Digital Media in Education - Comparative Analysis of Formal and Non-Formal Education in Georgia

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Abstract:- **The paper deals with the increased involvement of digital media in the educational process due to Covid -19 Pandemic. This can be understood in different ways - a process of finding information or displaying visible information using various information diagrams through technological and digital levers.**

The article considers the factors of information retrieval and targeted use of digital media: ways and satisfaction of students receiving non-formal education; digital and social media platforms they choose to search for/share the information they need; how effectively and consciously they use them; effectiveness of online learning and student satisfaction with online education, and how Covid-19 pandemic contributed to the involvement of digital media in education.

The research was conducted in the Republic of Georgia. Students and representatives of universities were interviewed. The findings of the research concluded that the use of digital media in the educational process is important to a large part of respondents, because they believe the knowledge and experience offered by the universities is not enough to gain practical experience and that's why they often use digital media platforms.

The importance of the research topic stems from the recent changes, when during the Covid-19 pandemic it became necessary to switch to distance learning, which completely changed the methods of using digital media in teaching. On the one hand, the rapid transformation of the educational environment using digital technologies has shown the practical importance of distance learning, but on the other hand, the introduction of distance learning is accompanied by challenges, including the scarcity of specific digital skills by implementers and problems with computer and online resources.

By reading the results, you will have some idea about formal and non-formal education in Georgia, and the attitude of respondents (students and HEI representatives) about the positive and negative sides of each. The results also show the impact that pandemic made on the educational process, how the universities coped with the adopted changes.

Keywords:- Education, Digital Media, Digital Technologies, Online Learning.

I.   INTRODUCTION

The XXI century without modern technologies is unimaginable. In this time our lives are in direct contact with digital technology, the social network. For almost a decade, the whole world, especially developed countries, have been trying to introduce information technologies in various fields, including education. The pace of technology development and refinement is constantly increasing in line with demand, and the demand itself is driven by the fact that the society of developed countries is already well aware of the role of information technology.

We live in a rapidly evolving environment that offers lots of news and opportunities on a daily basis. First of all, these unique opportunities relate to the advancement of social media, which has visibly encompassed the world of modern education. In general, the term "social media" refers to a number of activities that involve socializing and networking through words, images, and videos. To some extent, it is a two-way discussion that brings people together to discover and share information, interests and ideas with each other. (Preeti. 2013-14.175-177). Social media includes a wide range of tools that combine technology and social interactions. (Faizi, Afia, & Chiheb. 2013. 50) .

The education system in Europe, the United States, and several other countries is actively seeking to promote the effective use of information technology for children from an early age. (Sikharulidze. 2017. Use of information technologies in educational space.)

As for the involvement of digital technologies and media and its impact on education, the education sector has benefited greatly from technological progress. Fast and large-scale printing technology and e-learning have its small benefits. The Internet is an excellent source of information for updating and deepening knowledge. The technologies themselves are creating new jobs for people. (XX. Technology and development).

Digital media has long been a part of everyday life and university teaching. It helps us to book different courses, in the case of higher education institutions, helps students to choose the subjects they want, to generate and plan training courses, exams and more. In addition, there is digital and social media, which is an integral part of human / student life. The process of imparting and receiving knowledge is highly dependent on one's cognitive abilities. From the very beginning, education is influenced by various factors such as social, economic, political, digital media and technology. One of the most important things mentioned is digital media. Over

the last fifty years, digital media has developed significantly and has had a major impact on the education system. Digital media and technology are fully integrated into the lives of students. (Ammad-ud-din, Mikkonen, Pinjamaa. 2014.)

Although online education is not a novelty, its intensive and active use in Georgia began only in 2020, when the spread of Covid-19 left no other alternative to the higher education system and was forced to make large-scale changes immediately, plan the learning process in a short time, choose a platform with the help of which they would be able to conduct online lectures, and then generate and manage exams. The Covid-19 pandemic brought a new reality, it has affected not only our daily lives but also our ways of exploring and developing ourselves. The pandemic has completely changed the higher education system. During this period, students have started to actively use social networks and other informal channels for education and sharing, creating common chat / communication groups on different platforms, where students of the same subject / lecture come together. With the help of similar platforms students share their experiences with each other. Since they are actively using social media platforms, the question arises as to how useful and productive the use of such platforms is. Often students use online platforms to find easy ways to solve a variety of issues, such as easy exams, and common communication groups can handle them quite well. It is interesting how well they use such informal channels, whether they are really used for learning, education and knowledge enhancement or just to spend time on lectures, or even to write exam answers dishonestly. Given that, social media is widespread in our society and people are actively involved in it, it will not be surprising that it can often be a distraction for students when for example a student attends a lecture and is also involved in a social network.

