Digitalization of Higher Education

Iskhakova Sarvar Ayubovna

Associate Professor of the Department of Digital Economy SamIES, (PhD)

isarvar@yandex.ru

Abstract: *The article considers the issues of digitalization of the education system at the present stage of development of society. The author formulates the main directions of digitalization and substantiates the social effects of digitalization, such as increasing openness, flexibility of education, increasing student involvement in the learning process, developing a network model of interaction between universities, etc. Attention is drawn to some shortcomings of digitalization of higher education.*

Keywords: *higher education, digitalization, blended education, online education, virtual educational environment.*

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan is implementing comprehensive measures to actively develop the digital economy. The Strategy "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" adopted in the republic provides for the active introduction of digital technologies in all spheres of life, including higher education.[1]

The use of digital technologies in the educational space is the leading goal of professional education, which makes it possible to develop the competitive qualities of students on the way to becoming highly qualified specialists.

Uzbekistan has set itself the goal of joining the ranks of developed countries and for this it is necessary to carry out accelerated reforms based on science, education and innovation. And first of all, for this, deep attention should be paid to the education of a new formation of personnel who are the initiators of reforms, possessing a strategic vision, deep knowledge and high qualifications. In this regard, the republic has begun the process of reforming all levels of education - from preschool to higher education.

Digital educational technologies are an innovative way of organizing the educational process based on the use of electronic systems that provide visibility. The purpose of using digital technologies is to improve the quality, efficiency of the educational process, as well as the successful socialization of students.

Among the reasons for the development of digital technologies in the higher education system, many researchers highlight the reduction of the classroom load and the increase in the share of independent work. Therefore, in order to maintain and improve the quality of education, digital educational technologies are actively introduced to ensure interaction between the teacher and the student to promptly eliminate gaps in student learning.

Among the possibilities of digital technologies in preparing students, the following can be noted:

➢ increasing the mobility of completing assignments and studying materials;

➢ increasing student motivation;

➢ individualization of the learning process;

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[1] Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On approval of the strategy "Digital Uzbekistan-2030" and measures for its effective implementation dated 05.10.2020 No. UP-6079.

- ➢ increasing the visibility of materials;
- ➢ providing prompt feedback to the teacher;
- ➢ ensuring instant access of students to the results immediately after completing the assignment.

Digital technologies are an integral part of society, so they are easily integrated into the learning process, since students are accustomed to using various electronic means in their own lives and this facilitates their work with various electronic tools and provides the opportunity for easier perception of information and assimilation of materials.

Digital technologies make it possible to differentiate the learning process, build it in accordance with the needs of each individual student, give assignments that correspond to the level of preparation and thus improve the quality of learning. The use of digital tools helps to create conditions in which the student becomes an active subject of the educational process. From passive perception, he moves to active actions and gets involved in completing assignments.

Among the main types of digital technologies, the following can be distinguished: mobile learning, cloud technology, online courses, etc. Currently, mobile learning technology is most in demand in the field of education. Thanks to its use, the opportunity for the most convenient and productive collaboration and knowledge sharing appears. Subjects of the educational process can exchange material remotely, transfer mobile devices within a student group using wireless networks. Cloud technologies have convenient network access, allow you to store a large amount of information and make it possible to use it with minimal management efforts, i.e. the cloud allows you to distribute, process and store data. Thus, thanks to this technology, teachers and students can carry out group, team activities remotely. For example, prepare home group research projects, reports, presentations, where each student is responsible for their own section of the academic work, but can edit and change other blocks. Cloud technology can be used on the basis of distance learning. For example, a teacher in the electronic system of a university can post assignments, practical work and other written assignments, where the student's task is reduced to completing exercises in a document created by the teacher. These can be assignments of the following type: fill in a table or gaps in the text, answer questions or continue a thought. As the work is completed, the teacher checks the assignments, since he has access to the document.

The next digital educational technology is online courses, which are provided to students for use remotely. A distinctive feature and advantage of this technology is its personal-oriented focus. Training is carried out at any time convenient for the student, allowing them to receive qualified training in various areas in the most convenient form for the student. The advantage of this technology is that students, based on their individual abilities, can devote as much time to studying the material as they need to understand and remember, and can also return to the material at any time to repeat the topic.

However, there are also some disadvantages of online education - its focus on meeting short-term or, at best, medium-term objectives. A specialist who has mastered a limited set of knowledge, without fundamental basic training, can only count on intellectual "superstructures", the stability of which is illusory. To a certain extent, this is facilitated by the abundance and availability of information, the ability to quickly search for it at the user's request. In addition, the redundancy of information often leads to its superficial perception, significantly increasing the susceptibility of students who turn to the Internet, destructive attitudes and the risks of manipulation of consciousness. In our opinion, the digitalization of education should not mean a complete rejection of the classical form of education. Today, it is necessary to seek an optimal balance between them.[2]

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[2] Farxodjonova N.F. Modernization and globalization as historical stages of human integration // Theory and practice of modern science. – 2018. – №. 3. – С. 16-19.

The advantages of digital technologies in the educational space are the individualization of the educational process, the personality-oriented focus. Thus, education reaches a new level, where the priority is not only the fulfillment of program requirements, but also taking into account the interests and individual abilities of students. The use of digital educational technologies expands the horizons of students, opens up new opportunities for obtaining knowledge in the most structured and understandable form.

Among the advantages, one can also highlight the minimization of paperwork, simplification of teaching activities and student training. Students develop practical skills.

It should also be noted that with the use of information technology, the role of the teacher is being transformed: new competencies are being added to those that have been inherent in this profession for centuries. The availability and quantity of information is constantly growing, and it is very important to be able to work with it. In addition, the development of "flexible" skills is becoming relevant.

An important factor influencing the speed of digitalization of higher education is the availability of the Internet, information and communication technologies for people. As the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev noted in his message: "Modern information technologies must be introduced at all stages of the education system." And an important point in this should be the fastest possible completion of the connection to high-speed Internet networks of all cities and regional centers, all villages and mahallas.[3]

Thus, the use of digital technologies allows higher education to reach a qualitatively new level, characterized by the accessibility of knowledge, to a personalized and result-oriented educational process.

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