

E.K. NAYANAR MEMORIAL GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, ELERITHATTU

ELERITHATTU POST, KASARAGOD

(NAAC ARREDITED WITH GRADE B)

REPORT OF THE FIELD WORK

On

IMPARTATION OF DIGITAL LITERACY TO THE SENIOR CITIZENS

Organised By

The Department of Commerce

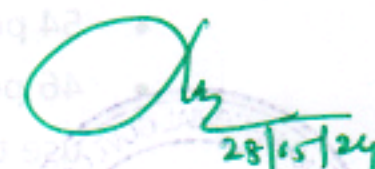
E.K.Nayanar Memorial Government College
Elerithattu

Submitted to

The principal
E.K.Nayanar Memorial Government College
Elerithattu

JANUARY 2023




28/05/24
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PART A

INTRODUCTION

The digital literacy is becoming increasingly important in today's world as technology continues to play a central role in our daily lives, including our social interactions and education. Identifying information accurately and validating it is crucial as the digital world is getting more and more cluttered. Digital literacy also encompasses using devices and software efficiently, protecting personal data, protecting yourself from online threats, etc., not just in personal but academic and professional lives as well.

Internet communications technology (ICT) has become integral to daily life. However, millions of senior citizens struggle to navigate the internet. As technology advances, older people are falling further and further behind when it comes to ICT competencies. Accessibility barriers, harmful misinformation, and increasingly sophisticated scams are only some of the issues that the elderly face online. In these situations, it is critical to build digital literacy for senior citizens and work toward a more equitable digital world.

WHY SENIOR CITIZENS NEED DIGITAL LITERACY?

Although more people are using the internet every year, elderly people often face significant challenges when adopting new technology. According to a report from Help Age India, an all-India level charity for senior citizens, approximately 63 million people aged 65 and older have never used the internet. At the same time, the world is becoming increasingly dependent on internet-enabled technologies. It is critical for senior citizens to build digital literacy skills to navigate the online world.

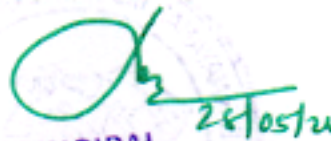
There are several reasons why elderly citizens struggle with technology. Advancing technologies can be confusing and difficult to adopt. Accessibility issues can make it difficult for seniors to view, comprehend, or interact with content online.

Socioeconomic barriers such as high broadband costs and lack of infrastructure prevent billions of people from accessing the internet each year. Many elders do not use the internet simply because they elect not to do so.

Help Age India surveyed senior citizens about why they choose not to engage with digital technologies, uncovering the following data from respondents.

- 54 percent of participants do not have a computer or ICT-enabled device
- 46 percent of participants were simply not interested in or did not have a reason to use the internet




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- 41 percent of participants stated that they were not sure how to use the internet
- 34 percent of participants have concerns about scams
- 31 percent of participants found it too difficult to keep up with technology

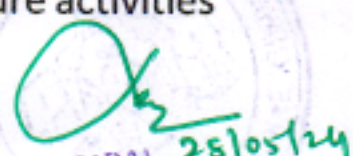
THE BENEFITS OF DIGITAL LITERACY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens are making up an increasingly larger proportion of the world's population. According to the United Nations, in 2018, elderly people aged 65 and older outnumbered children under five for the first time in history. Simultaneously, digital skills are becoming more and more important for daily life. Over 80 percent of middle-skill jobs require digital proficiency. In 2021, there were an estimated 4.66 billion active internet users globally, making up 59.5 percent of the world's population.

By building digital literacy, senior citizens can participate fully in this digital world and gain access to valuable opportunities available through the internet. The benefits of digital literacy for senior citizens are plentiful.

- **Social Connection:** One of the major benefits of digital literacy for seniors is social connectivity. Many elderly people experience isolation, which was especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic. These seniors can leverage social media, video calling, and other technologies to connect with loved ones and reduce these feelings of loneliness, which could be detrimental to their health.
- **Continued Independence:** Digital technologies can enable senior citizens to continue their independence. These solutions make it easier for seniors to safely live on their own for longer. For example, elders can use personal monitoring devices to call for medical attention and alert their families if they need help.
- **Participation in Key Activities:** Many daily activities are taking place online. By developing digital literacy skills, seniors can take advantage of tools to manage their finances, shop online, and communicate with people around the world via email and social media.
- **Access to Benefits and Services:** Like commercial businesses, many government agencies and public service providers offer benefits and services online. By building digital skills, elderly people can apply for compensation, schedule repairs and appointments, and access the services they qualify for.
- **Leisure and Entertainment Options:** The digital world is full of exciting and often free entertainment options that seniors can use. By developing digital skills, elderly people can access streaming services, play online games, and engage in other leisure activities online.




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CONSEQUENCES OF DIGITAL EXCLUSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS

While digital inclusion can significantly benefit seniors, digital exclusion can have the opposite effect. Seniors who do not have digital literacy skills can miss out on valuable opportunities. When they do use the internet, they can encounter significant difficulties and unique dangers.

