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DIGITAL LEARNING AND STUDENT MOTIVATION IN THE MODERN CLASSROOM

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ЦИФРОВОЕ ОБУЧЕНИЕ И МОТИВАЦИЯ СТУДЕНТОВ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ КЛАССЕ

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Abstract. Digital learning is one of the most important aspects of today's schooling. Technology has changed the conventional method teaching is made in classrooms and has opened new pathways for students to participate, communicate and enhance their learning. This paper looks at the link between student motivation and digital learning in the 21st century classroom. It shows the benefits of digital technology such as customized learning, multimedia resources, online collaboration and interactive learning platforms. They also discuss the problems of digital learning, such as differences in technology, diversions, and lack of face-to-face contact between students and professors. The research demonstrates that the effective use of digital technology may have a significant positive influence on students' academic success, motivation and involvement.

Аннотация. Цифровое обучение — один из важнейших аспектов современного школьного образования. Технологии изменили традиционные методы преподавания в классах и открыли новые возможности для участия, общения и совершенствования обучения студентов. В данной статье рассматривается связь между мотивацией студентов и цифровым обучением в классе XXI века. Показаны преимущества цифровых технологий, такие как персонализированное обучение, мультимедийные ресурсы, онлайн-сотрудничество и интерактивные учебные платформы. Также обсуждаются проблемы цифрового обучения, такие как различия в технологиях, отвлекающие факторы и отсутствие личного контакта между студентами и преподавателями. Исследование показывает, что эффективное использование цифровых технологий может оказать значительное положительное влияние на академическую успеваемость, мотивацию и вовлеченность студентов.

Keywords: digital learning, student motivation, higher education, educational technology, online learning, student engagement.

Ключевые слова: цифровое обучение, мотивация студентов, высшее образование, образовательные технологии, онлайн-обучение, вовлеченность студентов.

Digital technology has been evolving quite swiftly, and it has had a huge impact on educational institutions all around the world. The advent of the digital age has changed the way we teach and learn. Today's classrooms are more than the books and lectures of the past. Online platforms, multimedia materials, interactive software, and virtual communication systems are being used by educational institutions to increase the quality of instruction and to inspire student engagement.

One of the most important factors that influence academic achievement is student motivation. Students who are motivated are more likely to take part in classroom activities, to complete their assignments successfully, and to develop the ability to learn on their own. But in this digital era, it is tougher to hold the attention and interest of the students. The internet is full of distractions, and how pupils want to learn has changed.

Schooling is now more flexible and more student-centered through digital learning. Technology provides an opportunity for instructors to customize the student learning experience to individual requirements and learning styles. Digital environments also facilitate communication, creativity, cooperation, and critical thinking. Therefore, understanding the relationship between digital learning and student motivation is vital to improving contemporary educational techniques [9].

Traditional teaching methods may not satisfy the educational expectations of digitally focused learners. Keller mentioned that motivation increases when pupils experience attention, relevance, confidence, and satisfaction in the learning process. Digital technology may enhance these motivational features by increasing the interactivity and visual attractiveness of training. According to Ryan and Deci, students are motivated when they feel autonomous and actively engaged in learning activities. Digital learning technology and online learning platforms allow students to learn at their own pace and access learning resources independently [5, 10].

Moreover, Mayer has shown that multimodal learning can improve understanding and memory retention through the effective combination of visual and verbal information [6].

Educational films, animations, simulations, and interactive presentations help students better understand complicated topics and stay engaged in lectures. Bates points out that digital teaching involves not simply the technology, but good teaching practices to foster connection, communication, and student-centered learning [2].

Simultaneously, studies have shown a range of barriers related to digital learning. Excessive use of technology, social media, mobile devices, and entertainment platforms may reduce learners' attention spans and cause distraction. In addition, unequal access to technology can cause educational inequalities between children from various socioeconomic backgrounds. Despite these limits, the current study reveals that the proper and intentional use of technology can significantly improve student involvement, communication, collaboration, and academic performance. Digital learning is a crucial factor in motivating students by providing a more dynamic and fascinating learning environment. Digital tools enable students to be active participants rather than passive listeners, as they would be in a traditional lecture. Examples include online quizzes, discussion boards, educational games, and virtual simulations. Interactive education systems enhance student participation in classroom activities, while gamification tactics — such as points, rewards, badges, and contests—make learning more entertaining and engaging. Another major advantage of digital learning is flexibility, allowing students to learn on their own time, at their own pace, and with 24/7 access to educational resources from anywhere. This flexibility fosters a sense of freedom and responsibility in students. Similarly, Zawacki-Richter and Anderson emphasize that online and distance education research increasingly focuses on improving learner engagement, accessibility, and the quality of digital educational experiences [13].