Based on Georgian and foreign literature review the aim of the paper is to examine:
- Ways for students to receive non-formal education and their satisfaction;
- Which digital and media platforms they use to search for, share and how effectively and purposefully they use the information they need;
- The effectiveness of online learning and the satisfaction of students with online education;
- How much the Covid Pandemic contributed to the involvement of digital media in education.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. The role of social and digital media in education: learning and teaching with the help of digital media

Over the years, social media has earned people's trust and became a reliable source of information, overcoming a stage after which organizations can establish communication with their audiences. Also, nowadays we see that educational institutions have also stepped up the development of digital technologies and today there are already educational institutions that provide education with the help of digital media. The use of social media in education gives students

the opportunity to receive useful information, to contact / register in various educational groups that convey certain information and may be useful to them. Social networks offer a variety of opportunities for both students and educational institutions to improve their learning methods. With the help of social media, it is possible to find important information such as analysis of various topics or issues and views for educational purposes.

Social media is also a place where students can create valuable and important associations / groups for their own purposes, to share their knowledge. As an educational foundation, it is essential that social platforms be dynamic, all of which will better shape student culture and help them select and plan training properly.

The most famous social media functionality is as follows:

- Assists the student in connecting with an expert on topics
  The incredible thing about using social media is that you can quickly figure out who the specialists are in specific fields and subjects. When we start looking for professionals in a particular field, with the help of social media we will learn more about them and get a lot of useful information, all of which will allow us to get better results.

- Promotes communication efficiency
  Educational institutions can connect with students through social platforms such as Facebook, Google Plus Groups, and YouTube. These channels can be used to keep up with campus news and provide useful information to students. It also simplifies the communication between the student and the educational institution, establishes an interconnected commitment, which helps to solve the issue of many students with the help of a communication union. Video is an important tool in social media trends, with its help we can share valuable videos with students that will inspire and help them solve their issues. (future ready Edu. 2021)

Today, social media is being introduced in many educational institutions. It is a well-known fact that Twitter and Facebook are considered to be the fastest ways to find information. It is important to note that these web pages can be easily used to create discussions. Interesting is the fact that it is possible to create common communication groups and discuss different topics there, students often use such common communication groups, although it is interesting in what terms. Lecturers can also form groups and discuss certain topics online with students or colleagues. There are also blogs on the social network that can be used to encourage creative writing and enrich grammar skills. In general, one of the most important features of each social media tool is that it connects students of all ages and helps them with all kinds of assignments, starting with homework and ending with various studies. In addition, it has been scientifically proven that social media can help students resolve engagement crises (in the case of introverts). Indeed, lack of involvement has become a major reason for expelling students from both the course and the colleges. In this case, social media allows them

to have close communication and collaboration with their instructors so that the learning process is properly maintained. (Preeti. 2013-14. 175-177)

As a result of the introduction and impact of technology in education, we are seeing a lot of innovative changes in the teaching methodology of educational institutions today. Educational institutions are improving their curriculum and making education systems appropriate for digital technologies. Universities use social media in the teaching process to find new, useful and important information that will provide students with more in-depth knowledge in a particular field. The implementation of social media contributes to the development of a new educational system. Students have the opportunity to share their knowledge with each other through social media. On the other hand, the positive factor of social media in education is that lecturers / specialists often announce online courses and offer online trainings to interested people, which can usually be a free training course (webinar type) as well as a certified paid course, after which the student will receive the relevant Certificate. In today's interconnected world, the impact of social networking on education is becoming increasingly important. It is evolving as a powerful factor in gaining a competitive advantage over formal education. Due to the rapidly growing and evolving process of digital technology, the existing processes in the world are also slowly evolving and supporting the process of technological development. Judging by today's reality, Covid Pandemic has radically changed the current processes and brought digital technologies to the forefront. Therefore, due to the pandemic, digital media has become even more relevant in education and the teaching process. The influence of social media on education is increasing daily, which in turn is changing their overall educational experience. With the introduction of digital media technologies, the delivery of educational programs has greatly improved compared to the formal educational process. (Asmaindia. 2021).

