

Digital financial inclusion among tribes in Mayurbhanj district: A Post-pandemic scenario

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Abstract:

Digital financial inclusion makes formal financial services digitally accessible and accessible to marginalized and underserved populations. Such services should be tailored to the needs of consumers and delivered responsibly. Costs are affordable for consumers and fair for providers. For both individuals and businesses, digitizing finance will reduce costs, open up new markets and livelihood opportunities, and help nations recover from Covid-19. The study assesses the degree of digital financial inclusion and measures awareness and usage of digital financial services among indigenous peoples in Mayurbhanji district, Orissa. As a result, it was found that there is no significant difference in the use of digital financial services between men and women, and there is a correlation between the age of the respondents and the period of use. The survey shows that people with different educational groups have different levels of perceptions of digital financial services.

keyword: Digital financial inclusion, digital financial services, Covid-19, tribal people, formal financial services, Mayurbhanj district.

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I. Introduction:

The global health crisis Covid-19, which has rapidly evolved into an economic crisis, is seriously threatening the lives of people around the world. Financial inclusion means providing affordable financial products and services to low-income and marginalized communities to improve access to financial services and encourage investment habits. Provide a range of formal financial services to already financially excluded and underserved populations, at affordable prices for consumers and responsibly at sustainable costs for providers. increase. Additionally, digital financial inclusion requires the adoption of digital tools that reduce costs. The digitization of cash transfers will enable more users to connect their trading accounts and easily access mobile financial services, even in remote locations. All these developments will lure the poorest segments of society into formal financial channels. Reaching the unbanked through digital technology is one of the RBI's latest financial inclusion initiatives, unlocking enormous potential for financial services. In this context, digital platforms can provide low-cost financial services to both poor and rural areas, especially rural and remote areas, improve access to digital finance, and improve access to high-quality, accessible finance. can provide access to service will be provided.

Digital technology continues to permeate every corner of the country, transforming people's lives. However, it is unclear whether these levels have reached the bottom of the pyramid and whether the general public is familiar with disadvantaged populations such as indigenous peoples and digital innovations.

II. Review of literature:

1. Dr. Shafeer P (2019) conducted a survey on the use of digital financial services among youth on college campuses in Kerala using targeted sampling techniques for data collection. The study concludes that there is no significant difference in the extent to which young people use digital banking services, as most young people moderately use mobile banking services.

2. Jindal, M. and Dr. Sharma V,L. (2020) investigated the usability of online banking in India during the Covid-19 pandemic. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the contribution of online banking to avoiding the Covid-19 pandemic. The samples were collected using surveying techniques in the urban area of Brandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh. The study found that online banking played a key role in protecting citizens during the Covid-19 era. Online payments before the COVID-19 virus provide peace of mind for all types of people using online banking. According to the sample and answers, 89.12% of people are satisfied with online banking.

3. Agur, I., Peria, S.M. and Rochon, C. (2020) conducted a study on digital financial services and the pandemic in collaboration with the IMF. Opportunities and Risks in Emerging and Developing Countries. The research shows that digital financial services can communicate easily and cheaply with banks, employees,

suppliers and new markets. This helps governments attack homes and businesses in a timely manner. As governments seek ways to quickly and efficiently distribute funds to those in need during the Covid-19 crisis response, many households and businesses are desperate for quick access to online payments and financing.

4. Ogawa, P.K. and Sahay, R. (2020) conducted a global survey of over 70 stakeholders, including fintech companies, central banks, regulators and banks, to identify Decide on digital financial inclusion. This is a call for global and national leaders to create inclusive communities to reap the benefits of digital financial services, and to address rising inequalities during and after the current crisis. and the need to bridge the domestic digital divide.

5. Machasio, I. (2020) conducted her research on Covid-19 and digital financial inclusion in Africa. How to use digital technology during a pandemic. The study shows that as development partners and central banks are at the forefront of developing and implementing financial inclusion strategies, African countries with less developed digital financial services can pool capital and adopt adaptive financial regulation. I conclude that it is highly likely.

