided with sufficient funds, they will be ~~not only~~ <sup>IT</sup> able ~~but~~ to revolutionize ~~the~~ every sector of Pakistan, ~~not only IT sector~~. The ~~digital~~ digitalization can be embraced in economy, politics, academics, technology as well. In order to bring digital revolution, the IT sector must first be reformed with sufficient investments.

In a nutshell, multifarious challenges make Pakistan unable to be ready for digital revolution. These include: economic, political, technological and sociological hurdles. Namely, weak legal frameworks, prevalence of poverty ratio, and

dominance of gender disparity show the inefficiency of Pakistan for digital revolution. Every cloud has a silver lining, and every problem has a solution. If Bangladesh can be digitally revolutionized through stringent measure, so can Pakistan as well. Therefore, mitigating measures have to be taken to address the challenges. Economic growth, political stability, and skilled based education are some practical measure. As a result, Pakistan will not only be ready for digital revolution, but it will also reach the heights of glory. Skill