Without information and communication technologies (ICT), progress in any field of state and public activity is unthinkable today. The use of information and communication technologies in the learning process has several important aspects, namely:
- The use of information and communication technologies helps to show the connections between subjects.
- The use of information and communication technologies contributes to the development of creativity and innovative approaches.
- Using this, it is possible to create and use the visuals needed to introduce a new concept, object, and procedure. For example, creating and displaying graphic images; simulating natural phenomena that are impossible or very difficult to observe in real life. (Subject program in Information and Communication Technologies. 1296)

B. Social Media and Education: Changing the Boundaries of Formal and Non-Formal Teaching Methodology
It is interesting how these terms (formal education and non-formal education) are defined in the electronic dictionary of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.

C. Formal education
is a structural education system from primary school to university and includes specialized programs for technical and vocational training.

D. Non-formal education
lasts a lifetime, during which a person develops attitudes, values, skills and knowledge as a result of existing resources and daily experiences (family, neighbors, market, library, media, work, games, etc.). Any planned individual and social education program that is not part of a formal curriculum aimed at improving knowledge, skills, and competencies.

According to the latest data, which is dated 2010, this is vocational education, except for vocational higher education, which a person received as a result of pursuing an accredited educational program independently or not from a vocational education institution. Despite a number of advantages of non-formal education, people are often still negative towards it. A certain part of the society perceives the field of education with the usual stereotypes: Education This is a kindergarten, a school, a university (it is later recalled that there are also vocational colleges) and it is believed that only formal education institutions fully reflect this important social area. At this time, however, developed countries have long since come to the conclusion that in today's reality education and vocational training (as the acquisition of knowledge and skills required in the labor market) actually exist, and that only formal education, despite its great importance, is no longer sufficient. Moreover, the basic knowledge acquired at the time should be complemented by continuous development throughout the life of a person in the process of socialization and participation in labor, which, along with formal education, should be facilitated by other segments of this field - non-formal and "in-formal" education, including forms such as e-learning, vocational training in the workplace and more. We can therefore say that the world has recognized that in addition to formal education, non-formal education is an important part of the modern Lifelong Learning (LLL) doctrine. (Ejibadze 2015, "Interaction between formal learning and non-formal learning").

E. Online education
Online education is a form of education provided by individuals, educational institutions and companies through online technology-based platforms. Computer learning was founded in the early 1960s, when a team of psychologists at Stanford University began the first experiment with computer learning. Computer-based learning developed in the 1970s and 1980s. After the development of the Internet connection, the British Open University and the University of British Columbia were the first institutions of higher education to introduce and implement distance learning. It was one of the few Internet revolutions aimed at educating everyone. In the early days, online education by universities provided for the

creation of online curricula and websites with classical courses offered at these universities. University course online teaching was first conducted in 1994 by the University of Pennsylvania. This was the beginning of a new educational paradigm that gave rise to MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses). In addition to the concept of distance learning, MOOC brings students together on online platforms, where they form virtual communication groups, discuss various topics of interest to them, share their experiences, hold discussions and more. (Ammad-ud-din, Mikkonen, Pinjamaa. 2014.).

According to surveys, the social impact of online courses has received a positive rating among 1,055 college deans and alumni in the US. The majority of college presidents (51%) think that online courses offer the same value. More than three-quarters (77%) of colleges have announced online courses by order of the Dean. Fifty percent of college deans predict that by the end of the year, most of their students will be involved in the learning process online. 23% of surveyed graduate students say they took the lesson online. Of the students who took the course online, 39% said that the educational value of the format was equal to the course held in the auditorium. American higher education institutions such as MIT, Princeton University, and Stanford University have long since begun MOOC programs. These universities also offer free study courses that can be attended by citizens of any country from anywhere in the world. Many universities have emerged with private platforms, such as Codecademy, Coursera, Curriki, edX, Khan Academy, Learnstreet, Udacity and Udemy, which also offer online courses and training. (Ammad-ud-din, Mikkonen, Pinjamaa. 2014.)

