

EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS AS OPTIMAL TOOLS FOR FOSTERING STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

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ABSTRACT

In the contemporary era, technology has assumed a pivotal role in societal functioning, thereby necessitating its integration within the realm of education. Wide range of educational platforms both synchronous and asynchronous have emerged as an essential instrument in facilitating the learning process, offering novel avenues for student development and knowledge acquisition. This article seeks to examine the primary facets of educational platforms utilization in educational contexts, alongside an exploration of their associated benefits and drawbacks.

Key words: *educational platforms, benefits, accessibility, interactivity, visibility, mobility, assessment, social interaction, lack of social interaction, security.*

INTRODUCTION.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can impact student learning when teachers are digitally literate and understand how to integrate it into curriculum. Educational institutions utilize immense amount of ICT tools to communicate, create, disseminate, store, and manage information. There is no doubt that ICT has already become integral to the teacher-student interaction, through such approaches as replacing chalkboards with interactive digital whiteboards, using students' own smartphones or other devices for learning during class time, and the "flipped classroom" model where students watch lectures at home on the computer and use classroom time for more interactive exercises. When teachers are digitally literate and trained to use ICT, these approaches can lead to higher order thinking skills, provide creative and individualized options for students to express their understandings, and leave students better prepared to deal with ongoing technological change in society and the workplace ICT issues planners must include: considering the total cost-benefit equation, supplying and maintaining the requisite infrastructure, and ensuring investments are matched with teacher support and other policies aimed at effective ICT use.

METHODS.

The impact of computer technologies and digital culture has changed the way people live, work, and learn, affecting the creation and dissemination of knowledge and power globally. Those who are not well-versed in digital culture are at a disadvantage in the economy. Therefore, digital literacy, which includes skills like searching for and evaluating information, as well as using new media critically for full participation in society, has become an important aspect of curriculum frameworks. Many countries are integrating information and communication technology (ICT) into schools to build digital literacy. [1]

Impact of ICT and its potential for the education field is manifold. It positively affects all the stakeholders of the education field. The current papers discuss the same along with the various challenges posed by ICT. The challenges include economical issues, educational and technical factors. Appropriate content, Design and workability of ICT also play a crucial role in adoption of ICT in the education.[2] “The use of information technology in the language classroom boosts autonomous learning, maximizes targeted outcomes, motivates learners and helps them improve their performance in the EFL classroom. However, using ICT without careful planning and well-defined objectives will more likely be a waste of time and effort”, stated Nouredine Azmi in his article “The Benefits of Using ICT in the EFL Classroom: From Perceived Utility to Potential Challenges” [3]

LearnWorlds, Coursera, Skillshare, Udemy, Docebo, Edx, Moodle, Teachable, and Thinkific, ClassDojo, Khan Academy, Kahoot and others were shown as the best educational platforms in 2023.[4]

Learning platforms in education have become an essential tool for enhancing the teaching and learning process. These platforms provide students with access to a wide range of educational resources, including interactive multimedia content, online assessments, and collaborative learning tools. By utilizing these platforms, educators can create a more dynamic and engaging learning environment that caters to the diverse needs of their students.

Furthermore, learning platforms offer the flexibility of accessing educational materials anytime and anywhere, allowing students to learn at their own pace and convenience. This promotes self-directed learning and empowers students to take ownership of their education. Additionally, these platforms facilitate communication and collaboration among students and teachers, fostering a sense of community and support within the learning environment.

Moreover, learning platforms enable educators to track students’ progress and performance, providing valuable insights into their strengths and areas for

improvement. This data-driven approach to education allows for personalized instruction and targeted interventions, ultimately leading to better academic outcomes. Here you can find wide range of educational platforms which are used not only for utilizing in classroom activities but also make you more literate and experience create and share your own materials with the community members. <https://www.learnworlds.com/online-learning-platforms/> . One can find description of each platform, their pros and cons, as well as be acquainted how to work with particular platform. [5]. Educational platforms emerge as a crucial tool in modern education, offering myriad advantages. While acknowledging its merits, the authors underscore the imperative of integrating ICT judiciously with traditional teaching methods, considering the unique needs of students. This nuanced approach ensures an optimal educational experience, leveraging the strengths of both paradigms.

RESULTS

Learning platforms in education offer numerous advantages, enhancing the academic landscape through multifaceted benefits. Firstly, these platforms facilitate asynchronous learning, permitting students to engage with educational content at their own pace and convenience. Additionally, they foster collaborative learning, enabling students to participate in virtual discussions and collaborative projects, thereby promoting a dynamic and interactive educational environment.

