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## **Paralysed Digital Economy And The Role Of Youth In The Development And Simulation Of Creativity In Era 4.0**

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### **Abstract**

**This study discusses the key factors that paralyse the younger generation in the context of economic thinking when they are using digital accessories and Internet services. Likewise, this study has demonstrated the way forward concerning how to handle this issue. Furthermore, this research found that numerous countries depend on youth economic charities as the key player of economic development, particularly in the digital era. The data was collected through both qualitative and quantitative methods using statistic tools and in-depth interviews. In conclusion, the paralysed digital economy can be removed through collective digital education and youth involvement in the digital economy, particularly in this technological and innovation era.**

**Key words: Youth; Paralysed; Digital; Economic; Development**

# **Economía Digital Paralizada Y El Papel De La Juventud En El Desarrollo Y La Simulación De La Creatividad En La Era 4.0**

## Resumen

Este estudio analiza los factores clave que paralizan a las generaciones jóvenes en el pensamiento económico cuando utilizan accesorios digitales y servicios de Internet. Del mismo modo, este estudio ha demostrado formas de avanzar sobre cómo manejar este problema. Además, esta investigación encontró que cualquier país depende de organizaciones benéficas económicas para jóvenes como el jugador clave en el desarrollo económico, particularmente en esta era digital. Los datos fueron recolectados a través de métodos cualitativos y cuantitativos utilizando herramientas estadísticas y entrevistas en profundidad. En conclusión, la economía digital paralizada puede eliminarse mediante la educación digital colectiva y la participación de los jóvenes en la economía digital, particularmente en esta era tecnológica y de innovación.

Palabras clave: Juventud; Paralizado; Digital; Económico; Desarrollo.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

I have used the words ‘paralysed digital economy’ simply because the arrival of the Internet, or digital and online services, have been mostly used by youths for non-economic gain such as terrorism, greetings, playing games, unnecessary discussions and other non-economic benefits, hence the opportunity for the digital economy to remain paralysed and muted. Most youths have not utilised the digital economy well. The digital economy refers to an economy that is based on digital computing technologies. The digital era, refers to a time in which there is widespread, ready and easy access to and the sharing and use of information that is electronically accessible, such as digitised forms of economic activities. The digital economy is included in markets based on digital technologies that enable the business of goods and services to occur through e-commerce. This is a global manifestation that has great access to resources and innovation (SAADAH, YASMINE & MUBAH, 2017). Recently the expansion of the digital zone has been a key driver of economic growth and development in general, and the shift towards a digital biosphere has an effect on society that extends far beyond the digital technology context alone, particularly

for the youth groups (HANIEH, 2015).

Digital economy refers to an economy that is based on digital computing technologies. The digital era refers to a time in which there is widespread, ready and easy access to the sharing and use of information that is electronically accessible, such as digitised forms of economic activities. Recently, the expansion of the digital zone has been a key driver of economic growth and development in general, and the shift towards a digital biosphere has an effect on society that extends far beyond the digital technology context alone, particularly in youth groups (HANIEH, 2015). Digital economics enable the sharing of various goods and services among the different governments. Customers have started to play an important role in today's economic environment. The sharing economy is a term for an emerging set of business models, platforms and exchanges (ALEN & BERG, 2014).

In this digital and globalised world, economic competition and innovation is higher compared to past centuries. Every nation needs to use this opportunity to enrich itself and to become an economic giant. In order to win this game and economic war, the government must handle and utilise the available youths. This is because 80% of youths have access to and the ability to use the digital Internet, hence it is easy for them to get involved in productions and service. There is a great need to protect the competitive structures that drive innovation and deter the exclusionary behaviour that prevents legitimate competition (UNOLD, 2003).

In this study we have demonstrated the factors that paralyse youths and their economic thinking when they are using digital accessories and Internet services. Likewise, this study has demonstrated the way forward on this issue. Furthermore, all countries depend on their youth's economic contributions as the key and backbone to and of economic development.

Furthermore, the younger generation today are more connected and informed than any of the previous generations. They are believed to have fresh ideas and to be innovative, quick, and eager for change, hence young entrepreneurs are quick to explore the available opportunities offered in a changing world, in particular in the rapidly changing digital economy landscape. Youths have a great influence and contribution in economic development, particularly when they use and utilize well their digital services through finding and searching the e-business market.

