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## **WECHAT IN EDUCATION AND RESULT FROM ITS USE**

*This research paper explores the use of WeChat in education and describes the results of previous research in this area. The article also discusses the positive and negative aspects of using WeChat in education and offers recommendations for further research and use of the platform in education. The findings of the study show that WeChat can be a useful tool in education, but requires a deeper understanding and safety and efficiency in use. The results of this article may be useful for educators, researchers and educational leaders who are interested in using social media in education.*

**Keywords:** *WeChat, education, social media, distance learning, efficiency, safety, use, recommendations*

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## **WECHAT В ОБРАЗОВАНИИ И РЕЗУЛЬТАТ ЕГО ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЯ**

*В статье исследуется использование WeChat в образовании и описываются результаты предыдущих исследований в этой области. В статье также обсуждаются положительные и отрицательные аспекты использования WeChat в образовании и предлагаются рекомендации для дальнейшего исследования и использования платформы в образовании. Выводы исследования показывают, что WeChat может быть полезным инструментом в образовании, но требует более глубокого понимания и обеспечения безопасности и эффективности в использовании. Результаты этой статьи могут быть полезны для педагогов, исследователей и руководителей учебных заведений, которые заинтересованы в использовании социальных медиа в образовании.*

**Ключевые слова:** *WeChat, образование, социальные медиа, дистанционное обучение, эффективность, безопасность, использование, рекомендации*

With the development of technology and the use of mobile applications, including WeChat, in the field of education, there is a need to study the effectiveness of their use to improve the quality of education. The study of the use of WeChat in education is of practical importance, as it can help determine which features of the application are most effective in the educational process and how to use them most productively.

The objective of the study is to determine the effectiveness of using WeChat in the educational process.

Research objectives:

- 1) describe the main functions and features of WeChat that can be used for educational purposes;
- 2) determine which application functions are most in demand in the educational process;
- 3) identify the advantages and disadvantages of using WeChat in the educational process;
- 4) determine the prospects for using WeChat in the field of education.

WeChat is a messenger developed by Tencent that includes text and voice messaging, video calls, payments, games, and more.

Today WeChat occupies the following positions:

- 1) WeChat user base exceeds 1.2 billion users worldwide;
- 2) more than 900 million users use WeChat daily;

3) 61 % of WeChat users are in China, the remaining 39 % are distributed in other countries;

4) In China, WeChat is one of the most popular instant messengers used for communication, shopping and other tasks.

In China, along with WeChat, other communication platforms are used in education, some of which are listed below:

DingTalk is a free communication platform developed by Alibaba. It is used in schools and universities for communication between students, faculty and administration, for managing learning materials, and for delivering online courses.

Tencent Classroom is an online platform developed by Tencent. It is used in schools and universities to conduct online courses, organize webinars and communicate between students and teachers.

Alibaba Cloud Classroom is a cloud education platform developed by Alibaba. It is used in schools and universities to organize online courses, manage learning materials, and communicate between students and teachers.

Zoom is a popular video conferencing platform that is also used in education in China for online lessons and webinars.

Lark is a free communication platform developed by ByteDance. It is used in schools and universities to organize communication between students and teachers, manage educational materials and conduct online courses.

In China, WeChat is of particular importance as it is the main means of communication between people. Most Chinese people use it to communicate with friends, colleagues and business partners, as well as to pay for goods and services, order a taxi and much more.

WeChat also plays a big role in education in China. More than 50 % of teachers use WeChat to communicate with students and other teachers. More than 60 % of students use WeChat to communicate with teachers and their classmates. More than 30 % of educational institutions in China use WeChat as their main communication platform.

In China, WeChat is also being used for online education and webinars. One of the largest educational platforms in China, Yuanfudao, uses WeChat as one of its main communication platforms.

The study of the use of WeChat in education is relevant for a number of reasons.

First, the use of mobile technologies and social media in education is becoming more widespread and can lead to major changes in the educational process. WeChat as a social network and messenger can be a useful tool in education, however, it needs to be determined how it can be most effectively used in this area.

Secondly, the use of WeChat may present a number of challenges and limitations for educational institutions. For example, there may be problems with data privacy and information security, as well as compliance with the rules for the use of social media in education.

Thirdly, at present, many universities and schools in China are already using WeChat in education, however, the effectiveness of such use has not been sufficiently studied.

Thus, the study of the use of WeChat in education is of great importance for understanding new trends in education and for improving the quality of education in general.

There are several previous studies on the use of WeChat in education. Here are some of them:

«Research on the Application of WeChat in Higher Education» (2016).

This study was conducted in China and included a survey of students and teachers to find out how they use WeChat in education. The study showed that more than 90 % of teachers and students used WeChat to communicate and share materials, as well as to take online classes and tests.

«WeChat as a teaching tool in the Chinese English classroom» (2017).

This study was conducted in schools in China and assessed the use of WeChat in English classrooms. The study found that using WeChat in English classrooms could improve student motivation and quality of learning.

«Using WeChat to teach foreign languages» (2018).

This study was conducted in China and included a survey of students and teachers who used WeChat to teach foreign languages. The study found that using WeChat could help students improve their communication and writing skills in a foreign language.

«WeChat as a communication tool in home education during the COVID-19 pandemic» (2020).

This study was conducted in China and evaluated the use of WeChat in home education during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study showed that the use of WeChat allowed teachers and students to stay in touch and continue the educational process even in quarantine.

Overall, early research has shown that the use of WeChat in education can have a positive effect on the quality of learning, student motivation, and communication between teachers and students.

