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Advantages of digitalizing higher education

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Abstract

Digitalization opens up higher education to people who wouldn't be able to afford or access it otherwise, such as people living in remote locations. Similarly, digitalization makes it possible for some people to pursue higher education with less disruption to their lives. The possibility with online learning to access your sessions when you want and learn at your own pace is a major advantage for many students. It all very much depends on individual learning styles and short or long-term professional goals. The modes of teaching in higher education have drastically changed in last 15 years. The online education has added new options to teaching, it has also created a wide variety of new courses and also increased the enrollment in many academic institutions. This paper addresses the advantages of digitalizing the higher education.

Keywords: Digitalization, higher education

Introduction

We are running into the 21st century where technology knows no bounds. This is the phase of radical development where technology is taking over every niche and corner. Smartphones, laptops, and tablets are no more unknown words. During this phase the education system is evolving for the sake of betterment, as this generation's students are not born to be confined by the limits of simple learning; their curiosity is vast and cannot be catered with educational systems that were designed earlier. Digitalization is ushering in a new era of transparency, efficiency and accountability, its proliferation in the field of education has brought about disruptive changes with a potential to radically alter the conventional landscape. Today there are tools available to transform learning from an academic exercise to an engaging experience in imaginative and experiential learning.

Digitalizing higher education makes it possible to conduct research more efficiently and to create new opportunities to develop methodologies, to cooperate and for development within existing and new disciplines. Digitalization expands the opportunities for access to education and for co-operation on the development of relevant courses. Digitalization is basically a tool for making fundamental changes to the process, content and forms of higher education which can put the higher education sector in a better position to achieve the goals of education and research.

Meaning of Digital Learning: Digital learning is replacing traditional educational methods more and more each day. With how rapidly classrooms are changing, it is best to forget methods you may remember from when you were 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. 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

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the classroom, digital learning has come to play a crucial role in education.

“Digitization is the integration of digital technologies into everyday life by the digitization of everything that can be digitized.”

Digitalizing higher education is very beneficial to students as well as research scholars because it develops the digital skills which are needed for the optimal utilization of ICT in the research field and study so that they can do their work more efficiently and accurately.

Advantages of Digitalizing Higher Education

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. 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 with the help of digitalization. Students can easily learn anything, anywhere at their own pace, they can also clarify their doubts by using different tools of technology such as video lectures, audios etc.

2. Expanded Learning Opportunities

Digital learning is extending learning opportunities worldwide. Access to full and part-time online learning means that every student, 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, the students just have to open its link and they can easily access it.

3. High Engagement Learning

The shift to digital can boost student motivation. Anyone who has witnessed the engagement of game-based learning can appreciate the potential to create learning experiences that boost persistence. Digital tools are very interesting to use, when students engage themselves in any kind of research activity so they can easily access a lot of data at one time which will automatically enhance their learning.

4. Assessment for Learning

Digital learning powers continuous feedback from content-embedded assessment, games, simulations, and adaptive learning. Where students can track their own progress which will motivate them and they can work at extraordinary level via using different tools of digital learning.

5. Quality Learning Products

Digital learning tools allow students to produce professional quality products and to share them with public audiences. They can make use of presentations, video lectures which will enhance their learning and sharpen their mind.

6. Relevant and Regularly Updated Content

Regardless of age or content, students have more access to relevant and regularly updated content. Next generation instructional systems that include print and digital options with online adaptive skill building allow teachers and students to personalize in new and exciting ways. The ability to update easily, means access to updated material and features on a regular basis.

7. Easy Accessibility

Its reach and accessibility allow it to permeate to a much larger segment of the society which would have otherwise remain deprived. This alone would enable the woefully overstretched education system to keep pace with the growing needs and aspirations of an increasingly urbanizing society.

8. Maximize Outcomes

Digital education also promotes minimizing infrastructure and maximizing outcomes, significantly reducing the costs of education and making it more affordable.

9. Good Access to Education

The government wants everyone to have access to higher education, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or social, geographic, or economic background. Education should facilitate good access to labour and skills across Norway. Lifelong learning is important in order to help not only individuals but also society and the labour market at large to adapt and innovate. Digitalization expands the opportunities for access to education and for co-operation on the development of relevant courses.

10. Digital Tools

Teachers have a wide range of applications and digital tools and services that support the implementation of education, from planning, through teaching itself and interaction with students and colleagues both internally and externally, to the follow-up and evaluation of students at individual and group levels.

11. High quality in Education and Research

The government wants education and research environments to be of high quality, and for more education and research environments to climb global rankings. The quality report stresses the importance of exploiting digital opportunities so that all students can experience stimulating and varied learning and assessment methods. In addition to academically relevant digital skills, students shall acquire more general ICT skills and digital judgment that are relevant across disciplines.

12. Digital Learning Makes Students Smarter

Learning tools and technology enable students to develop effective self-directed learning skills. They are able to identify what they need to learn, find and use online resources, apply the information on the problem at hand, and even evaluate resultant feedback. This increases their efficiency and productivity. In addition to engaging students, digital learning tools and technology sharpen critical thinking skills, which are the basis for the development of analytic reasoning. Children who explore open-ended questions with imagination and logic learn how to make decisions, as opposed to just temporarily memorizing the textbook.

13. Digital Learning Tools and Technology is Rapidly Increasing Information Sharing

Digital learning tools and technology enable educators to rapidly share information with other educators in real-time. The explosion of free and open content and tools has created an environment of sharing economy. By embracing digital devices and connected learning, classrooms around the

country and around the globe can not only coordinate with one another to share insights but also boost learning, experience, and communications skills. The practice also allows educators to enjoy a level playing field.

14. Digital Learning is Making Students Self Motivated and More Accountable

Students using digital learning tools and technology become more engaged in the process and more interested in growing their knowledge base. Digital learning is far more interactive and memorable than voluminous textbooks or one-sided lectures, they provide better context, a greater sense of perspective, and more engaging activities than traditional education methods. This allows students to better connect with the learning material. Further, they often offer a more interesting and involving way to digest information. This is reflected in their retention rates and test scores. Also, when students can track their own progress it can improve motivation and accountability.

15. Conclusion

Digitization has no doubt changed our education system, but we cannot say that it has diminished the value of our old time classroom learning. The best part about the digitization of education in the 21st century is that it is combined with the aspects of both; classroom learning and online learning methods. Walking hand in hand both act as a support system to each other, which gives a stronghold to our modern students. Digitization in education has also proved to be the right method for saving resources. Online examination platforms have restricted the frivolous usage of paper, directly confining the cutting down of trees. This way the digitization of education industry in the 21st century proves to be a boon to our society and education.

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