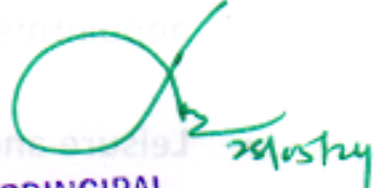
Online Scams: Elderly people often fall victim to online scams, resulting in significant financial losses and hardship. Online scams are becoming increasingly difficult to spot as thieves adopt more sophisticated methods. Without digital literacy skills and education about these schemes, an elderly person could lose significant amounts of money.

Misinformation: Digital literacy teaches people how to find reputable content on the internet and identify whether a source contains false information. Unfortunately, it can be difficult for senior citizens to know whether a piece of content is misleading or outright false.

Difficulties in the Workplace: Not all senior citizens retire when they reach a certain age. Many people continue working well into their later years. However, many employers require their employees to use digital tools and hold some level of digital proficiency. If an elderly person lacks these digital skills, they could fall further behind at work and struggle to complete their tasks. This can lead to significant frustration for both the individual and their co-workers, and stratification in the workplace.

Loneliness and Isolation: Modern technologies enable people to communicate with nearly any person, at any time. Without access to social media, video calling software, or devices like smartphones or tablets, seniors can feel extremely lonely. They may also experience isolation as friends and family cannot communicate with them as conveniently.




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PART B

ABOUT THE FIELD WORK

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Commerce at E.K. Nayanar Memorial Government College, Elerithattu, organized a field work initiative aimed at imparting digital literacy to the senior citizens of West Eleri panchayath in Kasaragod district. This initiative took place from 12th December 2022 to 28th December 2022. The primary objective was to empower senior citizens with the basic skills needed to use smartphones, thereby enhancing their ability to navigate the digital world.

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 50 students participated in this noble cause. Among them, 30 students were from the second year B.Com and 20 students were from the first year B.Com. Their enthusiasm and dedication played a crucial role in the success of this program.

STAGES OF THE FIELD WORK

The field work was carried out in several stages, each meticulously planned to ensure maximum impact and efficiency.

Stage 1: Identification of Target Group

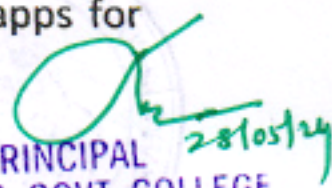
The first stage involved identifying senior citizens who lacked digital literacy. Students conducted a survey within the West Eleri panchayath to identify individuals who would benefit from the program. This stage was critical in understanding the extent of digital illiteracy and helped in planning subsequent stages effectively.

Stage 2: Home Visits and Education

In the second stage, students visited the homes of the identified senior citizens. During these visits, they provided one-on-one training on the basic use of smartphones. The training included:

- How to make and receive phone calls.
- Sending and receiving text messages.
- Using the camera and gallery.
- Accessing the internet and using search engines.
- Introduction to essential apps like WhatsApp for communication and UPI apps for digital payments.




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- The personalized approach ensured that each senior citizen received the attention and support they needed to understand and practice the skills being taught.

CHALLENGES FACED

The field work was not without its challenges. Some of the key difficulties encountered included:

- Resistance from some senior citizens who were hesitant to adopt new technology.
- Technical issues with smartphones that required additional troubleshooting.
- Variations in the learning pace of different individuals, necessitating a flexible teaching approach.

OUTCOMES

Despite the challenges, the field work yielded significant positive outcomes:

- Many senior citizens gained confidence in using their smartphones for daily activities.
- The program fostered a sense of community and intergenerational bonding, as students and senior citizens worked together.
- The initiative highlighted the importance of digital literacy in today's world and inspired further community-based educational programs.

CONCLUSION

The digital literacy field work organized by the Department of Commerce, E.K. Nayanar Memorial Government College, Elerithattu, was a resounding success. It not only achieved its goal of empowering senior citizens but also provided invaluable experience to the participating students. This initiative has set a precedent for future programs aimed at bridging the digital divide and promoting inclusive growth in the community.

Acknowledgements

The Department of Commerce extends its heartfelt thanks to all the students who participated and contributed their time and effort. Special thanks to the residents of West Eleri panchayath for their cooperation and enthusiasm. This project would not have been possible without the support of the college administration and local community leaders.