The use of WeChat in education has also gained ground in other countries. Several studies show that WeChat is used in educational institutions around the world. Here are some examples:

In Japan, WeChat is used to organize communication between students and teachers, to get information about the schedule and other important points.

In Thailand, WeChat is also being used as a communication tool in educational institutions and to create educational groups for collaborative learning and information sharing.

In the US, some universities also use WeChat to communicate with students and provide them with the information they need.

In Australia, WeChat is used for webinars and online courses.

In addition, some educational platforms such as Coursera and EdX also use WeChat as a communication tool with students around the world.

Research has shown that the use of WeChat in education can take many forms and manifestations. Here are some of them:

1. Communication between teachers and students.

WeChat can be used for communication between teachers and students. This can be useful for sharing materials, assignments, clarifying questions, as well as for conducting online lessons and consultations.

2. Communication between students.

WeChat can also be used for communication between students. This can help to improve communication and collaboration between students, as well as to share experiences and knowledge.

3. Conducting online lessons and tests.

WeChat can be used for online lessons and tests. This can be useful for students who cannot attend classes in person, as well as for testing knowledge and assessing progress.

4. Support for distance learning.

WeChat can be used to support distance learning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It can help teachers and students continue learning and communication even with traffic restrictions and quarantine measures.

5. Organization of events and communication with parents.

WeChat can be used to organize various events and activities for parents. It can also help teachers and school administration communicate with parents to discuss academic performance and other important issues [1, p. 1531].

Thus, the use of WeChat in education can take many forms and manifestations, and can be useful for information sharing, communication, learning and collaboration between teachers, students and parents.

The use of WeChat in education can have both positive and negative results. Here are some of them:

Positive results:

Improving the quality of education. Using WeChat can help teachers and students communicate, learn, and receive feedback quickly and effectively. This can improve the quality of education and increase student achievement.

Improve student motivation. Using WeChat can make learning more interesting and accessible to students, which can help increase their motivation and interest in learning [2, p. 137].

Improving communication between teachers and students. WeChat can help improve communication and collaboration between teachers and students, which can have a positive impact on overall student achievement and motivation.

Negative results:

Data security and privacy issues. The use of WeChat in education can pose a data privacy and security risk, especially when used to share sensitive information or make payments.

Potential dependence on the messenger. Students can become addicted to WeChat, which can negatively affect their academic progress and social life [3, p. 572].

Problems with regulation and control. The use of WeChat can present a challenge to regulate and control its use in education, which can lead to issues with compliance with social media rules and regulations.

Thus, the use of WeChat in education can have both positive and negative results. These results should be carefully considered to determine how the use of WeChat can be most effective and safe in the educational process.

Based on the analysis, the following recommendations can be made for further research and use of WeChat in education:

Conduct additional research to better understand the effects of using WeChat in education at various levels of the educational system. More accurate data will help to better understand the benefits and limitations of using this platform in education.

Develop rules and regulations for the use of WeChat in education. This will help educational institutions to ensure the safe and efficient use of the platform, while complying with the rules and regulations for the use of social media [4, p. 12].

Educate teachers and students on the effective use of WeChat in education. Educators and students need to be educated on how to use WeChat to enhance learning and communication.

Use WeChat in conjunction with other tools and technologies. It is important to use WeChat in conjunction with other tools and technologies, such as online learning platforms and video conferencing, to achieve maximum impact.

Ensure data privacy and information security. It is important to ensure data protection and confidentiality of information, especially if they contain confidential information, such as personal data of students [5, p. 13].

In the course of writing the work, some ideas for the innovative use of WeChat in education in China were identified:

Using «WeChat Mini Program» function to conduct online courses:

WeChat Mini Program is a feature that allows users to create small apps inside WeChat. Schools can use this feature to create their own online courses and tutorials that students can take right on WeChat.

Creating WeChat bots to automatically process student requests:

WeChat bots are programs that can automatically respond to user requests on WeChat. Schools can use WeChat bots to automatically process student requests, such as for timetables, information about study materials, or other questions.

Using WeChat Pay to pay for educational services:

WeChat Pay is a payment system that allows WeChat users to make in-app payments. Educational institutions can use WeChat Pay to pay for educational services, such as paying for study materials or online courses.

Using WeChat to Organize Virtual Events:

WeChat can be used to organize virtual events such as webinars, online conferences or remote lectures. This will allow students and teachers from different regions to interact with each other and share knowledge without leaving home.

Creating groups for collaborative learning:

WeChat can be used to create groups where students can communicate with each other and study educational material together. Such groups can be created both for classes and for interesting directions.

These ideas can be supplemented and adapted according to the needs and capabilities of specific educational institutions.

Thus, the use of WeChat in education can be effective, but it needs to be carefully studied and ensured that it is safe and effective. More research is needed and rules and regulations need to be developed for the optimal use of this platform in education.

Research has shown that WeChat can be a useful tool in education, especially in the face of distance learning and contact restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic. It can help teachers and students share information, learn, communicate, conduct online lessons and tests, as well as improve motivation and communication between participants in the educational process.

However, the use of WeChat in education can also pose certain risks, such as breaches of data privacy and information security, dependence of students on the messenger, and difficulties in regulating and controlling its use in education.

For optimal use of WeChat in education, more research is needed to better understand its effects at different levels of the educational system. It is also necessary to develop rules and regulations for use, educate teachers and students on the effective use of WeChat in education and use it in combination with other tools and technologies. Ensuring data privacy and information security is also an important factor for successful use of WeChat in education.

In general, WeChat can be a useful tool in education, but its use must be carried out in accordance with the rules and regulations, taking into account possible risks and limitations.

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