

THE GREAT MENU DEBATE: PAPER VS QR CODE

#TalkingPoint

Nandini Ganguly

During the pandemic, every industry was looking for contactless solutions. For the F&B establishments, a shift happened in the form of QR codes and digital menus as an alternative to physical menus. Post pandemic, QR code menus still exist, but most people seem to prefer the good old fashioned physical menu. While it's usually older customers who don't want to or can't use QR code menus, restaurateurs say that people across age groups pick a physical menu over a QR code one.

Bring back the OG menu, say diners

Deciding what you want to order while interacting with the staff sets the tone for an eating-out experience, say diners. "Flipping the pages that may come with visual elements and sharing the menu with your family or friends at the table is why I prefer the good old menu cards," says Debamita Sinha, a Bengaluru-based techie. Another reason is not having to look at your phone. "I am looking at the screen for most of the day. I don't want to do the same at a restaurant. It interrupts the experience. At least one person from the group gets distracted and ends up checking their email or social media," says Anamika Singh, a Kolkata-based teacher.

88% diners prefer traditional printed menus over digital QR codes globally (According to a survey by Technomic)



'Hard to discuss and compare dishes digitally'

QR codes are rarely scanned when there's a physical menu available, say restaurants. And this is what's making many of them pivot back to physical menus. "People complained of connectivity issues and visibility. They couldn't understand the digital menus and it was hard to discuss and compare dishes when all the dishes were not visible," says Anand Puri, a third-generation restaurateur. Restaurant owners say that the type of menu preferred depends on factors like diners' age, restaurant category and the cuisine. "QR code menus would be more acceptable in restaurants doing modern cuisine or falling under a quick-service restaurant or casual dining restaurant category, which would mainly cater to younger audiences. As opposed to physical menus, QR codes are more cost-effective," says Naman Dhandhanika, partner at an Italian restaurant chain.

My mom decided to walk out of a restaurant because it didn't have a physical menu. She was embarrassed to tell the staff about it and they kept asking her to scan the menu. Not everyone is comfortable doing everything on their phones

— Shivani Verma, a Gurgaon-based engineer

I have seen millennials and youngsters also asking for physical menus. You cannot see the entire menu in one go on your phone screen and analyse what you would like to order

— Restaurateur Vikrant Batra

What a physical menu does

- Pushes diners to interact with the restaurant staff
- Promotes sharing of the menu
- Leads to the free flow of conversation among diners
- Enhances dining experience

— Inputs by Divya Kaushik

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE WITH BPH (BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA)

"BPH or benign prostatic hyperplasia is an age-related non-cancerous growth of the prostate gland which can obstruct urine outflow and cause bothersome symptoms. Widespread availability of cost-effective and safe medications, in addition to surgical techniques has made the treatment of BPH very easy and accessible to lakhs of patients across the length and breadth of the country," says Dr. Prakash Chaudhary.



Dr. Prakash Chaudhary

The most important problems associated with prostate are:

BPH (Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia) – which is the most common

Prostatitis
Prostate cancer
Over 60% of Indian males aged 50 years and above suffer from moderate to severe symptoms of BPH.

The cardinal symptoms of this condition are:

- Frequent urination during daytime
- Getting up at night to urinate, or nocturia
- Difficulty in passing urine

- Feeling of not having completely emptied one's bladder

Though initially mild, symptoms worsen with time and become especially troublesome in the form of severe nocturia (which badly disturbs sleep, physical and mental functioning) inability to postpone or defer the urge to urinate and leakage of urine before reaching the toilet.

The patient tries to cope with these symptoms by self-remedies such as restricting fluid intake, habitually urinating before embarking on long outdoor trips or going to bed and being almost obsessively conscious of one's urinary signals and the location of the toilet wherever he goes – all

these leading to a quality-compromised life.

Even complications related to urinary retention, infections and stones in the urinary tract and rarely damage to both kidneys can develop in a big subset of patients, further lowering the patient's quality of life and productivity.

"Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are proven means of reducing the burden of BPH-related morbidity to patients and the society as a whole, by reducing the frequency and severity of both symptoms and complications of BPH," adds Dr. Prakash Chaudhary.

For more details contact

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How to: Clean & store metal diyas

USE NATURAL CLEANERS

Use a mixture of baking soda and water to create a paste. Apply it to stained areas, let it sit for a few minutes, then scrub gently and rinse. After each use, wipe the diyas with a soft, damp cloth to remove soot and residue. Avoid harsh scrubbing.

THOROUGH DRYING

After cleaning, ensure that the diyas are completely dry to prevent rusting. Use

a soft cloth for drying. Store them in a dry, cool place. Use cloth bags or boxes to keep them dust-free and protected from scratches.

AVOID MOISTURE

Keep diyas away from humid areas to prevent tarnishing and corrosion. Consider applying a thin layer of mineral oil or a specialized metal polish to protect the surface from tarnish and stains. Steer clear of abrasive cleaners or pads that can scratch the surface.



USE DESIGNATED WICKS

If using oil diyas, ensure the wicks are appropriate to minimize excessive soot buildup. Always handle diyas with care. Use a soft cloth when moving them to avoid accidental drops or bumps.

CITY BUZZ

Mayla Bagh ka Jhalra wears a new look

The renovated and beautifully lit up ancient stepwell of Jodhpur will now play host to cultural activities bringing back the lost glory of this ancient architectural marvel



Sameer Fernandez

The city's picturesque Mayla Bagh ka Jhalra has undergone restoration and beautification work done by a private trust. The ancient Baori (stepwell) is one of the most incredible stepwells of India. Stepwells or Baoris as they are called in Rajasthan were important structures built in as early as the 7th century, with perfectly symmetrical steps that would go down to a well. The main purpose of these Baoris was to store rainwater which could then be used during the dry months.

The Mayla Bagh ka Jhalra was mostly lying neglected and its condition had deteriorated over the years as the structure didn't have any use in modern day times. However, thanks to the efforts taken by the

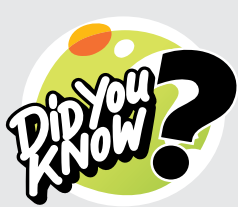


municipal corporation the structure has been given to a trust for two years to be developed.

"We are so happy that this construction has been restored and beautified. The stepwells of the city including the Tuarji ka Jhalra are popular tourist sites that have attracted thousands of tourists over the years. It was high time that these structures were protected. The Municipal Corporation has taken the right step in bringing in private partners to protect and beautify the site," says Arvind Parihar, a resident of the city.

The stepwell has been beautifully lit up giving it a one-of-a-kind look. The revamped venue will now also act as an art centre and will play host to a number of tourist activities including cultural events and even a light and sound show. It will be opened for tourists and the people of the city, bringing back the lost glory of the architectural marvel.

"It is worth appreciating that the government body has taken a step in the right direction by restoring this baori. Besides such structures not being made anymore, they are also an important part of the city's heritage and they have to be preserved so that the future generations too are well aware about their past," says SK Sharma, a historian and retired academic of the city.



Kaley Cuoco was not the first choice for The Big Bang Theory



The original Penny on *The Big Bang Theory* was a very different character, but never made it past the unaired pilot. Penny's character was originally called Katie and she was played by Amanda Walsh. However, the test audience didn't like this character and it was scrapped. Marisa Tomei, Tara Reid, Elizabeth Berkley and Jodi Lyn O'Keefe were all considered to play Penny in the TV show, before Kaley Cuoco was eventually finalised.

Hilarious animal photos that will tickle your funny bone

Arvind Mohandas



Marti Phillips



Jose Miguel Gallego Molina



This year's Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards received nearly 9,000 entries from 98 countries out of which 40 images, four portfolio entries and three video entries have been short-listed. Some of the short-listed photographs feature a contemplating chimpanzee, a hippopotamus bride, and a smiling elephant seal among many others. Winners of the awards will be announced on December 10 in London.

— Agencies

Sarosh Lodhi



Ingo Hamann



Gabriel Rojo



Inés Godínez