In order to better understand what online education offers in Georgia we summed up information about some of the most spread platforms in **table 1**. By observing similar online platforms, we can say that their common feature is the personalization of learning processes, simplifying delivery routes and creating a global audience, increasing opportunities for people.The online courses on these platforms are divided into various short modules, organized into short videos, and most importantly, students can choose the courses of interest to them or watch the recording again. (Ammad-ud-din, Mikkonen, Pinjamaa. 2014.)

#	ONLINE PLATFORM	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE
1	**Codecademy**	This is an online platform where they teach technical skills, they have been working for nine years. People are given the opportunity to master technical skills for free. The code contains a world of possibilities - all you need is curiosity and a desire to learn. Their goal is to share their knowledge with others in the most flexible and accessible way.	codecademy. 2021
2	**Coursera**	It is a for-profit organization that provides online engagement in courses. The company is partnering with more than 200 universities and organizations to be more flexible, accessible and able to deliver on-demand education. Coursera offers a range of training opportunities - from practical projects and courses to certifications and programs prepared for the job. Courses are conducted through video recordings and tests and assignments are submitted in electronic format. The website is very similar to a discussion forum, students can ask questions about the material online and get answers.	Coursesa. 2021
3	**Edx**	Every person has the potential to make a difference, be it in his life, in society or in the world. edX offers the highest quality online courses from institutions that share their commitment to teaching and learning. The company partners with various types of organizations around the world. Nonprofits, government, non-governmental organizations and multilingual corporations collaborate with them and are involved in the organization's MicroMasters program and other educational activities. The organization has three main goals: Increase access to quality education everywhere and for all; Enhance learning and teaching both on university campuses and on online platforms; Pre-Teaching and Learning through Research	Edx. 2021

| 4 | **Khan Academy** | Khan Academy is a non-profit organization that offers users several learning activities and a multimedia educational process. The goal of the organization is to provide education and create a global audience. Khan Academy offers courses at different levels of study and in different languages. Khan Academy offers hands-on exercises, video tutorials, and personalized learning boards that allow students to learn at their own pace even outside the classroom. Khan Academy is a library created by experts with reliable exercises and lessons in mathematics, science and other subjects. It will always be free for students and teachers. With the help of Khan Academy, teachers will be able to detect failures in students' knowledge, approaching them individually. | Khan Academy. 2021 |
| 5 | **LearnStreet** | It is an online learning platform where anyone can learn coding. With the help of the platform you can get basic knowledge about coding, also if you already have some knowledge, with the help of the platform you can deepen and refine the accumulated knowledge, to develop additional skills. | crunchbase.2021 |

Table 1. Information about some of the most spread platforms

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Although digital media is already actively involved in our daily lives and has become particularly active and usable within the pandemic, it is interesting to see how purposefully it is used by both students and their supervisors. The target audience of the research were students and supervisors.

The main goal of the research was to find out:
- How audience understands the formal and non-formal education;
- What positive and negative factors they see in formal and informal learning;
- How much digital media is used as an aid in the educational process;
- Which digital and media platforms are used to search for and share the information needed, and how effectively and purposefully they are used.;
- The effectiveness of distance learning and the satisfaction of students with online education;
- How much the Covid Pandemic contributed to the involvement of digital media in the education process.

For the research aims, two independent quantitative and mixed types of studies were conducted. In one case, the population was students from a higher education institution operating in Georgia. The second study population consisted of heads of educational institutions and employees of the administrative units. In both cases, the questionnaires included both closed and open-ended questions. The questionnaires allowed the respondents to express their opinions, while we were able to better analyze their views.

General information: The survey questionnaire was compiled in Google Forms, the questionnaire was placed in the active groups on the social pages, as well as sent via email to some of the respondents.

Respondents: Students and representatives of higher education institutions (lecturers, employees of the administrative unit)

Research period: 20/05/2021-09/06/2021
Reporting period: June, 2021
Sampling framework:
Students - 204.
University representatives -34

IV. RESULTS

Most of the respondents answered that one of the main negative features of formal education is that it puts the recipient in a certain framework in the learning process, also the respondents are somewhat negative about the monetary costs, because they think that getting formal education is quite an expensive process. On the positive side, they say that formal education is structured and accurately describes the processes that the educator has to go through, and also believes that formal education has certain obligations to education providers, which to some extent has a positive effect on their diligence and motivation and does not give them time to relax.

