# **OPEN ACCESS**

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 1

Month: December

Year: 2023

P-ISSN: 2320-2645

E-ISSN: 2582-3531

Received: 15.10.2023

Accepted: 05.12.2023

Published: 14.12.2023

## Citation:

Prabakaran, N. "Shaping New Humanity through Connectivity and Empowerment by Digital Education." *Shanlax International Journal of English*, vol. 12, no. S1, 2023, pp. 463–65.

#### DOI:

https://doi.org/10.34293/ rtdh.v12iS1-Dec.132

# Shaping New Humanity through Connectivity and Empowerment by Digital Education

## Dr. N. Prabakaran

Guest Faculty in English, Department of English Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai

### Abstract

Digital education is rapidly transforming the way individuals across the world access education. This article discusses the significance of digital education in shaping a new humanity through increased accessibility, flexibility, and personalized learning experiences. It highlights the benefits of digital education, including expanded opportunities for lifelong learning, enhanced global collaboration, and improved educational outcomes. Additionally, this article delves into the challenges associated with digital education, such as the digital divide and the need for digital literacy. By harnessing the potential of digital education, we can pave the way for a future where education is available to all, fostering a new humanity that is empowered, connected, and ready to face the challenges of the digital age. Hence, this paper analyses the main ideas of shaping neo state of humanity through digital education. Keywords: Digital Education, Lifelong Learning, Global, Collaboration, Education, Outcomes.

## Introduction

Education has long been considered the cornerstone of human development and progress. In the digital age, technology has given rise to a new paradigm in education – digital education. Digital education refers to the use of digital tools and technologies to deliver and enhance learning experiences. It has transformed the educational landscape, offering immense possibilities for a new humanity that is interconnected, empowered, and equipped with the skills necessary to thrive in the digital era.

# **Digital Education**

Digital education, also known as eLearning, has revolutionized the way we learn and acquire knowledge. With the advancement of technology, the traditional methods of education have been transformed into engaging and interactive experiences that transcend the boundaries of time and space. This essay will discuss the benefits and challenges of digital education, as well as its impact on students and teachers. One of the greatest advantages of digital education is accessibility. With online platforms and mobile applications, learning can take place anytime and anywhere. This is particularly useful for individuals who may not have the opportunity to attend physical classrooms, such as students living in remote areas or working professionals. Digital education breaks down barriers and provides equal access to education for all, regardless of their

# Recent Trends in Digital Humanities: A Focus on Language and Literature

geographical location or socioeconomic status. Furthermore, it allows students to learn at their own pace and revisit materials as many times as they need, enhancing their comprehension and retention of knowledge. Judith and Conrad quotes:

Why is presence so important in the online environment? When faculty actively interact and engage students in a face-to-face classroom, the class evolves as a group and develops intellectual and personal bonds. The same type of community bonding happens in an online setting if the faculty presence is felt consistently. (Judith V. Boettcher & Rita-Marie Conrad, 2016)

In addition to accessibility, digital education offers a wide range of resources and multimedia content. Students have access to an unlimited amount of information, from educational videos and interactive simulations to online textbooks and virtual laboratories. This plethora of resources allows students to explore different perspectives and gain a deeper understanding of complex concepts. Moreover, digital education promotes active learning and critical thinking through gamification and interactive activities, making the learning process more engaging and stimulating.

Digital education also empowers the individual learner. It encourages self-directed learning, enabling students to take responsibility for their education and develop their own learning strategies. With digital tools and resources, students have the freedom to choose what they want to learn, when they want to learn it, and how they want to learn it. This personalized approach to education fosters independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love for learning. However, despite its numerous benefits, digital education comes with its own set of challenges. One of the main concerns is the lack of human interaction and socialization. Traditional education provides a platform for students to interact with their peers and teachers, fostering teamwork, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. Digital education, on the other hand, can be isolating and impersonal, as students do not have the same level of face-to-face interaction. To mitigate this challenge, online learning platforms are incorporating discussion forums, group projects, and virtual classrooms to facilitate collaboration and socialization among students.