According to (HOJEGHAN & ESFANGAREH, 2011), the digital economy is based on electronic goods and services produced by an electronic business traded through electronic commerce. It refers to a business with electronic production and management processes that interacts with its partners and customers by conducting transactions through Internet and Web technologies.

The coverage of this study is worldwide because every county has a youth generation. Likewise, everywhere in the world have youths that use and apply digital technology in their daily life. Therefore, youths are the greatest victims of the paralysed digital economy, particularly in this innovative era. In this study, the misuse of digital technology done by youths is a problem because it paralyses economic development thinking ideas. The world needs youths to rethink and bring in new and fresh ideas through the use of the Internet and digital technology but youths need to change their use of said technology. Currently most youths use digital technology for non-economic issues. The main objective of this study is to investigate the roles and contributions of youths on the development of the digital economy and also to confront the challenges which face the youths when using digital technology and its impact on the economy. This study is significant in awakening and reminding youths of their duty to their national and individual economic development. This research provides education to all youths about the positive utilisation of Internet products and services for economic gain, particularly in this digital era.

According to (ZHAN, 2017), many youths use online services. Many children are going online at younger ages, and digital technology can be confusing to them. Unfortunately, they use it to look for many things at once such pornography videos even if they are under 18 years, hence they forget to search for economic opportunities. Digital technology paralyses their economic thinking. Many scholars believe and agree that youths are a very potential asset in economic development when used and directed well, particularly in the digital and innovation era. The generation of youths have a fresh and innovative mind in terms of economic competition and the development of digital technology (SINHA, 2005; RAY, 2019).

The digital economy includes markets based on the digital technologies that enable the business of goods and services through e-commerce. Re-

cently the expansion of the digital zone has been a key driver of economic growth and development in general. The shift towards a digital biosphere has had an effect on society that extends far beyond the digital technology context alone, particularly for the youth group (HANIEH, 2015).

Electronic commerce has contributed to changes in transportation and distribution services by relying on the increased availability of air and courier services and local trucking to get its product to its consumers. The growth of the digital economy is unprecedented and it has been a major contributor to recent economic growth, the booming stock market, and the revival of productivity (HOJEGHAN & ESFANGAREH, 2011).

According to (HOJEGHAN & ESFANGAREH, 2011), the digital economy is based on the electronic goods and services produced by an electronic business and traded through electronic commerce, or it is a business with electronic production and management processes that interacts with its partners and customers. It can also conduct its transactions through the Internet and Web technologies. This means that the youth generation are potential tools to be used to gain access to the market, services and products through the digital technology. This will increase economic development (BAREFOOT, CURTIS, JOLLIFF, & NICHOLSON, OMOHUNDRO, 2018).

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

This study has used both qualitative and quantitative methods in collecting the data. Secondary data are where the data has been collected from different sources such as reading different books, research journals, articles, publications and accessing Internet material. Hypotheses have been used to test the variables and to analyse the scope of the problem. Likewise, the study used descriptive research to report on the factors. Primary data refers to the data that was collected as fresh for the first time. For this project, the primary data was collected with the help of interviews which were conducted with 50 youths. Research hypotheses and questions were also applied. For instance, H<sub>0</sub> was "Can youths contribute to the development of the digital economy? To what extent? This hypothesis can be justified by the importance of training as explained in this study. H<sub>1</sub> - Do youths have a contribution to economic development? This hypothesis is answered by the role of youths in economic development. Both dependent and inde-

pendent variables were used in the study. Here, digital economy is the dependent variable while the independent variable is economic development. Therefore the paralysed digital economy describes the effects of economic development.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Through having and living in a digitalised world or era, most youths have invested more in their personal and leisure life as well as personal enjoyment such as watching music, live chatting, watching music videos, engaging in unnecessary online discussions, playing games and sharing unethical information like terrorist issues. This is very dangerous in the development of the digital economy, hence the economy is paralysed and paused. Currently every state or national depends on its youths to boost and enlarge its economy. Therefore, there is a great need to promote and provide digital education for sustainable development and economic prosperity.

According to (NATIONS, CENTRE, & CR-, 2017), the number of youths in the world is high compared to other groups. This is not only the case in developed countries but also in developing countries as well. Asia and the Pacific has the largest number of young people in the world, as 717 million of the population is between 15 - 24 years old, corresponding to 60% of the worlds' youth. In India, nearly 50% of the population is below 25 years of age. The energy and transformational drive of this large unit of young people has the possibility to help rapidly drive development and the transformation of societies in the region. Quality education can enable the business climate for young people to start up, allowing them to finance and run their enterprises which will be key to tapping this growth potential.

