Casket Literaria

Dr. NAVEEN MOHAN
PRINCIPAL
GEMS ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE
KADUNGAPURAM (PO), RAMAPURAM
MALAPPURAM DT., KERALA-679 321

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By Dr.B.G.Unni, Dr.Naveen Mohan,
Dr. Mohammed Nazeer K.E., Smitha Pramod V
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https://gemsasc.ac.in/
gemsasc@gmail.com
04933 256 123, 9965157657
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PREFACE

The realm of Arts contains an enormous range of ideas, theories, perceptions, interpretations, critical analysis etc. Keeping this in view, as to make it helpful for the learners of GEMS Arts and Science College, this book titled "Casket Literaria" on Arts analyses a variety of subjects in the best way helping the Learners or faculties art related Research Works and thereby the future course of their Life. This venture can, indeed, ensure an advanced level of supports with selected subjects coming under the Purview of Arts.

Casket Literaria is a collection of varied articles of the well experienced faculties which published under the strict scrutiny of the Expert Committee appointed by the Management Governing Council. Hence quality and relevance on the content of the book have been ensured. The contents includes Social issues, Literature, Creativity, analytical study, views and previews on different matters and so on. Special care also has given to keep the entries correct with the incessant change being taken place in the day today life of the society. Besides, this edition has equally considered the new google generated Era's nature and scope in Art works.

Indeed Art, like life itself, opens the unfathomable depth of the possibilities for any learner or researcher of the coming future as well.

DR. Mohammed Nazeer. K.E.

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DIGITAL DIVIDE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE: UNCOVERING THE LINKAGES IN STUDENT POPULATIONS

Anoos Babu P K
Assistant Professor
Department Of Computer Science

ABSTRACT

The digital divide, characterized by unequal access to and utilization of digital technologies, has emerged as a pressing issue in education. This article explores the linkages between the digital divide and academic performance in student populations. It examines the impact of limited access to information and learning resources, inadequate educational support, insufficient digital literacy skills, challenges with online assignments, and the intersection with socioeconomic factors. The article emphasizes the need for a multi-faceted approach involving infrastructure improvements, device accessibility, digital literacy programs, teacher training, and public-private partnerships to address the digital divide and promote equitable academic opportunities for all students.

INTRODUCTION

In the digital era, access to digital technologies and the internet has become increasingly vital for educational success. However, a significant gap exists in the availability and use of these resources among different student populations, giving rise to the digital divide. This article aims to shed light on the linkages between the digital divide and academic performance, uncovering the challenges faced by students with limited access to digital technologies and the potential consequences for their educational outcomes.

Dr. NAVEEN MOHAN
PRINCIPAL
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The Digital Divide

The digital divide refers to the gap in access to and use of digital technologies, such as computers and the internet, between different individuals and communities. It encompasses both physical access to technology infrastructure and the ability to effectively utilize digital tools for various purposes. The digital divide often manifests along socioeconomic lines, where individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly those in low-income areas, face greater barriers to accessing and benefiting from digital resources. The divide can also be observed in rural areas with limited internet infrastructure. This disparity in access to technology has wide-ranging implications, affecting education, employment opportunities, information access, civic participation, and overall social and economic well-being.

The digital divide has become increasingly significant in today's digitalized world. Those without access to digital technologies are disadvantaged in numerous ways. In education, the digital divide hampers students' ability to fully participate in online learning, access educational resources, and develop digital literacy skills. It exacerbates existing inequalities in academic achievement, limiting opportunities for students to reach their full potential. Moreover, the digital divide impacts economic opportunities, as digital skills and access to online job markets are increasingly essential for employment. Lack of access to technology also limits access to information and services, hindering individuals' ability to engage in online banking, e-commerce, telehealth, and other digitally-driven activities. Bridging the digital divide is therefore crucial for promoting social equity and ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to participate and thrive in the digital age.

The Digital Divide and Academic Performance

The digital divide, characterized by disparities in access to and utilization of digital technologies, has significant implications for academic performance in student populations. Limited access to information and learning resources puts students at a disadvantage, as they struggle to access online

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research materials, digital libraries, and educational websites. This lack of access hampers their ability to stay updated with relevant information and access supplemental learning resources, ultimately affecting their academic performance. Additionally, the digital divide impacts educational support and engagement, as students with limited access miss out on opportunities provided by digital tools such as online tutorials, educational software, and interactive learning platforms. These tools enhance educational support and facilitate engagement, which are critical factors influencing academic performance.

The Digital literacy and skills play a vital role in academic success, and the digital divide poses challenges in this regard. Students who lack exposure to digital technologies and the internet may face difficulties in developing necessary skills such as information searching, critical evaluation, and technological proficiency. Without these skills, students may struggle to conduct research, collaborate effectively with peers, and present their work in a technologically proficient manner. Insufficient digital skills directly impact academic performance, as students may be unable to leverage the full potential of digital tools and platforms to enhance their learning experience.

