



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN HIGHER EDUCATION: A FOOTSTEP FOR FUTURE

Nitu Singh^{1*} and Aarti Malhosia²

¹Department of Physics, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

²Department of Home Science, Govt. Geetanjali Girls PG College, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Email: nituyana@gmail.com



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¹Department of Physics, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

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Email: nituyana@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The trend of digitalization has progressed rapidly, and technology is becoming integrated into all aspects of our lives, providing lighter services, faster and less expensive communication, more functions, and having a significant impact on improving the quality of life. Higher education is a vital part of building the new knowledge economy today, and national authorities in most countries are working strategically towards the digitalization of higher education. All institutions, universities, and colleges are increasingly leveraging digital technology to move towards digital learning, as it is easier to plan effectively in a short time. Digital technology allows higher education all platforms to offer a wider variety of courses to more students and provide them with support that would otherwise be difficult to deliver in a classroom setting. Digital technology also facilitates education by addressing the shortage of quality teachers and tailoring curriculum to what employers want in graduates. In developed countries, digitization of education is considered one of the essential goals for achieving sustainable development. Higher education is a vital pillar of the new knowledge economy for the twenty-first century.

The author has elaborated through this article that successful digital higher education requires a comprehensive strategic vision and consistent institutional support. Digital education is seen as a key driver of structural and pedagogical change in higher education..

Keywords: Digital technology, higher education, digitization, development, knowledge, strategic etc.

INTRODUCTION

Improving human life and overall quality of life has a significant impact on educational reforms. To fully digitize and improve the education system, technological upgrades are essential. Updates depend on technology values and expertise, instructor experience with digital technology in the classroom, administrative and technical support, cultural and social aspects, and class size. The process of digitizing education has the potential to revolutionize classroom practice, making learning easier, outcomes more effective, personalized, engaging, and easily future-proof. Digitization will make education accessible to everyone, especially those excluded from traditional learning methods [1-2].

In this twenty-first century, due to the rapid development of technology, there are clear changes taking place in higher education, and the main reason for this change is the promotion of technology [3]. Digital technology changes have transformed long-standing teaching methods. The advent of new tools in the academic space is changing the way knowledge is shared and acquired in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The advent of digital technology has brought about profound changes in the way students and

teachers around the world understand and deliver education. Both before and after the pandemic, digital technology has revolutionized the field of education, regardless of the higher education institution [4-5].

This research paper, the authors will outline the key aspects of digital technology adoption in higher education. Higher education plays a vital role in building and enhancing the knowledge economy and workforce. The primary contribution of this paper is to summarize the challenges and opportunities of digital education and digital technology in higher education.

Digital Technology

Digital technology refers to electronic tools, systems, and devices that process, store, and transmit data using binary number (0 and 1). This technology includes computers, software, smartphones, and networks that convert information into digital signals for high-speed, precise manipulation. Digital technologies permeate and restructure all facets of economic and social activities [6]. From communication to entertainment, its impact is clearly visible in all parts of society; all this is the effect of the revolution of digital technology. It is the most

common digital technology used in everyday life in India and abroad. The Minister of Science and Technology has promulgated Circular 31/2025/TT-BKHCN (Circular 31) on a list of key digital technology products and services, which are shown in Figure 1. According to Circular 31, 10 groups of key digital technology products and services have been identified [7]. Digital technology isn't limited to the classroom; it's rapidly making its way into the field of education. This technology allows students and

teachers to connect and collaborate remotely, creating immense opportunities for education worldwide. The interconnected relationships between IABCD technologies (Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, and Big Data) are shown in Figure 2, highlighting their close integration and potential for synergy. These technologies form a synergistic ecosystem that is driving digital transformation across industries [8].