Technology also helps to strengthen the relationship between students and teachers. Students can ask questions, participate in conversations, and get quick responses using online platforms. Constructive criticism is crucial as it motivates learners to identify their strengths and limitations. Digital education also offers the incentive of collaborative learning. Group projects, online collaboration, and virtual talks provide students with opportunities to express their views, contribute to issue resolution, and enhance their communication skills. This type of exposure prepares students

for future job environments where collaboration and online communication will be increasingly important.

Digital learning has numerous advantages, but there are some disadvantages as well. One of the main obstacles is distraction. Pupils use their digital gadgets during class for non-academic purposes, which leads to less attention and lower productivity. The second difficulty is the lack of in-person social connection. Good education requires face-to-face interaction between instructor and student; relying too heavily on online study may result in a lack of emotional connection and minimal classroom interaction. There is also a major problem regarding technological inequality. Not all pupils have a good internet connection, a PC, or digital devices. This suggests that some children are not fully engaged with digital learning settings. Instructors have a difficult time keeping up with technology that is constantly developing. Teachers need to learn how to use technology and adapt their teaching approaches to be effective with digital learning and fulfill the demands of today's education. Thus, it is a question of harmonizing conventional and digital methods of teaching. Technology should be a tool to help learning in the classroom, not a replacement for actual human engagement.

The reviewed study shows that there is a common perception of the positive effects of digital learning on students' motivation, engagement, and academic achievement. Marc Prensky claims that today's students are "digital natives"; hence, they are naturally accustomed to technology and seek interesting learning settings. Likewise, George Siemens states that digital technologies foster networked learning and cooperation, and that students can search for information and chat faster in online learning environments [9, 12].

The benefits of digital learning as a motivator have been identified by many specialists. Students are more motivated if they feel relevance, attention, confidence, and pleasure in the process of learning. Hrastinski concurs with this view and states that online engagement and interactive communication encourage student involvement and allow for active participation in educational activities [4, 5].

The results show that digital platforms deliver more engaging and learner-centered learning experiences than traditional lecture-based education. A second topic in the literature is that of tailored and adaptable learning. Students learn better when they feel independent and autonomous in their learning [10].

Anderson and Moore further suggest that online learning environments are flexible, allowing students to learn at their own pace according to their learning styles and personal schedules [1; 8]. Together, these results demonstrate that digital learning offers individualized learning experiences and opportunities for lifelong learning. Moreover, the researchers concur on the effectiveness of multimedia technology and blended learning techniques. The combination of visual and spoken information can improve learning and knowledge retention [6]. Garrison and Vaughan also claim that blended learning environments, consisting of both face-to-face and online training, facilitate more relevant and engaging educational experiences. This view is also backed by Means et al., who argue that online and blended learning techniques can lead to better academic performance than traditional teaching in various educational settings [3, 7]. Such agreements exist, but there are also many gaps and issues highlighted in the literature. Many academics have concentrated on the favorable elements of educational technologies, but Neil Selwyn warns against over-reliance on digital approaches, noting they lead to less human engagement as well as increased distraction and over-dependence on technology. This contrasts with the findings of studies that demonstrate the importance of cooperation and communication in digital learning environments [11].

The other significant topic is equality in education. Some experts suggest digital learning may provide more access and flexibility in school, while others point to the growing digital divide between students from different socio-economic backgrounds. Many educational institutions still do not have access to reliable internet connections, digital devices, or technical support. This might make it challenging for some students to be fully engaged in digital learning environments. One of the recurrent themes in the literature is the growing role of instructors in the contemporary digital classroom. Researchers believe technology should help teachers, not replace them. Teachers will still have to provide emotional support, constructive criticism, and advice, and develop critical thinking. Research on effective digital technology is linked to supporting instructional methods and deep participation in the classroom. In conclusion, the research reported in this paper indicates that proper implementation of digital learning might potentially increase students' motivation, engagement, communication, and academic achievement. However, the researchers also emphasized the need to couple technological innovation with a human touch, inclusivity, and ethical teaching methods. The findings suggest that building effective digital learning environments requires not just new technology, but also clever instructional designs and pedagogical approaches.

Conclusion

Digital learning has transformed today's educational landscape, creating more interactive, flexible, and student-centered learning environments. Effective use of digital technology may go a long way toward boosting students' motivation, engagement, communication, and academic performance. Interactive platforms, multimedia resources, collaborative activities, and customized learning opportunities make students active partners in the process of education. However, there are challenges for teachers, too: distractions, gaps in technology, and less face time. For digital learning to be effective, schools and institutions need to combine existing technology with a teaching method that allows students to interact, be creative, and think critically. Digital learning can therefore boost academic achievement and the development of lifelong learning abilities needed in today's environment.

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