Three analysis techniques have been used to examine this study. Descriptive statistics, scope and situation have been applied. Here the effects of the digital economy on youths and the role of youths on economic development have been demonstrated and analysed. The situation shows that 80% of youths use digital technology while only 20% contribute and think about economic service and products. This shows how the youthful generation have been paralysed by digital technology upon connecting with economic thinking. Through this, the analysis shows that there are many youths who can access and use digital economy but the statistics show that



only 20% utilise it well. The remaining group get involved in non-economic services like watching games and pornography. The world today is immersed in complex innovative competition, therefore the government needs to utilise the youth group through reminding and teaching them about the use and proper utilisation of digital technology.

According to (HOJEGHAN & ESFANGAREH, 2011), the digital economy is based on the electronic goods and services produced by an electronic business and traded through electronic commerce, which is a business with electronic production and management processes that interacts with its partners and customers by conducting transactions through Internet and Web technologies. There is a great need for patriotism and personal motivation related to the use and gain of technology. The government also must create good and directive policies which will enable and encourage youths to use the digital economy well.

It is very easy for youths to educate and influence themselves about positivity and economic change, therefore it is better to use and encourage interpersonal-communication whereby there is an exchange of information between two or more people. Interpersonal-communication is an area of study and research that seeks to understand how humans use verbal and nonverbal signals to accomplish a number of personal and relational goals for national and individual gain.

It is approximately that 304 million people worldwide had Internet access by 2000, which is a nearly 80% increase from the previous estimaton. In contrast, only 3 million people around the globe had similar access in 1994. Most of the growth occurred outside of the USA and Canada, which for the first time totalled less than half of those with online access. However, the number of American Web users still rose by 40 percent. In most other areas of the world, Internet access has at least doubled. Access in Africa showed a 136% increase, while Asia and the Pacific increased by 155%; Europe by 108%; the Middle East by 111% percent and South America by 102% percent. The Internet is now the iconic technology of the youth age. The price of Internet services such as computers have reduced by 29% compared to 1998. This means that many people can buy a computer and other Internet accessories (HOJEGHAN & ESFANGAREH, 2011).

The purpose of this event is to promote dialogue about the opportunities

and challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in a rapidly changing economic environment, where advances in information and communication technologies are spurring new ventures in numerous sectors at an ever-increasing speed (NATIONS ET AL., 2017) AND UNCTAD, 2015). In this digital and globalised world, economic competition and innovation is higher compared to past centuries. Every nation needs to use this opportunity to enrich itself and to become an economic giant. In order to win this game and the economic war, the government must handle and utilise the available youths, simply because 80% of youths have access to and the ability to use digital Internet. Henceforth it is easy for them to get involved in productions and service. Therefore, the competition enforcement in digital markets is a controversial issue (UNOLD, 2003).

In order to win the global digital economy competition, youths and other groups must cooperate and work together so then the economic development can be achieved. It is clear that the sharing economy is creating enormous amounts of wealth, and that this has been using a socially progressive feel good bombast to do so (FRENKEN & SCHOR, 2017).

### 3.1. Advantage and benefits of digital economy on economic development.

In recent times, most decision making is conducted through digital technology given the stance on the use of BVR in sports and games. Likewise, most of the government's plans and decision have been decided on and handled by the use of digital statistics data. All of these actions aim to deliver quality, efficient and quick service provision.

The digital economy refers to both the digital access of goods and services, and the use of digital technology to help businesses. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines the Information and Communications technology (ICT) sector as “a combination of manufacturing and service industries that capture, transmit and display data and information electronically”.

According to Research (NIESR), it has been demonstrated that the digital economy is larger than conventional estimates show, with almost 270,000 actively digital companies in the UK, which is 14.4% of all companies as of August 2012 and 11% of all jobs. This compares with 167,000 com-

panies, or 10% of all companies, when according to the Government's conventional definitions.

Technology is going to revolutionise business and transform virtually all aspects of economic gains. Through the course of inquiry, we have received evidence about the various aspects of the digital economy, including the digital aspects of disruptive technology, an innovation that disrupts an existing market and the sharing economy, which is a model that relies on the sharing of goods, intellectual resources, labour, and property using a digital platform: and flourishing digital sectors. This includes financial services whose business model relies on software and an algorithm-based approach to assessing risk, such as the gaming industry (MARTENS, 2012).