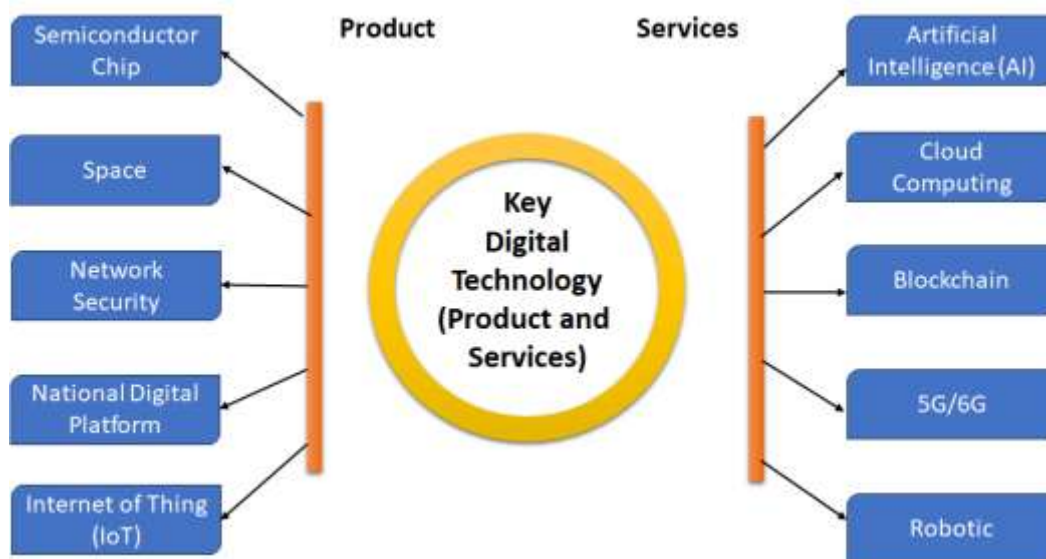


Figure 1: List of 10 groups of key digital technology products and services

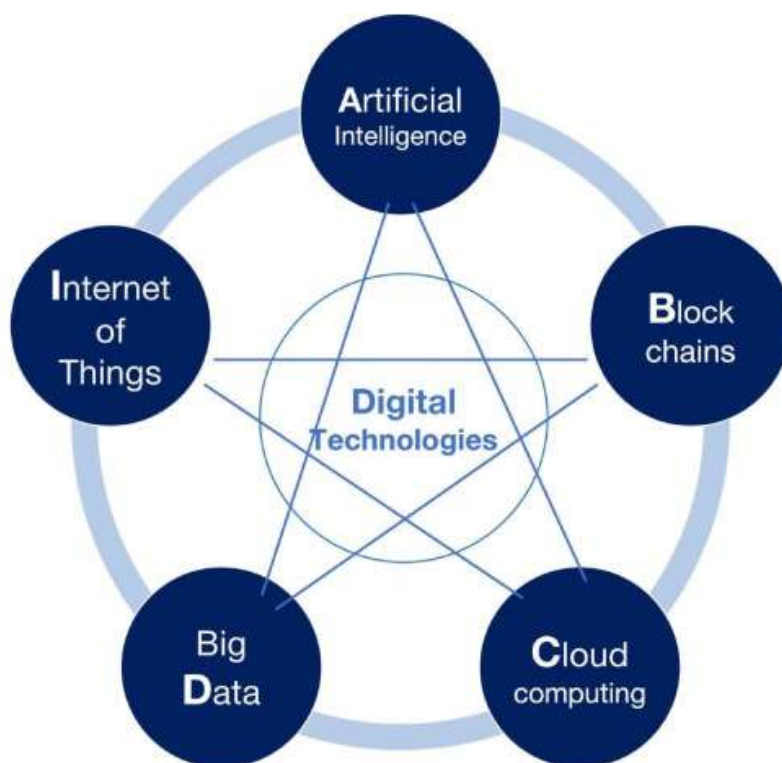


Figure 2: Interconnected ecosystem of digital technologies [8]

Digital Education

The innovative use of digital technologies and tools in basic and higher education is known as digital education. Digital technology is a key component of teaching and learning in academia today [9]. Technological advancements such as computers, cell phones, and the Internet have significantly impacted the cognitive styles of organizations and individuals, primarily affecting their relationships with knowledge, expertise, and operating practices [10]. Using digital education will help students access information, knowledge, and content at any time. Higher education institutions offer digital computer-based platforms that facilitate education, which facilitate the virtual organization of instruction and learning at the organizational and managerial levels.

Benefits of Digital Education

Digital learning (digital education) offers flexibility, personalized pacing, and, compared to traditional education, lower costs, making learning easier for students. This education enhances engagement through interactive, up-to-date, and diverse resources, improving knowledge retention and accessibility for most learners [11-12]. There are several benefits of digital education in the 21st century.

Key advantages or benefits of digital education:-

- **Access to high-quality Education:** In this changing era, digital education provides access to high-quality educational resources through technology, online platforms, and interactive content.
- **Personalized Learning:** Adaptable digital tools for digital education can suit everyone's learning style, speed, and preferences.
- **Flexibility and Convenience:** Students can access learning materials and resources anytime and anywhere with an internet connection. Digital education has proven to be flexible for students with busy schedules who want to learn at their own pace.
- **Enhanced Engagement and Interactivity:** Multimedia content and interactive tools make learning more interesting for students and teachers than traditional methods.

