

Research Paper

Equitable Opportunities through Technology: Linking Sardar Patel's Ideals with Youth Empowerment for Vikshit Bharat

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ABSTRACT

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision for a unified and self-reliant India, laid the foundation for active empowerment of its youth towards collective nation-building. In the contemporary digital age, technology has emerged as powerful tool empowering the youth and bridging gaps in opportunity and innovation- an essential element in achieving the goals of Vikshit Bharat 2047. This quantitative study explores the perceptions of Indian youth regarding the relevance of Sardar Patel's leadership vision in shaping technology-driven initiatives for India's Vikshit Bharat Mission. A cross-sectional study was conducted with 300 technology students from prestigious universities across Jharkhand, India, investigating the relationship between students' awareness on Patel's ideals, their engagement with advanced technological tools and platforms, and their motivation to contribute to India's development. Statistical analysis revealed a significant positive correlation among the three measured variables. Multiple regression analysis revealed that greater awareness of Patel's vision and higher engagement with technology significantly predicted stronger motivation to contribute in national development initiatives. The findings highlight that integrating historical leadership principles with modern technological education can cultivate an empowered, future-ready generation aligned with the aspirations of Vikshit Bharat.

Keywords: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Vikshit Bharat, Youth Empowerment, Nation Building, Technology Education

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision for a unified and self-reliant India remains a source of inspiration for generations (Parekh, 2017). As India advances towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, empowering its youth with the right mindset, skills, and opportunities is crucial. With over 356 million young people aged 10-24 (UNICEF, 2020), India is at a demographic advantage of mobilizing the young energies to transform the nation's future. But this would be possible if the youth is nurtured well with necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation, so as to channelise their zeal towards the right direction. Sardar Patel's ideals of unity, self-reliance, and nation-building can serve as a guiding force for India's youth (Patel, 2018). He believed that the strength and progress of a nation are intrinsically linked to the character building, discipline, and unity of its young citizens.

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Technology has emerged as a powerful tool for bridging gaps and creating equitable opportunities. The integration of technology in education and skill development has transformed the way youth learn and engage with the world. Technology has enabled access to information, resources, and opportunities, bridging geographical and socio-economic gaps (Kumar & Singh, 2020). Online platforms, digital tools, and mobile applications have made it possible for youth to access quality education, skill training, and employment opportunities. Aligned with this, Patel had highlighted the role of education in shaping the minds and values of young individuals, emphasizing on the crucial role of the institutions in instilling the sense of unity and responsibility among the students. Technology in education strives to enhance accessibility and inclusivity, empowering students with knowledge, skills and opportunities enabling personal growth and national development.

There is limited research on the relationship between awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals, technology engagement, and motivation among the youth to contribute to national development. However, studies suggest that awareness of historical leaders' ideals can inspire young people to contribute to nation-building (Kaur & Sharma, 2020). Moreover, technology engagement can enhance young people's skills, knowledge, and motivation to participate in national development initiatives (Raj & Kumar, 2021). This study aims to investigate the relationship between awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals, engagement with technology, and motivation among university students so as to contribute to national development. By exploring this relationship, the study seeks to provide insights into how technology can be used to promote youth empowerment and nation-building. The significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policymakers, educators, and stakeholders about the role of technology in promoting awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals and fostering motivation among youth. The findings of this study can contribute to the development of initiatives and programs that leverage technology to empower Indian youth and promote national development.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The review of literature provides an overview of existing research on the topics of youth empowerment, technology integration, and Sardar Patel's ideals. This section aims to synthesize the findings of previous studies and identify gaps in the literature.

Youth empowerment is a critical aspect of nation-building (Singh & Kumar, 2022). Empowered youth can contribute significantly to a country's economic, social, and political development (Mehrotra, 2019). Studies have shown that youth empowerment programs can have a positive impact on young people's self-esteem, confidence, and motivation (Kaur & Sharma, 2020). Technology has transformed the way youth learn and engage with the world (Raj & Kumar, 2021). Technology integration in education has been shown to improve academic achievement, increase student engagement, enhance skill development (Sharma & Kaur, 2020) and self-efficacy (Shank and Cotton, 2014). Moreover, technology has enabled access to information, resources, and opportunities, bridging geographical and socio-economic gaps (Kumar & Singh, 2022). Further students need to engage fully with technology in order to achieve benefit of technology enhanced learning. In view of this Dunn and Kennedy (2019) motivation plays important role in predicting engagement and usage of technology among learners. Murniarti et al., (2023) have shown that using tech-innovativeness in education leads to increased students' engagement and further motivate them towards participating for the future challenges of the society. Technology brings youth together by increasing their participation and advocacy (Delli Carpini, 2000), which is

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utmost important to work together towards the nation's development. Along with this, motivation plays an important role in directing human behaviour towards achieving a goal (Samuel et al., 2023). There are different factors that motivate youth towards volunteering for nations' development. Among them are recognition, respect, altruism, personal improvement, as well as proper education and intrinsic desire to do so (Sahri et al., 2013). Further, identity formation is a main factor of developing pro-motivation among the youngsters which has been seen to lead to youth advocacy and movements (Madjar and Cohen-Malayev, 2013).