The general usage of social media in education is summed up in the Chart No . 1. The majority of respondents use Facebook, Messenger, Google and Zoom in order to search and share information in the learning process. There also were interesting patterns, but undoubtedly Facebook is the leader.
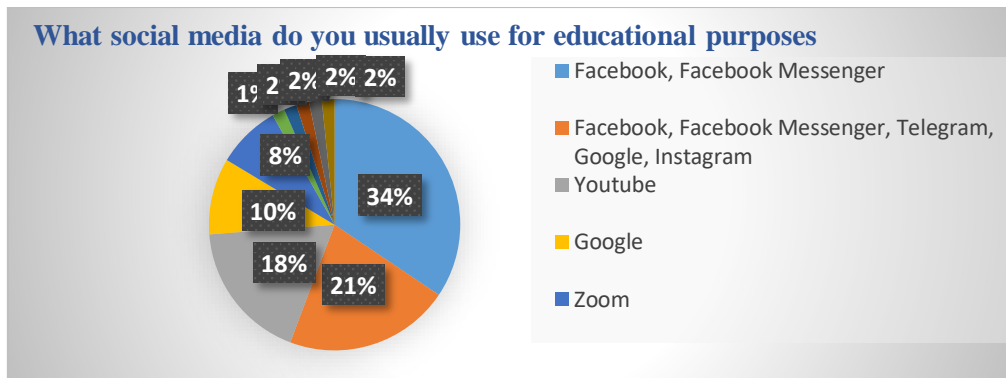
Chart No. 1 - The use of Social Media in Learning Process in Georgia

Most of the respondents use different informal sources for education in the form of training, certification and other short-term programs. The data are summed in the table No. 2.

Informal education programs/trainings	
attended online trainings	74.50%
have paid for certificate courses	54.90%
has professional certificate	58.80%
actively use educational platforms to get an education	51.50%

Table No. 2 The attendance of informal educational programs
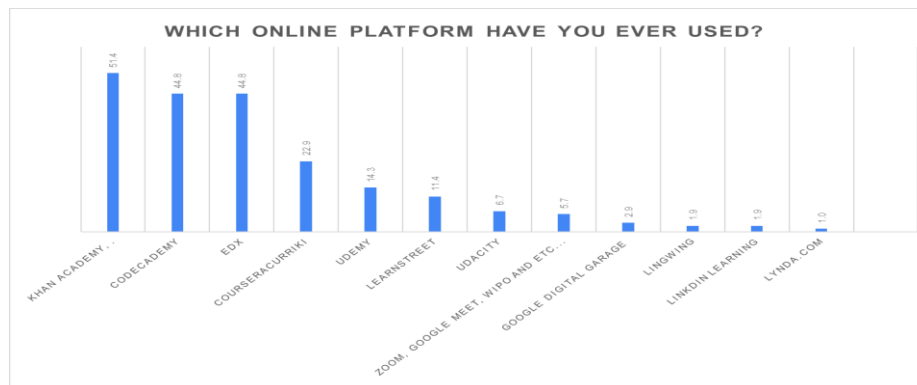

Chart No. 2 – Most Popular Online Educational Platforms

The most popular Online educational platforms used by the majority of the respondents are:
- Edx
- Khan Academy
- Codecademy
- Coursera

98% of respondents think that Covid Pandemic has greatly influenced the involvement of digital media in education.

On the question if the online learning format encourages the use of non-formal resources (digital platforms, social networks, etc.) during the exams - 80.9% of students think that their use increased significantly, while 19.1% think that all this has not had an impact.

When asked about the impact of the use of informal resources on the quality of education during the exams, some students said that this had a negative impact on the quality of education and they were somewhat lazy, while others viewed this positively and did not think it had an impact on the quality, as they had new ways of getting different information using additional resources.

34 representatives participated in the study. The respondents were from 9 different universities in Georgia. 4 of them were state and 5 were private universities. As part of the study, we wanted to find out how effectively the educational institutions coped with the situation created during the pandemic, based on the answers to the questions asked, the representatives assess positively the operations carried out by the educational institutions.

The question about "What radical changes has the pandemic made in the educational process" respondents responded as follows:

"The pandemic excluded auditorium classes, complicated communication between lecturers and students. In many cases, students seem to attend seminars, but if you address this or that student, it becomes clear that he is not sitting at the computer, he may be in another room altogether. Thus, the quality of learning is drastically reduced."

"In many cases, students complain about poor internet connection and the lecturer's contact with students is limited "...
"The format of practical training has changed radically, the need for virtual laboratory methods has increased, the format of mid-term evaluations and final exams has changed."