- **Improved Collaboration:** Digital education is facilitating easy collaboration through digital tools, virtual group work, discussion forums, and communication with peers and instructors.
- **Real-Time Feedback:** Instant, automated assessments help students track their performance and quickly identify areas that need improvement.

History of Digital Technology in Education

The history of digital technology in education began in the 1970s and 80s and has evolved from ubiquitous computer-assisted learning to internet-driven and mobile-first learning environments by the 2020s. The Internet's significant role in higher education began to develop in the 1990s. The advent of online resources, educational websites, and learning management systems (LMS) opened up new opportunities for online collaboration [13-14].

Digital technology took root in higher education in the early 2000s, with the emergence of new e-learning platforms, such as Moodle, and online course delivery platforms.

Technology Eras History: -

- **1970s–1980s Eras History:** The 1970s–1980s saw the introduction of handheld calculators (1972), the Scantron system for grading, and basic word processing and personal computers.
- **1990s (The Internet Age or connected technologies):** In the 1990s, the World Wide Web made access to information easier, greatly transforming research and communication in higher education.
- **2000s (Digital Technology & E-Learning):** The 2000s saw a revolution in education, with the rise of interactive whiteboards (IWBs), learning management systems (LMS) such as Moodle (2000), and massive open online courses (MOOCs) such as Coursera.
- **2010s (Mobile and Digital Learning):** By the 2010s, smartphones, tablets, and social media had become integral to everyday learning, facilitating on-the-go study and the download of study materials.
- **2020–Present:** From 2020 to now, the shift to remote learning, virtual classrooms, and digital assessment tools has accelerated the normalization.

Need of Digital Technology in Education

Types of Digital Technology in Education

The vision of education is to facilitate learning and growth using digital technology in higher education. Numerous Tools and platforms have been created to facilitate learning through digital technology [15].

Different types of Digital Technology in Education shown in Figure 3. Some of the most common and effective ways digital technology is used in the education system today are as follows:



Fig. 3: Different types of Digital Technology in Education

- **Interactive Learning Software:** Interactive learning software, including educational applications, simulations, and games, is designed to engage students while teaching them important concepts [16]. Such software fosters curiosity, provides an immersive learning experience, and facilitates a deeper understanding of subjects.
- **Learning Management Systems (LMS):** LMS platforms facilitate easy communication between students and teachers. Learning Management Systems are a vital part of digital technology in higher education, transforming and engaging the learning process, and have the power to complement learning and teaching at colleges.
- **Smart Classroom Solutions:** Smart classrooms are equipped with digital technology as the devices that these smart classrooms can be based on involve – Interactive Digital boards, Smart TVs, Digital White Boards, or smart projectors.
- **E-Learning Platforms:** E-learning platform is a digital platform designed to manage, deliver, and track educational courses, training programs, and multimedia content.
- **Mobile Learning Tools:** Mobile learning tools are applications and platforms designed for on-the-go learning that utilize smartphones for flexible, compact, and interactive learning.
- **Digital Libraries:** Digital collection or digital Library is an online database of digital resources that can include text, still images, audio, video,

digital documents, or other digital media formats or accessible to a library. Smart ICT labs based on tablets, notebooks, and Android laptops are used for teaching.

- **Learning Analytics:** Digital technology is what proves the legitimacy and effectiveness of digital technology in education. It can also be called learning analytics. It involves collecting and analysing data related to student performance and engagement.
- **Data Analytics:** Educational data analytics tools help colleges and institutions monitor and analyze student performance. These tools identify learning gaps and provide clues about teaching effectiveness.
- **Digital Assessments:** Digital assessment tools include practice sets, quizzes, and assessments conducted using digital tools such as tablets, mobile phones, or laptops. Digital technology in education helps teachers better monitor student performance and identify areas where improvement is needed.

Applications of digital technologies in education

Digital technology in education is an interactive tool that enhances learning through personalized, accelerated, and remote access to resources via modern devices such as laptops and tablets. Digital technology enhances student engagement through multimedia and improves teacher efficiency with LMS platforms that support special needs. Digital technology is a powerful tool that can help improve education in many ways, such as making instructional materials easier for instructors and promoting student learning and engagement [17]. Today, with the worldwide spread of the Internet and its many connected intelligent devices, a new era has arrived in which teachers can harness the power of advanced digital technology to revolutionize education, making effective and quality learning accessible to everyone, everywhere [18-19]. Digital learning fosters creativity and helps students succeed, encouraging them to think and learn outside of traditional methods. The success of all countries in adopting remote learning technologies using a combination of TV, radio, online, and mobile platforms is commendable [20]. The significant applications of digital technologies in education shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Digital technologies applications in education [21].