Sardar Patel's ideals of unity, self-reliance, and nation-building are relevant today, and can serve as a guiding force for India's youth (Patel, 2018). Studies have shown that awareness of Patel's ideals can have a positive impact on young people's sense of purpose and motivation (Singh & Kumar, 2022). With the sole aim of uniting the nation, Patel stressed on ultimate democracy among people, which would lead to their independent decision-making which was needed for restructuring and modernising the Indian society (Balasubramanian and Venkatraman, 2022). He always dreamt of bringing the whole nation under one roof, which seems to be possible now with the advancement of technology and India getting fully digitalised. Fore sighting how technology is going to change the global structure, he stressed on stability and progress as the two sides of the same coin. Patel always wanted the Indians to be united, so he stated:

“We are at a momentous stage of India. By common endeavour we can raise the country to greatness, while lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities....let it be our proud privilege to leave a legacy of mutually beneficial relationship which would raise this sacred land to its proper place amongst the nations of the world and turn into an abode of peace and prosperity.”

Education being the biggest unifier, future generations should be taught the ideals and visions of Sardar Patel in order to motivate them towards unifying themselves and work for the progress of the nation. Understanding the power held by the ideals and vision of Sardar Patel, the vice president of India, Shri M. V. Naidu in December, 2019 said “Youth must be made aware of the contributions and grand vision of Sardar Patel”. He had further added on the immense scope technology has in creating opportunities in both rural and urban fronts, empowering youth to mould the nation's future.

The review of literature provides a foundation for understanding the complex relationships between youth empowerment, technology integration, and Sardar Patel's ideals. Being aware of the visions and ideals of strong historic personalities inspires a sense of purpose, unity and responsibility among people, motivating them to actively contribute to the nation's progress. Thus, the study aims to contribute to the existing literature by exploring the relationship between awareness of Patel's ideals, technological engagement, and motivation to contribute to national development among Indian youth. Aligned with this objective the research question has been formulated as:

How does awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals influence youth's technology engagement, and motivation to contribute to national development under the Vikshit Bharat 2047 initiative?

Objectives

1. To assess the level of awareness among Indian technology students regarding Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision for a unified and self-reliant India.

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2. To analyze the relationship between historical leadership awareness, digital empowerment, and national development motivation among youth.
3. To evaluate the extent to which awareness of Patel's ideals and technological engagement predict students' motivation to participate in nation-building efforts.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design:

This quantitative study employed a cross-sectional survey design to explore perceptions of Indian youth towards the relevance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision in shaping technology driven national development initiatives. The study aimed to investigate the relationships between three core variables: awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals, technological engagement, and motivation to contribute to national development among Indian youth. A self-structured questionnaire based on 5-point Likert scale was used to collect data, ensuring measurable responses across the sample population.

Participant:

The sample consisted of 300 undergraduate and post-graduate technology students from prestigious universities across Jharkhand. A stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure multiple academic institutions and diverse academic backgrounds. Students from courses like engineering, computer science and information technology were considered. Informed consent was taken from each participant, while respecting their voluntary participation and the right to withdraw at any time.

Data collection:

The questionnaire was developed in four parts. First part obtained the demographic information like age, gender and academic program, the second contained a 5-item scale measuring the awareness of Patel's ideas, the third contained a 10-item scale measuring engagement with technological tools and platforms, and the last part contained the statements for assessing motivation for national development measured through a 5-item Likert scale. The questionnaires were validated through expert review and tested on a group of 30 students to ensure validity and reliability. The Cronbach's alpha value of the three questionnaires ranged from 0.72-0.85, indicating acceptable internal consistency (Hair et al., 2010). The questionnaire was circulated among the participants through Google Form, with prior permission from the participating institutions.

Data analysis:

Data was analysed using the SPSSv22, the widely used statistical package for social science quantitative research. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data, and inferential statistics like Pearson's Correlation examined the relationship among the three variables, while regression analysis was used to assess the predictive power of awareness of Patel's ideals and technological engagement on motivation among students to actively participate in the nation's development.

RESULTS

- ***Level of awareness among youth regarding Sardar Patel's vision for a unified India***

Participants answered the 5-item Likert scale questionnaire on awareness of Patel's ideals, which had scores ranging from Strongly agree = 5 - Strongly disagree = 1. As depicted in table 1, the mean score was 18.3 out of a total score of 25, indicating a moderate to high

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level of awareness regarding Sardar Patel's ideals of unity and nation-building. Further, 72% of students scored above scale midpoint, reflecting generally a positive awareness among the students.