Another challenge of digital education is the digital divide. Not all individuals have access to the necessary technology and internet connection required for digital learning. This disparity in access to resources may exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities. It is crucial for governments and educational institutions to bridge this divide by providing affordable and reliable internet access and devices to all individuals, especially those from marginalized communities. Many scholars have evinced their ideas on virtual schooling and its facets. Michael and Reeves says:

The benefits associated with virtual schooling are expanding educational access, providing high-quality learning opportunities, improving student outcomes and skills, allowing for educational choice, and achieving administrative efficiency. However, the research to support these conjectures is limited at best. The challenges associated with virtual schooling include the conclusion that the only students typically successful in online learning environments are those who have independent orientations towards learning, highly motivated by intrinsic sources, and have strong time management, literacy, and technology skills. (Michael K. Barbour & Thomas C. Reeves, 2009)

Digital education has revolutionized the way we acquire knowledge, making it more accessible, engaging, and personalized. It empowers learners to take control of their own education and provides a wealth of resources and multimedia content. However, it also comes with challenges such as the lack of human interaction and the digital divide. By addressing these challenges, digital education can continue to evolve and enhance the learning experience for students and teachers alike. There are five important areas to strengthen digital education. Through these ways, digital education can help the future learners in a digital way. They are:

- Increased Accessibility
- Flexibility and Personalized Learning
- Lifelong Learning Opportunities

- Enhanced Global Collaboration
- Improved Educational Outcomes

## **Increased Accessibility**

Digital education has broken down barriers to education, making it accessible to individuals regardless of geographical location, socio-economic status, or physical limitations. Online platforms and courses have opened up opportunities for individuals who previously lacked access to quality education. Learners can now access educational resources and connect with experts from around the world, contributing to a more inclusive and egalitarian society.

## Flexibility and Personalized Learning

Digital education affords learners the flexibility to design their own learning experiences based on their interests, pace, and preferred learning style. Through adaptive learning technologies, learners receive personalized content and feedback tailored to their individual needs, facilitating a more effective and engaging learning process. This enables learners to acquire skills and knowledge in a way that is most suitable for them, ensuring the development of a well-rounded new humanity.

## **Lifelong Learning Opportunities**

Digital education is not limited to traditional formal education systems; it also offers extensive opportunities for continuing education and lifelong learning. Through online courses, webinars, and digital resources, individuals can acquire new skills, update existing knowledge, and pursue their passions throughout their lives. This promotes a culture of lifelong learning, essential for keeping pace with the rapidly evolving demands of the digital world.

## **Enhanced Global Collaboration**

Digital education has fostered global collaboration among learners and educators. Through virtual classrooms, discussion boards, and collaborative projects, individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds can come together to exchange ideas, share perspectives, and collaborate on solving global challenges. This increased interconnectedness promotes cultural understanding, empathy, and cooperation, contributing to the development of a more tolerant and harmonious new humanity.

## **Improved Educational Outcomes**

Digital education has the potential to significantly improve educational outcomes. Adaptive learning technologies, data analytics, and artificial intelligence can identify learners' strengths, weaknesses, and learning patterns, allowing educators to provide targeted support and interventions. This leads to better understanding, engagement, and retention of knowledge, ultimately enhancing overall educational outcomes

## Conclusion

Digital education is revolutionizing the education sector, offering unprecedented opportunities for a new humanity. By increasing access to education, fostering flexibility and personalized learning experiences, promoting lifelong learning, facilitating global collaboration, and improving educational outcomes, digital education is shaping a future where education is available to all. However, it is crucial to address the challenges associated with digital education, such as the digital divide and the need for digital literacy, to ensure that no one is left behind. By harnessing the potential of digital education, we can build a new humanity that is equipped with the skills, knowledge, and mindset required to navigate and thrive in the digital age.