S.No.	Application Area	Key Technologies/Tools	Specific Uses in Education
1	Learning Management	LMS (Canvas, Moodle, Google Classroom), Blackboard	Organizing course materials, distributing assignments, tracking student progress.
2	Immersive Learning	Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR)	Virtual field trips, complex 3D simulations (science/math), interactive visual learning.
3	Personalized Learning	Artificial Intelligence (AI), Adaptive Learning Platforms	Tailored learning paths, AI tutoring, immediate feedback based on student pace.
4	Content Delivery	Educational Apps, Webinars, E-books, Podcasts	Access to diverse digital resources, self-paced learning, interactive educational content.
5	Collaboration	Cloud Storage (Drive/OneDrive), Video Conferencing (Zoom)	Real-time group projects, remote/hybrid classroom interaction, shared documents.
6	Assessment	Online Quiz Tools, Data Analytics, Digital Portfolios	Automated grading, identifying learning gaps through data, real-time performance tracking.
7	Gamification	Educational Games, Leaderboards, Digital Badges	Increasing student motivation and engagement through game design elements.
8	Inclusivity	Text-to-Speech, Screen Readers, Translation Tools	Enhancing accessibility for students with disabilities or language barriers.

Digital Technology Platform for Learning

Digital technology platforms deliver flexible, personalized learning, and bridge geographic gaps through online, mobile-accessible, and interactive tools. Digital learning platforms are web- or app-based systems—such as LMSs, virtual classrooms, and MOOCs—that provide interactive tools, courses, and assessments for educational or corporate training. Learning platforms improve accessibility, promote skill development, and enable personalized, remote education [22-25].

Types of Digital Technology Platform

- **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):** The most popular MOOC platforms offer a diverse range of courses from various universities—courses that are often available either for free or at a low cost (e.g., Coursera, edX).
- **Skill-Based/Corporate Training:** Skill-based corporate training is a strategic and results-

oriented approach to employee development, the primary objective of which is to enhance job performance, retain employees, foster business agility, and build measurable competencies.

- **Government-Supported Platforms:** Government-supported digital platforms in India, primarily under the Ministry of Education, provide free, high-quality, and accessible education for school and higher education. Important initiatives focused on the accessibility of education (such as SWAYAM and Digital India LMS, ePathshala, PM eVidya).

The continuous updating of digital learning platforms implies that it has become remarkably easy for schools, colleges, or governments to invest in technology that becomes obsolete very rapidly; Table 2 illustrates the evolution and updates of this technology, thereby facilitating an easy understanding of the changes involved.

S.No.	Old Technology Platform	Digital Technology Platform
1	Mastery of basic skills and knowledge delivered by an expert	Seemingly unlimited knowledge available via the world wide web
2	Factory model of schooling; physical classrooms	Learning anywhere, anyhow, anytime
3	Textbooks and encyclopaedias	Internet based information and Wikipedia

The Future of Digital Technology

The digital future of digital technology is an important part of current education and higher studies. The future of digital technology will be even more exciting, as the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) in this era will usher in a new phase of innovation, infusing teachers and students alike with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Since the launch of ChatGPT, artificial intelligence has garnered increasing attention and resources, highlighting its significant potential for future development. Digital technology exerts its impact on the real world through collaboration. Consequently, it can be expected that closely interconnected technologies—such as the Internet of Things, blockchain, cloud computing, and big data—will also witness significant growth.

CONCLUSION

This research study indicates that by expanding access to digital technology, supporting flexible learning pathways, and enabling data-driven decision-making, there is the potential to significantly enhance the quality of higher education—a transformation that ushers in a new revolution in educational quality for educators. Various studies, findings, and scientific perspectives indicate that the success of the digital era depends on institutional readiness, a stable technical infrastructure, and the digital competencies of educators.

This study outlines the key enabling technologies, platforms, types of applications, formats of digital education, and benefits of digital education associated with digital transformation in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In India, the government has launched several schemes to support digital learning through policies like NEP 2020, including platforms like MOOCs, SWAYAM, and NPTEL. Quality education can be easily delivered to higher education institutions through these platforms.

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