Table 1. Descriptives for awareness of Sardar Patel's vision among students (N = 300)

Awareness items	Mean	SD
1. Sardar Patel contributed significantly to national integration and development	3.65	0.81
2. I am aware of the role of Sardar Patel in unifying India	3.84	0.89
3. I believe his vision is still relevant today	3.71	0.76
4. I have studied Patel's leadership and political ideals	3.52	0.92
5. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is an inspiration for Vikshit Bharat	3.69	0.85
Total score	18.3	2.1

- *Relationship between historical leadership awareness, technological engagement and national development motivation among youth*

Karl Pearson's correlation was conducted to analyse the relationship between the participants' awareness on Patel's ideals for a unified nation, their technological engagement, and their motivation towards participating in national development. Results depicted in table 2 reveal strong, positive and statistically significant correlations among all variables. Youth who were more aware of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's ideals and engaged more actively with technology, reported greater motivation to contribute to national development. These findings suggest that promoting awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals among Indian youth can have a positive impact on their motivation to contribute to national development.

Table 2. Pearson's correlation results among the variables

Variables	Awareness	Technology engagement	Motivation
Awareness	1.00		
Technology Engagement	0.46**	1.00	
Motivation	0.55**	0.52**	1.00

** = significant p values at 95% level of confidence

- *Role of Patel's ideals and technology engagement in predicting student's motivation to contribute to national development*

Table 3. Multiple regression analysis predicting students' motivation for national development

Variable	B	SE	β	t-value	p-value
Awareness	0.42	0.07	0.38	6.12	<.001
Technology engagement	0.35	0.06	0.35	5.41	<.001
Constant	5.41	1.01	-	5.36	<.001
Model summary	R = 0.58				
	R-square = 0.34				
	F(2,297) = 38.44, p < .001				

A multiple regression analysis was conducted to predict motivation to contribute to national development based on technology engagement and awareness on Sardar Patel's vision for a

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unified India. The results showed that awareness of Patel's ideals was a significant predictor of motivation ($\beta = 0.38, p < 0.001$), while technology engagement was also a significant predictor of motivation to contribute to national development ($\beta = 0.35, p < 0.001$). The model summary revealed that the two predictors explained 34% of the variance in motivation scores ($R^2 = 0.34, F = 38.444, p < 0.001$). These findings show that both historical awareness and active engagement with technology significantly predict higher levels of youth motivation to participate in nation building.

DISCUSSION

The study aims to explore the connection between historical awareness, technological engagement and youth motivation for national development, anchored in the visionary ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The findings aligned with the broader goal of empowering Indian youth for Vikshit Bharat 2047, through equal technological opportunities and value-based leadership. The first objective revealed that technology students across Jharkhand exhibit moderate to high awareness of Sardar Patel's contribution to India's unity and self-reliance. This is a promising insight, as it suggests that legacy of historical leaders continues to hold relevance for today's generation. This indicates potential areas for curricular integration of such visionary leadership models in higher education. The regression analysis confirmed that both awareness of Patel's ideals and engagement with technology is a significant predictor of motivation for national development. This highlights the importance of blending value based historical education with modern digital literacy, creating a synergy that nurtures a generation driven by both purpose and practical skills. Further, the correlation result supported this, showing strong, positive correlation between all three variables viz. historical awareness, technological engagement and motivation for national development. This relationship indicates that when young people are both informed by historical vision and empowered by modern tools, their willingness and readiness to contribute to national building increases significantly. These results support previous studies emphasising the role of civic consciousness (Halverson et al., 2024) and digital skills (Stofkova et al., 2022) in shaping youth engagement for national progress. The findings also support India's policy priorities, such as NEP 2020 which calls for value-based education and digital empowerment as pillars of national development.

Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Integrate Sardar Patel's ideals and leadership principles into educational curricula to promote awareness and motivation among youth.
2. Leverage technology to provide opportunities for youth to engage with national development initiatives and contribute to the country's growth.
3. Develop programs and initiatives that promote technology literacy and access among youth, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas.
4. Encourage youth participation in national development initiatives through internships, volunteer work, and community service.

By implementing these recommendations, educators, policymakers, and stakeholders can work together to empower Indian youth and promote national development.

CONCLUSION

Understanding Sardar Patel's ideals of unity, integrity, and selfless service can inspire citizens to rise above divisions and work collectively toward nation development. His

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unwavering commitment to a united India serves as a powerful motivation for building a stronger, more cohesive society. The findings revealed a significant positive correlation between awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals and motivation to contribute to national development. Additionally, technology engagement was found to be a significant predictor of motivation to contribute to national development. The study's results highlight the importance of integrating historical leadership principles with modern technological education to foster a sense of purpose and motivation among youth. By leveraging technology and promoting awareness of Sardar Patel's ideals, educators and policymakers can empower Indian youth to contribute to national development.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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