# THE ROLE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
# IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN CHINA

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The article considers the role of digital technologies in the development of education in China. The statistical data confirming the scale of online educational platforms application among Chinese users are presented. The main advantages of digital technologies in education for both teachers and students are emphasized. Some important initiatives in the context of using digital technologies for educational activities in China are outlined.

*Keywords:* digital technologies; education; students; teachers; learning platforms.

# РОЛЬ ЦИФРОВЫХ ТЕХНОЛОГИЙ В РАЗВИТИИ
# ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В КИТАЕ

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В статье рассмотрена роль цифровых технологий в развитии образования в Китае. Приведены статистические данные, подтверждающие масштаб применения онлайн образовательных платформ среди китайских пользователей. Охарактеризованы основные преимущества цифровых технологий в образовании как для учителей, так и для учеников. Обозначены некоторые важные инициативы в контексте использования цифровых технологий для образовательной деятельности в Китае.

***Ключевые слова:*** цифровые технологии; образование; ученики; учителя; образовательный платфрмы.

### Introduction
The development of education is an essential driving force for supporting world development and an indispensable key factor for human development. Empowering the education industry with digital technologies is an inevitable trend for future global development. In February 2023, the World Digital

Education Conference, with the title «Digital Transformation and Future of Education», was held in Beijing to explore the prospects of digital development in education.

As a technical system, new digital technologies mainly include five technologies: big data, cloud computing, the internet of things, blockchain, and artificial intelligence. These five digital technologies are integrated and grow exponentially to promote the high-speed and high-quality development of the new digital economy.

**The popularity of digital education in China**

As shown in the China Internet Network Information Center, by mid-2021, China's online education users reached 325 million, and the penetration rate of Internet users exceeded 32.1 % [1]. In the global online learning platforms market, the number of users will reach 900 million by 2027; the user penetration rate is expected to reach 9.6 % by 2023 and 11.6 % by 2027. China's online learning platform market has the highest user penetration rate at an estimated 21.7 % [2]. By November 2022, over 61,900 MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are accessible online which attract 402 million registered users. China possesses the largest number of both MOOCs and learners online in the world [3].

**The role of digital technologies for teachers**

The emergence of digital technologies has greatly expanded and enriched the sources of teaching content. With the advent of the big data era, all information will be intuitively displayed on various network platforms. Almost all existing book knowledge can be found, processed, and refined through digital technologies. Teachers can not only access original materials but also have different interpretations and teaching methods of the same knowledge from teachers from other regions or even foreign countries. Furthermore, there is a burst of new thinking on teaching content, broadening teaching ideas, enriching teaching content, improving teaching systems, and creating unique teaching styles and methods that belong to each teacher. It helps teachers fully utilize various resources on campus, optimize the teaching structure framework, improve classroom quality, and enhance students' learning enthusiasm [4].

**The role of digital technologies for students**

This kind of penetration has led to 24-hour connections between students and online platforms, which can be used for different types of assignments or assistance. If students have questions about the lessons and homework or have interests in diverging fields, they can immediately acquire the exact or related information.

In the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic has swept the world and profoundly affected all walks of life. For Chinese students, online education

during the pandemic undoubtedly added fun to the monotonous living status and guaranteed studies during home quarantine. Besides school education, digital technologies provide abundant sources for students to learn different skills and develop various hobbies.

With the enhancement of digital technologies, there are and will be more applications to help teachers and students in development and learning. After multiple generations of updates, the development of such platforms has gradually matured. On March 28, 2022, the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China officially launched the national platform Smart Education of China. The platform has accumulated 26 billion views, with over 1.92 billion visitors, covering over 200 countries and regions [5]. This platform covers three major resource platforms: primary and secondary education, vocational education, and higher education; provides 26 government services and combines resource education with public services; exploits 16 provincial and regional intelligent platforms. Such applications effectively support the improvement of teaching quality and efficiency of after-school services on campus, striving to meet the diverse educational students' needs.

## Conclusion

The development of digital technologies has injected new momentum into the education industry, enriched teaching content and forms, improved education quality, and enhanced teacher-student interaction and exchange. It is an indispensable force in the development of education in China in the new era.

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