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# BULETIN APB

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# *Are Students Staying Engaged in Digital Learning? A Look at Its Benefits and Challenges*

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As technology continues to evolve, it has transformed the way education is delivered around the world. More universities, schools, and students are utilising online platforms, video lessons, and learning apps as part of their daily studies. Instead of sitting in a traditional classroom, many students now learn from home or other remote locations, using laptops, tablets, or even smartphones. This shift has made learning more flexible, allowing students to study at their own pace and access a wide range of resources with just a few clicks. However, while digital learning offers many new opportunities, it also raises an important question: are students truly engaged and motivated in this new way of learning, or are they struggling to stay focused behind the screen?

Digital learning brings several advantages that make education more accessible and adaptable. Dhawan (2020) states that students can attend classes from any location, revisit recorded lessons and use digital tools that match their learning styles. Interactive features such as quizzes, videos, and educational games often make lessons more engaging and easier to understand. For many, this type of learning encourages independence and develops digital skills that are highly valuable in the modern world (Kebritchi et al., 2017).

Additionally, digital learning has proven effective in numerous ways. It enables lessons to be delivered in flexible formats, allowing students to learn at their own pace. With the help of virtual labs, interactive simulations, and customised online platforms, digital learning can support a wide range of learning styles and abilities (Kebritchi et al., 2017). Instructors can also track student progress more easily through digital assessments and online feedback. In some cases, students who struggled in traditional classrooms have found greater success in digital settings.

Moreover, solving complex societal and environmental challenges requires leadership skills that extend beyond traditional management practices. Effective leaders must act as role models, offering younger staff members broader perspectives and innovative approaches to addressing contemporary issues (Haage, Voss, Nguyen, & Eggert, 2021). This kind of leadership not only fosters cross-institutional and global collaborations but also equips administrative staff to guide institutions through multidimensional challenges, preparing them for impactful roles within academia and beyond.



However, there are also clear challenges. According to Gillett-Swan (2017), many students struggle to stay focused due to distractions at home or a lack of a structured classroom environment. Xie et al. (2020) state that feelings of isolation can grow without daily face-to-face interaction with instructors and classmates. Hari Rajan et al. (2024) added that the absence of this social connection can lead to decreased engagement in studies. In some areas, limited access to the internet or digital devices creates unequal learning conditions (Van Lancker & Parolin, 2020). Additionally, not all students feel confident using online platforms, which can affect their participation and progress. At

the same time, not all students manage their time well, which can lead to falling behind in assignments or losing interest altogether. Thus, these factors make student engagement a key concern in the age of digital education.

Moreover, student experiences vary widely. Some students enjoy the freedom and comfort of studying from home and feel more confident using digital tools. For instance, some learners find that the ability to revisit recorded lectures and access a variety of online resources enhances their understanding and retention of course material (EducationDynamics, 2024). Others find it hard to concentrate without the structure of a physical classroom. Many students miss face-to-face communication with instructors and classmates, which plays a crucial role in motivation and learning support. These mixed experiences show that while digital learning has great potential, it also requires the right support, discipline, and resources to be truly effective for all students.

In conclusion, digital learning has transformed education by offering flexibility, accessibility, and diverse resources that cater to different learning styles. It allows students to learn at their own pace, review lessons, and acquire practical digital skills. However, it also creates challenges such as distractions, isolation, and disparity in access to technology. Although some students thrive under this environment, others are victimised by the absence of structure and socialisation of a traditional classroom. Overall, for digital education to be as effective as possible, it must be accompanied by the right tools, teaching methods, and strategies to engage and keep students motivated.

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