"The next generation is given the opportunity to better understand technology and to integrate technology more actively into everyday life. Technologies have acquired a business importance in addition to the entertainment load."

"Distance lectures and their quality were the main and most radical challenge during the pandemic period. In the first stage, distance lectures significantly reduced the quality of teaching, but later as a result of adaptation, the quality improved."

The results of the study showed that the pandemic promoted the use of digital media in education. According to the respondents, most of the students do not use digital media in good faith, however, they think that without the help of digital media it would be impossible to find and receive the necessary information, to the question "How much do you think digital media helps students in education?" They responded as follows:

"It depends on the student. Mostly used before the pandemic. Those who used it in good faith are now using it more productively. And for copying and for similar topics, whoever wanted to, he was still trying to use it for similar purposes. "

"It helps a purposeful, motivated student a lot, but many do not use it purposefully."

"The student should actively use digital media, which will help him / her to obtain specific materials and information for his / her specialty, more or less already being used purposefully."

"Digital media is a good opportunity for students to get acquainted with world experience in various fields, to get the latest information about scientific research, to obtain literature on issues of interest to them, to get acquainted with modern methods of experiments. Interested students successfully use it to achieve their own goals. "

Also, the majority of respondents believe that the distance learning format encourages the use of non-formal resources (digital platforms, social networks, etc.) during exams, and the quality of education received in the appropriate format is as follows:

"There is no need to use informal resources in the exams of the subject I am teaching. But, it is clear that in the current format students are allowed to use various sources of information illegally when writing an exam paper. This is a clear indication that the quality of education is declining to some extent. "

"The quality of education has declined as many students have used the distance exam format in bad faith and the protection mechanisms have become less well known."

"In my opinion, this change has had a negative impact on the quality of education, as students are able to copy material from each other more efficiently and copy information obtained in the Internet space in a short period of time while taking the exam."

„The quality of education has certainly fallen: students are either successfully using digital technology to "copy" material, or they are writing a test for someone else altogether. This confronts us with the dangerous fact that student assessment and real knowledge will be completely incompatible with each other. "

"More or less positive, but it should be noted that the use of non-formal resources is generally very relevant in the teaching process, because the analysis of real cases and events is possible only from informal sources."

What leverage has the institution where you work used to control the academic integrity of students in the distance learning format, and how effective have these measures been?"

"I do not know what the institution used, but I have changed the content of the test, I try to be as individualized as possible, and the test provides the ability to find information by the student."

"We have a separate relevant service that monitors the entire educational process. I personally lost my writing because of plagiarism. "

"Mainly the tools provided by the software packages used in distance learning - video inclusions, screen monitoring, time limit, plagiarism check…"

"In response to the detection of academic dishonesty, the writings were annulled and the decision of the Faculty Council was made in this regard. In particular, the Appeals Commission and the re-examination of students. "

"A specific program is being introduced to solve this problem, but it is not yet possible to widely introduce and use this tool, because it requires the training and information of academic staff, which will not be possible in a short time."

"Different types of reinsurance have been implemented from a technical point of view, but the most important thing is that it has moved to the principle of free thinking in terms of exams, where the student receives an assignment and then responds. He has the freedom to use creative, analytical, critical thinking. "

V.   CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Surveys of both students and educational institutions show that respondents are actively using digital media platforms. In the case of students, they attend online training, paid certification courses and have proof of it. According to the results, we can say that digital media is already actively used in Georgia in terms of finding additional information. According to the results, we can also say that the involvement of digital media in the education process plays an important role and its active use by the educational institution and its representatives began within the pandemic.

Access to the Internet and digital media allows respondents to find new additional information, learn about current news, share each other's experiences, attend various scientific meetings, and most importantly perhaps now have the opportunity to participate in free training courses around the world.