Digital technology encourages innovation and quick development. The proper and effective use of the digital economy encourages innovation, new and existing players and choice and competition in the different sectors of the economy, regardless of the means of delivery or the infrastructure.

According to (COUNSELLING, 2018), it is important to use regulations when operating the digital economy for its safe and proper usage. There is a risk that regulation always lags behind technology and it is seen as being in "catch-up" mode. It should not seek to inhibit innovation or to protect business models that might be challenged by disruptive technologies or by digital business models. It would be comical to try to hold back the tide of technology.

In this study, we have come to realise that the Government should keep and continue to support digital innovation in its youth in order to promote productivity and growth. A crucial aspect of this support is the need to properly measure the digital economy, in order to inform its digital strategy. The provision of core digital skills is supreme. The fast pace of innovation means that there will always be a skills gap, although a workforce with a clear grasp of the fundamentals will be best placed to respond to valid needs. The study recognises the Government's support of the digital economy. Likewise, we are excited by the potential of digital innovation to promote growth and we believe that the Government will continue to support the digital economy (MARTENS, 2012).

Currently, the Internet is the greatest vigorous medium used for information exchange in world history. Approximately more than two billion people are now connected, and at the current growth rates, everyone with Internet access will join the Internet community. The global medium can provide economic growth and beneficial social change (HANIEH, 2015).



*Figure 3. Advantage of digital economy by (HANIEH, 2015)*

### 3.2. Youth and development

Youths are the backbone of any national economic development. Every nation depends on its youths as an economic asset because all innovations and fresh minds come from the newest generation. Currently the world is immersed in a globalised and digital economy but the effective utilisation on economic digital technology is low and slow. Instead, most youths forget and become paralysed by digital technology related to economic development. Moreover, the world recognises youths who are leaders in development. Young people are already spearheading the social entrepreneurial movement across the world.

Furthermore, adult civic participation is determined by the habits of participation developed during their youth and this has a positive correlation with education and employment. Supporting young people to engage socially, politically and economically and creating opportunities for them to contribute to the development processes creates an effective policy and builds a generation of engaged citizens.

### 3.3. The risks of the digital economy when not used properly leading to a paralysed digital economy

The risk of digital technological to the people and government in general is very high. Digital technology causes addiction, in addition to the misuse of time, a lack of patriotism, the effect of globalisation and the Internet effect on disease among others. On the other hand, the power of the Internet has awakened many governments to create regulations to deal with and protect people from the negatives of the digital economy, particularly in protecting government data and ethical or moral information. This rapid change has produced a counter-revolutionary response among many political and business interests. In numerous countries, leaders have called for the government to interrupt the free flow of data (the essence of the Internet) at the state borders and to create within political boundaries unique national regimes for regulating the Internet (HANIEH, 2015).



Figure 4. Risks of the digital economy by (Hanieh, 2015)

### 3.4. The way forward in removing the paralysed digital economy

In this study, we have proposed some basic ways that can remove the paralysed situation of the youths so then they can focus and get involved effectively in economic issues. The first vital aspect is the provision of education to all youths. Education is an essential aspect in creating awareness on digital use, particularly in this economic competitive and technological era. The youthful generation use digital and modern technology such as e-services, laptops, and phones in their daily life activities as well as when providing products and services, hence there is a great need to educate them on digital beneficiaries.

The government should allow the free flow of information globally.

Through allowing information to move freely and to be stored globally, it permits the capture of economies of scale and makes it possible to achieve the economic benefits associated with the Internet. Governments should not artificially or geographically restrict facilities and information storage. Artificially limiting the location of data geographically thus reduces the challenges of the Internet and undermines its stability. According to (HANIEH, 2015), governments should not require that facilities or information be located in a specific country or region.

Building a trusted environment is important. World-wide Internet policy and practices must promote a functioning “trusted environment” with respect to issues such as security, privacy, intellectual property rights, the protection of children, consumers and personal data online and the right to free expression. All stakeholders should recognise the needs of the government, civil society and private sector concerning the security of the Internet. Governments should implement clear, transparent and impartial laws, including due process protections and reasonable notice, in order to govern requests for third party information stored by Internet providers (HANIEH, 2015).

Emphasising the use of personal social media definitely blogs, wikis, podcasts and virtual environments does not of itself result in new approaches to education. Although digital technologies can be used to support constructivist educational approaches, they can also be used to support the traditional transmission of behaviourist methods. This has been observed in elementary, secondary and tertiary education repeatedly (OECD, 2012).