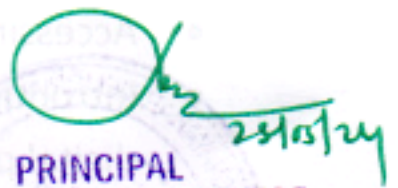
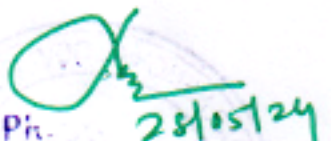

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PHOTO GALLERY

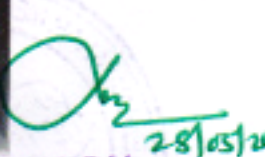
STAGE 1 SURVEY FOR IDENTIFYING THE TARGET GROUP



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STAGE 2 IMPARTATION OF DIGITAL LITERACY



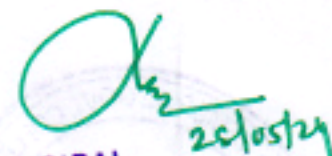

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THE FIELD WORK TEAM



VEENA NARAYANAN	25\COM\22	7839	12
YAMINI K	25\COM\22	7731	13
ABHINAV P R	26\COM\22	7894	14
ABHIRAM P S	27\COM\22	7828	15
ABHISHEK PREM	28\COM\22	7848	16
ABHI KRISHNAN T V	29\COM\22	7732	17
ADITHYAN T	30\COM\22	7883	18
ADITH V S	31\COM\22	7714	19
ADVAID RAJEEVAN	32\COM\22	7780	20
ABHIRAM KRISHNAN	01\COM\21	7821	21
AMAYA P S	02\COM\21	7302	22
AMRUTHA SALI	03\COM\21	7501	23
ANAND KRISHNAN P	04\COM\21	7504	24
ANEENA BIJU	05\COM\21	7883	25
ANURAG C R	06\COM\21	7300	26
DHANEESH B	08\COM\21	7544	27
LYOTHISH KUMAR M M	09\COM\21	7377	28
NIRANJAN K V	10\COM\21	7488	29
PRAVEENA M	11\COM\21	7151	30
RAHUL V	12\COM\21	7809	31
RISHA T	13\COM\21	7418	32
RITHIKA M V	14\COM\21	7281	33
SHARANYA S K	15\COM\21	7414	34
SHIVAPRASAD S NAIR	16\COM\21	7370	35
THRISHNA A P	17\COM\21	7282	36

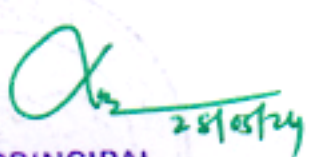



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LIST OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

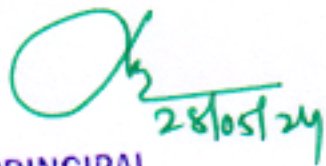
SL No	Adm. No.	Roll No.	Student Name
1	7628	01/COM/22	ADARSH N D
2	7754	14/COM/22	MEGHA T V
3	7719	15/COM/22	NANDANA K
4	7745	16/COM/22	NIMISHA VENU
5	7678	17/COM/22	NITHYA MANOHARAN V
6	7822	18/COM/22	P SAKEENA HASHIM
7	7815	19/COM/22	RAJASREE K S
8	7666	20/COM/22	SAYANTH K
9	7636	21/COM/22	SHIVANYA BABU
10	7688	22/COM/22	SNEHA V
11	7800	23/COM/22	THOMASKUTTY
12	7639	24/COM/22	VEENA NARAYANAN
13	7731	25/COM/22	YAMINI K
14	7694	26/COM/22	ABHINAV P R
15	7626	27/COM/22	ABHIRAM P S
16	7848	28/COM/22	ABHISHEK PREM
17	7732	29/COM/22	ABHI KRISHNAN T V
18	7883	30/COM/22	ADITHYAN T
19	7714	31/COM/22	ADITH V S
20	7760	32/COM/22	ADVAID RAJEEVAN
21	7521	01/COM/21	ABHIRAM KRISHNAN
22	7302	02/COM/21	AMAYA P S
23	7501	03/COM/21	AMRUTHA SAJI
24	7504	04/COM/21	ANAND KRISHNAN P P
25	7383	05/COM/21	ANEENA BIJU
26	7300	06/COM/21	ANURAG C R
27	7544	08/COM/21	DHANEESH B
28	7377	09/COM/21	JYOTHISH KUMAR M M
29	7488	10/COM/21	NIRANJAN K V
30	7451	11/COM/21	PRAVEENA M
31	7509	12/COM/21	RAHUL V
32	7416	13/COM/21	RISHA T
33	7281	14/COM/21	RITHIKA M V
34	7414	15/COM/21	SHARANYA S K
35	7310	16/COM/21	SHIVAPRASAD S NAIR
36	7285	17/COM/21	THRISHNA A P




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37	7294	18/COM/21	ZUBIN P M
38	7392	19/COM/21	ABHIJITH K BIJU
39	7347	20/COM/21	ADARSH VINOD
40	7548	21/COM/21	AHALYA C
41	7502	22/COM/21	AKHIL DAS T
42	7299	23/COM/21	AKHILA A
43	7557	24/COM/21	ALBIN THOMAS
44	7400	25/COM/21	AMAL SCARIA
45	7514	26/COM/21	ANAND A S
46	7447	27/COM/21	ANJANA T
47	7286	28/COM/21	ANJUMOL B S
48	7303	29/COM/21	ANUJA M B
49	7448	30/COM/21	ANUSREE JANARDHANAN K
50	7483	31/COM/21	ARYA T V




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