Furthermore, learning platforms provide access to a plethora of resources, ranging from multimedia materials to scholarly articles, thereby enriching the educational experience. The integration of diverse learning modalities, such as video lectures, interactive quizzes, and discussion forums, caters to varied learning preferences, accommodating a broad spectrum of students.[6]

Moreover, the adaptive nature of some learning platforms tailors content delivery to individual learner needs, ensuring a personalized and optimized learning journey. This adaptability is instrumental in addressing diverse skill levels within a cohort, thereby promoting inclusivity in education. Additionally, the incorporation of analytics and data-driven insights in learning platforms facilitates educators in monitoring student progress and identifying areas that require additional attention or intervention. The utilization of learning platforms in education can yield increased student engagement, personalized learning experiences, enhanced flexibility and accessibility, improved communication and collaboration, data-driven instruction, and better preparation for future workforce demands.

1. Improved student engagement: Learning platforms provide interactive and multimedia content that can enhance students' interest and motivation in learning.

2. Personalized learning experiences: With the ability to track students' progress and performance, educators can tailor instruction to meet individual student needs, leading to better academic outcomes.

3. Flexibility and accessibility: Learning platforms allow students to access educational materials anytime and anywhere, promoting self-directed learning and accommodating diverse learning styles.

4. Enhanced communication and collaboration: These platforms facilitate interaction between students and teachers, creating a sense of community and support within the learning environment.

5. Data-driven instruction: Educators can use data from learning platforms to make informed decisions about instructional strategies and interventions, leading to improved student learning outcomes.

6. Future readiness: By integrating technology into education, students are better prepared for the digital world and the skills needed in the workforce.

Overall, the use of learning platforms in education. [7]

The use of educational platforms as effective resources in the pedagogical process of imparting knowledge and fostering learning yields significant results, lead to a more dynamic and engaging learning environment, personalized instruction, and improved academic outcomes for students. Firstly, these platforms provide access to a wide range of educational materials and resources, allowing for a more comprehensive and diverse learning experience. Students are able to engage with interactive content, such as videos, quizzes, and simulations, which enhances their understanding and retention of knowledge. Additionally, educational platforms offer opportunities for personalized and self-paced learning, allowing students to learn at their own speed and cater to individual learning styles. This promotes a sense of autonomy and responsibility in the learning process. Collaborative features on these platforms facilitate peer interaction and group work, promoting communication, critical thinking, and collaboration skills. By providing instant feedback and assessment tools, educational platforms allow for continuous monitoring of student progress and performance, enabling educators to quickly identify areas for improvement and provide targeted support. Finally, the use of educational platforms encourages active engagement and participation, leading to increased motivation and enjoyment in the learning process. Overall, the integration of educational platforms as effective resources in pedagogy positively impacts student learning outcomes and provides an enriching and dynamic learning experience.

DISCUSSION

Specific examples of new trends in the use of learning platforms for creating interactive educational materials, such as the EdTech company "Khan Academy", which offers more than 2,000 video lessons and assignments on various subjects. Another example is the use of data analytics to optimize the learning process, such as through the "ClassDojo" platform, which collects data on student behavior in the classroom and provides teachers with information to improve learning. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter are used to create networked communities of faculty and students where they can exchange ideas, resources, and support. For example, on the Twitter platform, there are specialized accounts for teachers, such as "#EduTwitter" and "#EdChat", where they can communicate and get advice from their colleagues. Kahoot is a popular educational platform that allows one to create quizzes, polls, and other interactive tasks. One of the advantages of using Kahoot is that it allows the teacher to quickly and easily create an interactive assignment that can be completed in real-time. In addition, Kahoot provides the teacher with detailed statistics on the results of assignments, which allows them to analyze the effectiveness of learning and determine which topics need additional study. ClassDojo is a platform for collecting and analyzing student behavior data in the classroom. It allows teachers to get information about how students participate in lessons, how they interact with classmates, and what teaching methods are most effective. To work with ClassDojo, one needs to register on the site and create an account for each student. After that, the teacher can create classes, add students, and set settings for data analysis. ClassDojo provides a variety of reports, such as the Student Activity Report, the Student Engagement Report, and the Most Popular Resources Report. The teacher can use this information to optimize the learning process and improve the quality of learning. For example, you can identify students who need extra support or determine which teaching methods are most interesting to students. EdTech is an educational technology that is used to improve the learning process. It includes a variety of tools and resources, such as platforms for creating instructional materials, analyzing learning data, and social media for communication between educators and students. Working with EdTech starts with choosing a platform or tool that suits your needs and goals. Then, you need to register on the chosen platform and create your account. After that, you can start using EdTech tools to create learning materials, conduct data analysis, and communicate with other educators and students. Facebook and Twitter can be used to create online communities of educators and students. You can create an account on these platforms and start chatting with other members of the community. You can exchange ideas, resources, and support with other teachers and students. Quiz Bot is