Another method is the use of digitised information as a strategic economic resource. Its enormous potential in terms of economic growth has been highlighted by many experts, even though a general consensus is still missing, as will be discussed below in connection with productivity and economic development in general (MANSELL, 2009; WEYGAND, 2008; BAREFOOT ET AL., 2018).

Some service sectors are also considered to be the backbone of economic activity and this has a bearing on social development. In particular, infrastructure services — encompassing transport, telecommunications, water, energy and financial services — are of critical importance to economic development and they can thus contribute to addressing Africa’s physical

infrastructure deficit, inclusive growth and the betterment of social welfare (UNCTAD, 2015).

The provision and implementation of laws and acts in the digital economy are done in order to avoid risks and to influence youths to utilise the digital economy well. In this concept, there is the presence of digital skills training for adults. Section 114 is where the Government commits to providing publicly-funded basic digital skills training free of charge to adults in England who need it. The courses will be delivered by colleges and other adult education providers, and the training will be funded from the existing £1.5 billion Adult Education Budget (AEB) (ACT, 2017).

### 3.5. Digital economy and development

Digital economy has a great connection with development because the major motive behind the use of the digital economy is to boost economic development. Economic development needs a positive platform as well as improved competitiveness and employment creation across many sectors of the economy. Economic development is the constant increase in the income of all members of society so as to be free from material needs. One aspect of that challenge is to achieve development in an interdependent world, which is a world in which goods, services, people, capital and knowledge flow relatively easily across national borders with a large net benefit provided to the involved economies (DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, 2006).

Likewise, economic development can be described in terms of objectives. This means that its distribution is normally described as related to the creation of jobs and wealth, and the improvement in quality of life. Economic development can also be described as a process that influences growth and the restructuring of an economy to enhance the economic well-being of a community. The main goal of economic development is to improve the economic welfare of the people through efforts that involve job creation, job retention, and quality of life. Moreover, there is no single strategy, policy, or platform for achieving successful economic development (THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S, N.D.).

The digital economy, open economy, participation, creativeness, innovation, and modularity are all very essential in the on-going development.

This is according to the NDE research. To them, the linkages between innovation and production is great (TIMOTHY J. STURGEON, 2017).

The world now is living in a complex and advanced era, caused by globalisation and the development of technology. Today every country and nation effectively uses the digital technology opportunity in order to get more profit, competition and innovation. They seek and aim to become an economic giant, particularly in this competitive era, but it is not only about using the digital economy and services. It is about empowering youths and participating alongside them in the digital economy so then they can rethink economically and use the Internet service positive.

Furthermore, youths can be a positive force changer for economic development when given and provided with the knowledge and opportunities need to succeed. In addition, young people should acquire the education and skills needed to contribute in a productive economy. They need access to a job market that can absorb them into its labour force. Among the greatest challenges facing many countries today is inadequate human capital investment and high unemployment rates among its youths (UNITED NATIONS POPULATION DIVISION, 2015).



Figure 5. Digital economy and development (The International Economic Development Council's, n.d.)

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

All in all, the invention of digital technology has affected many youths around the world. Most youths use their time engaged in digital services for non-economic gain. Most of them use their time looking up and accessing movies, pornography, hate politics and spreading bad morals



to other youths, leaving behind the economic services and products that can benefits them and the nation in general, such as looking at the market, services, products and innovations. This situation leaves the youths' brains and mind paralysed when it comes to thinking about economic development because they fail to share in the economy opportunities.

Likewise, the current digital technology and innovation has globalised and influenced the world to enter into a state of economic competition and innovation whereby the currently rate is higher compared to other past centuries. Every nation needs to use this opportunity to enrich themselves and to become economic giant. In order to win this game and the economic war, the government must handle and utilise the available youths. This is because 80% of youths have access and the ability to use digital technology and the Internet, hence it is easy for them to get involved in production and services. There is a great need to protect the competitive structures that drive innovation. Furthermore, this problem can be removed through youth involvement, strong and friendly digital policies and education as well as the general participation on the digital economy platform, particularly in this technological, competitive and innovative era. The Government must enforce and effectively use the youths available as a resource at any cost, particularly in this industrial revolution era. Therefore the promotion of education to youths must be applied to a high extent in order to lessen their lack of digital education, lack of patriotism, the effect of globalisation and the effect of the Internet among others.

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