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Advantages and disadvantages of digitalization in the education sector

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Abstract
Digitalization is bringing wide sweeping changes in the education sector. Internet technology, smart phones, tablets, laptops are no more unknown words, because of which we are compelled to use digitalization in education also. Introduction of new digital technologies in education has brought new issues and challenges both for teachers as well as for students. This research paper aims at addressing the various advantages and disadvantages of digitalization in the education sector.

Keywords: Digitalization, higher education

Introduction

The modes of teaching in education have drastically changed in last few years. While some professors still stay with the old "Chalk and Talk" technology, it is very rare that in these days professors do not use some modern technology in the class-room for delivering their lecture effectively. Moreover abundant information on almost every subject is available on sources as "Youtube", "Facebook", "Wikipedia", "Google" and the like. The online education therefore has added new options of teaching, has created a wide variety of new courses, and has increased the enrollment in many academic institutions [1].

If 21st century is to be described in the most precise manner by using one word, it can be prescribed by the use of term Digitization. We are in the era where extraordinary ideas are unfolding in our education industry and creating the advancement that can't be matched by lagging behind in terms of technology [2].

The traditional education system which was based on the concept of 'knowledge transfer' - the age old guru shishya parampara - established a clear teacher student relationship. However, the digital media and the internet has heralded in a democracy of knowledge where education has become a collaborative, self-driven enterprise. Today there are tools available to transform learning from an academic exercise to an engaging experience in imaginative and experiential learning [3].

This has often led to a misplaced apprehension that the relevance of the teacher would gradually diminish in an era of e-learning. The institution of teacher remains a sacrosanct pillar of the education system - a beacon which not only inspires and connects but also creates the human interface that prompts students to exploit the digital resources gainfully. The multiplicity of sources and sheer magnitude of digital information available requires students be guided through the immense clutter to harness knowledge. While the digital age will positively impact all forms of education, it cannot replace the human interface which is so vital to the social, moral and emotional development of the child [4].

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Advantages of digitalization in education sector

Digital learning is replacing traditional educational methods more and more each day. With how rapidly classrooms are changing, it is best to forget the traditional methods of learning in school and start thinking about newer teaching and learning techniques based on digital learning tools and technologies. The inclusion of digital learning in the classrooms can vary from simply using tablets instead of paper to using elaborate software programs and equipment as opposed to the simple pen. This could entail using sites, services, programs, teaching tools, and technologies like study aids built for at-home use. Even social networks and communications platforms can be used to create and manage digital assignments and agendas. Irrespective of how much technology is integrated into the classroom, digital learning has come to play a crucial role in education. It empowers students by getting them to be more interested in learning and expanding their horizons. Here is how digital learning is a step up from traditional education methods [5].

1. **Personalized learning:** The opportunity to help every student learn at the best pace and path for them is the most important benefit of digital learning. One on one tutoring is a good example of personalized learning, but it is expensive. The shift to digital learning can approximate the benefits of tutoring while freeing up time for teachers to concentrate more on finding out new ways and techniques for improving the quality of teaching. The opportunity to customize learning sequences for each student will make education more productive. Special needs will be more quickly diagnosed, learning gaps will be addressed, and progress will be accelerated [6].

2. **Expanded learning opportunities:** Digital learning is extending learning opportunities worldwide. Access to full and part-time online learning means that every student, state policy permitting, has access to many world languages, college preparatory curriculum, and advanced studies. It is remarkable that thousands of university courses by the best professors are available for free to anyone with a broadband connection [7].

3. **It Can Prepare Students for the real world:** Technology guides the modern world, and those who are comfortable using it are likely to have an easier time finding employment. Educational technology can help familiarize students with modern technology and even give them experience in commonly used applications like word processors, spreadsheets, and presentation tools. In this way, digital educational technology can in chorus teach students specific subjects and can also help in developing the skill of using digital technology as well [8].

4. **Technology can automate a lot of your tedious tasks:** Automation can speed up tedious, time-consuming tasks, such as keeping track of student attendance and performance [9]. In case of students also, making of assignments, and the like had became more convenient with the use of technology.