Online assignments and homework have become commonplace in education, but the digital divide can hinder students' ability to complete and submit these tasks. Students without reliable access to digital tools may struggle to participate in online discussions, submit assignments on time, or access online learning platforms. Incomplete work and missed opportunities for interaction can significantly impact academic performance. Moreover, the digital divide intersects with socioeconomic factors, as students from low-income households are more likely to experience limited access to digital technologies. This creates an additional layer of inequality, as students from disadvantaged backgrounds face greater obstacles in accessing resources necessary for academic success, further widening the academic achievement gap.

»The linkages between the digital divide and academic performance in student populations are multifaceted and interconnected. Limited access to information and learning

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resources, inadequate educational support, insufficient digital literacy skills, challenges with online assignments, and socioeconomic factors all contribute to disparities in academic achievement. Addressing the digital divide requires comprehensive efforts to improve infrastructure, enhance device accessibility, provide digital literacy programs, offer teacher training, and foster collaborations between various stakeholders. By bridging the digital divide, educational institutions can promote equitable opportunities for all students, ensuring they have the necessary tools and resources to succeed academically in the digital age.

» **Access to Information and Learning Resources:** The digital divide affects students' ability to access and utilize a wealth of information and learning resources available online. This can put them at a disadvantage compared to their peers who have unrestricted access. Students lacking reliable access may struggle to retrieve online research materials, access e-books and digital libraries, and leverage educational websites. Consequently, their academic performance may suffer due to limited access to up-to-date information and supplemental learning resources.

» **Educational Support and Engagement:** Digital technologies offer numerous tools and platforms that can enhance educational support and engagement. However, students without adequate access may miss out on opportunities to benefit from online tutorials, educational software, and interactive learning platforms. Limited engagement with these resources can hamper understanding of complex concepts, participation in collaborative activities, understanding of the material and overall academic performance.

» **Digital Literacy and Skills:** Proficiency in using digital technologies is increasingly essential for academic success and future employment. Students with limited exposure to digital tools and the internet may lack proficiency in crucial areas such as information searching, critical evaluation, and technological

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competence. Insufficient digital skills can impede their ability to conduct research, collaborate effectively, and present their work, ultimately impacting their academic performance.

» **Homework and Online Assignments:** With the integration of technology in education, many assignments and homework tasks are now conducted online. Students without reliable access to digital tools may face challenges in completing and submitting assignments, leading to incomplete work and lower grades. Inability to participate in online discussions, submit assignments on time, or access online learning platforms can directly hinder academic performance.

» **Socioeconomic Factors:** The digital divide often intersects with socioeconomic factors. Students from low-income households are more likely to experience limited access to digital technologies and the internet at home, exacerbating the gap in academic performance between students from different socioeconomic backgrounds. This disparity highlights the urgent need to address socioeconomic inequalities alongside the digital divide to promote educational equity.

The digital divide refers to the gap in access to and use of digital technologies, such as computers and the internet, between different groups of people, particularly along socioeconomic and geographic lines. Academic performance refers to a student's achievements in their educational pursuits, including grades, test scores, and overall educational outcomes. Understanding the linkages between the digital divide and academic performance in student populations is an important area of research and policy concern.

Addressing the linkages between the digital divide and academic performance requires a multi-faceted approach:

a. Infrastructure and Connectivity: Efforts should be made to improve internet access and digital infrastructure in underserved areas, particularly in schools and public institutions, to ensure equal opportunities for all students.

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b. Access to Devices: Initiatives providing students with laptops, tablets, or other digital devices can help bridge the divide and ensure equitable access to technology.

c. Digital Literacy Programs: Educational institutions should prioritize digital literacy programs to equip students with the necessary skills to navigate the digital world effectively.

d. Teacher Training: Educators should receive training on integrating digital tools into their teaching practices and leveraging technology to support students' learning.

e. Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration between governments, educational institutions, and private organizations can help mobilize resources and implement comprehensive strategies to address the digital divide and its impact on academic performance.

By addressing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to digital technologies and resources, educational institutions can help create a level playing field for students, promoting better academic performance and opportunities for all.

CONCLUSION

Uncovering the linkages between the digital divide and academic performance in student populations highlights the urgent need for comprehensive interventions. Improving infrastructure and connectivity, ensuring device accessibility, promoting digital literacy programs, providing teacher training, and fostering public-private partnerships are essential steps to bridge the digital divide and promote equitable academic opportunities for all students. By addressing this divide, educational institutions can help create a level playing field, fostering improved academic performance and empowering students to thrive in the digital age.

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