

Chapter 12

Digital Citizenship and Digital Literacy: An Evolving Trend

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of technology and communication had given birth to a new world order that impacted all aspects of citizens' lives. This new world order was often known as a world driven by digital tools and innovations. In digital mobility, citizens' lives become faster so that the interaction among individuals has no boundaries. This resulted in the development of digital citizenship. The emergence of social media certainly disrupted citizens' behavior. Therefore, digital literacy was necessary for this era of disrupted society, so becoming a smart and good citizen would be someone's necessity, not a luxury.

INTRODUCTION

The 21st century was marked by a digital revolution that transformed the personal and academic life of learners. Every student uses at least one smart device daily. Therefore, it is inconceivable to imagine a classroom without technology. To achieve the competencies of the digital era, students must be actively engaged in and invested in their learning experience (Al Husseiny & Youness, 2023). There is a significant shift in teaching paradigms in modern learning experiences to support student-centered learning.

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Students with all their needs and skill levels have to be involved in the instructional journey for better achievement on the academic level (Al Hussein & Kaddoura, 2021a). With the growing demand for information and communication technologies (ICT) in higher education and their continuous progress, lecture-based classes are now outdated strategies in higher education. There is a significant shift in instruction, which is no more teacher-centered but student-centered to develop an active learner.

Maintaining an active learning environment focuses on learners' engagement in the process and enhancing their learning skills (Al Hussein & Kaddoura, 2021b). Interactive technology in learning has increased student engagement by supporting constructivist approaches to creating an active learning environment. In the study, An approach to reinforce active learning in higher education for IT students, the results showed that student evaluation indicates that technology integration improves student comprehension and retention of learning material while increasing student motivation.

Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic compelled all educational institutions to go online. This change necessitated adapting instructional tactics to the new virtual setting. The teacher must go above and beyond to attract and retain students in the online class. As a result, new online tools are being sought. Online learning serves tech-savvy learners with on-demand life skills (Itani et al., 2022).

BACKGROUND

The emergence of digital technologies has influenced people's lives. The digital world has changed how we think about our lives. The increased use of the Internet has a significant role in developing various fields, such as education, medicine, business, communication, and more. This access has opened many opportunities for all people worldwide to look for contemporary research in a particular field of study (Coklar & Tatli, 2020). Therefore, this enhanced communication and socialization around the globe. Indeed, digitalization has contributed to developing educational opportunities for all students (Coklar & Tatli, 2020). Using the Internet and technologies has led to the evolvement of digital citizenship. In this realm, digital citizenship aims to guide the next generation in making intelligent choices in a wide range of digital contexts and situations (Buchholz et al., 2020; Harris & Johns, 2020; Lauricella et al., 2020; Nurhidayati & Ratnasari, 2020; Saputra & Siddiq, 2020; Tapingkae et al., 2020; Vlaanderen et al., 2020). This shows that digital citizenship paves the way for everyone to live better lives.

Furthermore, digital citizenship has a lot of benefits and positive impacts on society. Also, it is argued that the aspects of online citizenship need to be governed and streamlined (Saputra & Siddiq, 2020; Stone, 2020; Xu et al., 2019). The best way to protect people from the risks associated with online activity is to educate young people to become digital citizens (Gleason & von Gillern, 2018; Manzuoli et al., 2019). Imer and Kaya (2020) asserted that the increased use of the Internet had stimulated specialists to guide the young generation and educate them about the significance of digital citizenship education. Moreover, the Internet and technology are vital in life nowadays (Brodovskaya et al., 2020; Buchholz et al., 2020; Saputra & Siddiq, 2020). Additionally, using smartphones to communicate is necessary for the 21st century to exchange data (Lapsley & Segato, 2019; Ramachandran et al., 2020). Digitalization lets people stay updated with all news and share their ideas and feelings through social media platforms (Gleason & von Gillern, 2018; Jabeen & Ahmad, 2021). Online technologies have become essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, and students have begun to use them frequently (Ranchordas, 2020).

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