5. **Instant asses to latest information:** With technology in the classroom, students can have instant access to fresh information that can supplement their learning experience. There is value in having textbooks and course materials that are always up to date, which can even include additions suggested by students. This also fosters a more collaborative learning environment. Students, networked together online, can share information, work together on group projects, and interact with the instructor [10].

6. **Ease for students as well as for teachers:** Use of technology in education can make the learning experience more effective for students and for teachers it can be used as a medium to provide ease in comparison to the traditional method of delivering lectures.

Disadvantages of digitalization in education sector

It is true that today we are living in a world where thinking of surviving without using any digital medium is a sham. Although digitalization in education sector has various advantages, but it has some disadvantages as well. The disadvantages of digitalization are listed below:-

1. **Technology in the classroom can be a distraction:** College students learn less when they use computers or tablets during lectures. They also tend to earn worse grades. But Matthew Numer, an assistant professor in the School of Health and Human Performance at Dalhousie University, says in an article for The Chronicle of Higher Education that banning laptops is an "insult" to students: "Our students are capable of making their own choices, and if they choose to check Snapchat instead of listening to your lecture, then that's their loss. Besides, it's my responsibility as an educator to ensure that my lecture is compelling. If my students aren't paying attention, if they're distracted, that's on me [11]."

2. **Immense expenditures:** Gone are the days where students have to depend on paper and pen. This is an advanced era of technology where machines like computers substituted the use of paper with its hi-tech features and to maintain them a huge sum of money is required by schools and colleges which can otherwise be spent to buy necessary resources. In addition to it you have to spend thousands of rupees to update the out-dated softwares which are incompatible with present technology [12].

3. **Waste of valuable time:** It is the human being who built technology not the technology that created a human. As humans are not error-free, similarly technology too does not come error-free. There are lots of problems like server error and connectivity problems which take oodles of time to troubleshoot it, therefore, hindering the learning process which can sometimes be a matter of frustration both for the learners and the educators. Wastage of time because of unnecessary issues is not at all advisable in schools or any learning institutes where every second is valuable for the learners [13].

4. **Misguided by the wrong information:** With the speeding development of technology, the websites owner urges to rank their websites higher in search engines, so they only concentrate on rankings instead of

the content that they are posting. Many websites come with wrong information that has been copied and pasted from other sources without checking its authenticity. Thus the learners are misguided by the wrong information available on the websites. These things can perhaps become serious obstacles in their development [14].

5. **Students don't have equal access to technological resources:** Some students are not so financially strong that they can afford laptops, tablets and the like [15]. For those students it become very difficult to cope up the fast changing technology.

6. **Some students might feel isolated:** For some students college is not only the place where they can learn, it is also the place where they come to socialize, to make new friends, and to learn something more from their professors. With e-learning, this can be hard to achieve. Sure, you'll still have online chat rooms and you'll be able to ask your instructor questions but the level of personal connection would hardly be the same as it would in college. That's why some students might feel isolated and deprived of support [16].

7. **Negative views on technology:** Consumerism has taught us that technologies, from computers to mobile devices, are widely viewed as tools to entertain rather than educate. Textbooks, on the other hand, are seen as tools for learning. So, between a tablet and a textbook, students are likely to gravitate towards learning when reading a book, while they are likely to use a tablet to play games or spend time on social media [17].

Conclusion
It is somehow clear that, according to the need of the hour, the benefits of digitization of education outweigh the disadvantages of digitization of education. But the key to technology in the classroom is always going to be the teacher-student relationship, because that's where the education happens. Technology can be a highly effective tool, but that's all it is - a tool. In today's hyper-connected world, sensible use of technology can enhance education. Technology is not meant to replace the teacher. Rather, the idea is to create a flexible learning environment that breeds innovation. The success of such endeavors will ultimately depend upon how technology is applied to keep students engaged. It can be frustrating and time-consuming, but in the end, technology in education can open doors to new experiences, new discoveries, and new ways of learning and collaborating [18].

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