an educational bot that helps teachers create quizzes and polls for students. It offers different types of questions, such as choosing the right answer, filling in the blanks, and writing short answers. A teacher can customize Quiz Bot for their class, choose a quiz topic, and choose the number of questions. Once the quiz is created, the teacher can send it to the students, who will answer the questions in the chat. Quiz Bot collects quiz results and provides the teacher with statistics for each student and the class as a whole. Students praise the use of ClassDojo, EdTech, #EduTwitter, and #EdChat when used in classwork activities. Kahoot and Quiz Bot are also mentioned as useful tools for creating Torins and surveys.

Students discuss the use of social media, such as #EduTwitter and #EdChat, to build networked communities of faculty and students and share ideas, resources, and support. The study at TUIT examines the potential impact of educational bots, such as Kahoot and Quiz Bot, on enhancing student engagement and effectiveness in the educational process. These bots are highlighted as tools that can assist teachers in creating quizzes and polls for students, ultimately contributing to a more productive learning environment. The benefits of educational platforms can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, they enhance accessibility by ensuring that educational resources are available to individuals irrespective of their geographical location or financial status. Secondly, they promote interactivity by enabling educators to create engaging learning materials that actively involve students in the educational process. Thirdly, they enhance the visibility of complex concepts, making it easier for students to grasp and comprehend the subject matter. Additionally, educational platforms enable students to study anytime and anywhere, especially advantageous for those with busy schedules or limited access to traditional classroom settings. Furthermore, they streamline the assessment process by providing efficient and transparent methods for evaluating student progress. However, it is important to note that the use of educational technology may lead to reduced social interaction between students and teachers. Lastly, concerns over internet security must be addressed due to the potential risks associated with uncontrolled access, such as cyberbullying and the dissemination of inappropriate content. The study at TUIT utilizes qualitative research methods, such as participant observation and in-depth interviews, to investigate the impact of educational platforms on the quality of the educational process. The research focuses on using educational platforms in teacher-student interaction and students outcomes. Data is collected through these methods and analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative techniques. The study also provides recommendations for improving and developing the platform integrated to LMS of the university. Participant observation

involves researchers directly observing research subjects using their own sensory organs and auxiliary means in accordance with specific research objectives and an observation schedule. We observed the behaviors and expressions of students and teachers in class and after class, noting subtle actions, taking instant records, summarizing, and analyzing data upon observation. The data collectors were students who could directly obtain reliable internal observation data without needing to fit in with the respondents over a long period of time, providing favorable advantages for participant observation. Additionally, the dormitories of TUIT gather students of different grades, making it easier to access diverse observation data.

Furthermore, the observations are not limited to classroom and campus life, but also include various emerging online virtual communities. Conducting in-depth interviews is an essential component of the research process, with the goal of examining the impact of the educational platform on students' learning outcomes. To ensure the collection of accurate and reliable data, the interview questions were carefully crafted and approved by the credit department administration.

The utilization of a questionnaire survey involves conducting a large-scale sampling survey and collecting data through the use of a comprehensive and clearly-structured questionnaire completed by students. This research approach intentionally gathers relevant and realistic conditions regarding research subjects and is capable of effectively obtaining a large quantity of authentic data in a planned and systematic approach. A targeted questionnaire is designed based on acquired information, references, and observations, which covers student attitudes toward the learning platform. The research subjects for this study were first-year students of TUIT, and the questionnaire included student information such as gender, school, place of origin, and financial condition, making it an effective tool for gathering data.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, learning platforms in education offer numerous benefits, including increased accessibility to educational resources, enhanced student engagement, and personalized learning experiences. As educational paradigms continue to shift, the role of these platforms becomes increasingly pivotal in cultivating a holistic and effective learning environment. ICT is an important tool in the modern educational process. They offer many benefits such as accessibility, interactivity, visibility, and portability. However, the use of learning platforms can also have its drawbacks, including a lack of social interaction and security concerns. In order to make the most of ICTs, it is necessary to combine them with traditional teaching methods, taking into account the individual characteristics and needs of students.

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