One of the aims of the study was to find out how respondents understand the importance of formal and non-formal education, and what positive and negative factors they see in each of them. In general, since we have become more involved in the digital sphere during the pandemic, we have switched to the distance / online learning methods, and this had some impact on the understanding of the definition of different terms, as many respondents believe that non-formal education is only remote / Online learning, and its disadvantage is the lack of interactive communication. However, most of the respondents think that they convey their meaning correctly and clearly and also speak openly about their pros and cons. The majority of respondents think that the synthesis of formal and non-formal education gives better results than each taken separately. In the case of formal education, the stages that the recipient of education has to go through are described as a schedule, which is called a positive factor, because in the case of non-formal education, it depends on the person what and when he will do it. In this case, the time may not be properly distributed. In the case of non-formal education, additional information is obtained, the information and results from life experience can be an example of non-formal education, non-formal education is a wider range and considers many things together, and a person has the opportunity to choose what he/she wants to learn, what to do, what information to get and in what form to get it, in comparison, the process of non-formal education is more flexible than formal education.

The results of the study also show that the pandemic played a major role in the involvement of digital media in education. Considering that young people are already actively using digital media in their daily lives, the digitization of the learning process within the pandemic has had an even greater impact on the involvement of digital media in education.Distance learning has forced both higher education institutions and students to be actively involved in social platforms, to use different means in the learning process or even to communicate and exchange information with each other, which has surprisingly increased technological skills. However, it should also be noted that the digital media has somewhat amused the students, which they themselves and their representatives openly state. With the help of digital media, it is easy to find information and use it when needed.

It was also interesting what levers the higher education institutions tried to use and the representatives to deal with cheating. As it turns out, many similar cases have been reported and the lecturers have taken appropriate measures. Although respondents said that educational institutions acted effectively within the pandemic and responded immediately to changes, the learning process was still not as smooth as it should have been. Respondents said there were frequent disconnections and technical deficiencies, as well as the examination process was not strictly written and controlled, in which case there were frequent cases of academic dishonesty on the part of students, which was followed by appropriate response from the representatives of the educational institution.

As for online education and its quality, the majority of respondents believe that offline education is more effective, although they believe that online learning is more convenient. The results of the research also show that most of the respondents are in favor of conducting the educational process in a mixed format. Nevertheless, they actively attend lectures and seminars organized by various private non-formal education platforms. The majority of respondents (54.9%) have completed non-formal education certification courses and use educational platforms such as Codecademy, EdX, Khan Academy, Leanstreet, Udacity, Udemy and others.

The results of the research provide an idea of formal and non-formal education, digital media and its involvement in the education process. The aim of the study was to determine from the results of the research which digital and media platforms students use to get the necessary information, how they understand the definition of formal and non-formal education, how Covid Pandemic affected the educational process and the effectiveness of distance learning and online education students' satisfaction.

The study confirmed the following provisions:
- The real value of the modern education experience lies in the degree of flexibility in obtaining a degree - this can be achieved not only by attending lectures, but also through work and training;

- Social channels help them in the process of learning new, useful and important information;
- Social channels allow them to share and receive knowledge from my classmates;
- Social channels allow them to get knowledge from my lecturers.

The study rejected the following views:
- The educational value of the remote format is equal to the course conducted in the auditorium;
- Education This is just a primary school, secondary school and university.

It has also been found that the integration of online learning elements into the traditional / formal education process is becoming increasingly attractive given the availability of the Internet and digital media. Online learning has shown us how important digital media and having certain technological skills are in today's life. According to the results, if the majority of respondents had a choice, they would choose teaching in a mixed format. Mixed format teaching combines traditional and online learning processes.

The study also found that students actively use various digital media channels in the educational process, most actively Facebook and Facebook messenger platforms, as well as actively use various educational platforms.

Based on the results and the opinions of the respondents, we can assume that non-formal education is not recognized, because the relevant quality certificates are not issued and if we look at the labor market, they ask for quality certificates everywhere.

However, according to the results, we can say that the synthesis of formal and non-formal education will give us the best results.

Research also shows - what higher education institutions often offer is not enough for students and they often seek additional information through digital media.

Based on the above results, we can assume that the majority of respondents have a positive attitude towards both formal / traditional and non-formal teaching methods and both of them are considered as important factors. It is true that both of them have their pros and cons, for example non-formal education is time consuming and so large that it is possible for the seeker to get lost and miss the target while receiving information, also part of the information posted on digital platforms is unreliable and irrelevant. People need to learn to think critically and discern reality, to determine the reliability and relevance of information retrieval, so that there is less room for misinformation.

In terms of the use of digital media in the learning process, it is likely that control mechanisms will be needed to reduce the rate of academic dishonesty. In the future, as a result of additional research, it is likely that some changes will be possible in the educational process and in the education system at the legislative level.

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