6. Ayadi, R. and Shaban, M. (2020) conducted a study on the role of digital financial inclusion as a pillar of resilience in responding to exogenous shocks and pandemics such as the Covid-19 crisis. Financial services to help these vulnerable groups during the current difficult times.

The importance of the problem :

Research on digital financial inclusion and awareness and use when digital financial services are more important in today's context during Covid-19. A game changer for digital financial services could be the Covid-19 pandemic. Developments in mobile money, fintech services, and online banking will greatly benefit low-income households and SMEs. Financial inclusion can also improve economic growth as a result of digital financial services. It is hoped that the epidemic will spur the use of these services, but uneven access to digital resources has put the development of smaller firms in the industry into question. Several steps must be taken to ensure full inclusion in the future.

Digital financial inclusion enables tribal people to increase their investments, access a range of financial services and make investment decisions. Research on digital financial inclusion is relevant from this perspective in tribal areas, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Financial inclusion in rural areas will ensure financial inclusion elsewhere.

Objective of the study:

1. To examine the degree of digital financial inclusion of tribal people in Mayurbhanj district.
2. Analysis of tribal awareness levels for digital financial services.
3. To investigate the use of digital financial services among the tribesmen in Mayurbhanj district.

Hypothesis:

1. There is no significant difference between the education and level of awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between men and women in their use of digital financial services.
3. There is no correlation between age and duration of use of digital financial services.

III. Research Methodology

Primary data collected from the indigenous peoples of the Mayurbhanj district will be used for the study. Fifty samples were collected in Baripada town of Mayurbhanj district by multistage random sampling. Since the majority of respondents are illiterate, data are collected using an interview plan.

Secondary data are used to evaluate previous research and recent updates in this area. Collected data is categorized and analysed using various statistical tools.

Analysis and interpretation Testing of hypothesis, No: 1

H0: There is no significant difference between the education and level of awareness

Table 1: showing the test statistic of ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F- value
Between Groups	5520	5	1412	5.6
Within Groups	4982	21	240	
Total	10331	24		

Source: Primary data of 2022

Degree of freedom (K-1, N-K) = (4, 30)

The table value for F at the 5% significance level for degrees of freedom (4,30) is 2.72. The calculated value of F is higher than the table value of F. Therefore, the hypothesis that different educational groups have different levels of awareness of digital financial services is accepted.

Testing of hypothesis, No: 2

H0: There is no significant difference between men and women in their use of digital financial services

Table 4: T-test for equivalence of possible uses of digital financial services.

independent sample test					
	Levene's test for equality of variances		t-test for equality of means		
	F	Sig.	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Equal variances Assumed	2.676	.101	-1.262	50	.177

Source: Primary data of 2022

A t-test shows that the significance of t is 0.177 > 0.05. Therefore, the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between men and women in their use of digital financial services is accepted.

Testing of hypothesis, No: 3

H0: There is no correlation between age and duration of use of digital financial services.

Table 5: A chi-square test of independence was applied and the results are shown below.

chi-square test			
	Value	Df	Asym. Sig. (2-sided)
pearson chi-square	22.602	16	.078

Source: Primary data of 2022

The Pearson chi-square value is 22.602 with 16 degrees of freedom and a p-value of 0.078 > 0.05, that is not significant. Therefore, the hypothesis that there is a correlation between age of respondents and duration of use of digital financial services is acceptable.

IV. Findings:

1. The majority of respondents use their banking services mobile.
2. Financial literacy is one of the reasons some tribal people do not use financial services.
3. 95% of respondents have a bank account.
4. Mobile phone and TV bills, electricity bill payments and money transfers are the main uses of online banking services.
5. Due to Covid-19, central and state governments are taking many initiatives to facilitate digital payments, so most respondents are aware of various digital financial services.

V. Conclusion:

The purpose of this study was to assess the degree of digital financial inclusion among the indigenous peoples of Mayurbanj district. The survey showed that most respondents have basic knowledge of various digital financial services. As a result, it was found that there is a correlation between the age of the respondents and the period of use of digital financial services, and that there is no significant difference in the use of digital financial services between men and women. The survey shows that people with different educational groups have different levels of perception of digital financial services.

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