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THE ROLE OF IT EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The growth and application of IT education are becoming more important to the digitalization of higher education institutions (HEIs). The role of IT education becomes crucial as universities embed digital technologies into teaching, learning, and administration. This is not only for future IT professionals but also for all students and teachers who need to adjust to new digital environments. IT education allows for growth and development of the basic baseline of digital competencies necessary to tap into learning management systems, cloud applications, and analytical platforms [3, p. 278].

Teachers' and learners' ability to comprehend and utilize digital resources for learning and collaboration is one of the most significant advantages of IT education. Students who learn cybersecurity, data analysis, or basic programming, say, become more comfortable working with technology in a secure and innovative way. IT-trained educators are also better placed to create dynamic online courses, utilize AI-powered grading and feedback tools, and deliver more interactive learning experiences. Greater engagement, enhanced learning outcomes, and a more fluid approach to learning follow [1, p. 2].

In addition, IT education promotes the trend of personalized learning. The student can use digital tools to study at his or her own speed, follow tailored learning paths, and monitor his or her own progress. Conversely, teachers can use data from online learning systems to determine areas of strength and weakness for students and provide one-on-one teaching. The teacher's role is also changing as a result of this data-based learning process; teachers now serve more as facilitators than as lecturers.

But all the benefits come with drawbacks. Because not everyone is

equally equipped to access top IT education and hardware, the digital divide is an increasingly serious issue. This could lead to disparities in learning prospects and results. Another drawback is that students and instructors could be swamped by the rapid digital transformation without adequate training and assistance. Without proper IT education, the majority of people would struggle to adapt to digital systems or not reap the full benefits from them [2, p. 4].

In order for seamless digitalization of HEIs, IT education must be integrated in the overall curriculum and dealt with at the organizational level. That is, instilling technical know-how alongside critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical literacy in the domain of digital technology.

In my opinion, IT education is among the drivers of the digital revolution in the world of higher education. IT education fills the gap between digital society needs and conventional education paradigms. IT education provides technological innovations a way to reach learning, accessibility, and innovation by equipping educators and learners with the necessary skills. Accordingly, as part of their future digital strategy, institutions need to put IT education first and continue investing in it.

To put it another way, learning technology is only one aspect of IT education. It's about getting educators and learners ready for the digital age. These abilities are necessary for everyone to stay up to date and succeed as our educational system becomes more and more dependent on technology. In addition to being a means of advancing one's technical skills, IT education can help one become more comfortable navigating unfamiliar digital environments. Institutions will be in a better position to provide more individualized, interesting, and accessible learning experiences if they give IT education top priority. More flexibility in the way education is delivered is also made possible by this change, enabling students to access resources from any location, learn at their own speed, and collaborate in previously unthinkable ways.

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