



International Conference on Education, Psychology and Humanities

Hosted Online from Moscow, Russia

Date: 28th June, 2026

Website: <https://econferencia.com>

ENHANCING STUDENTS' LEARNING ENGAGEMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH A SMART LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND THE "INDEPENDENT LEARNING" PLATFORM BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE KOREAN EDUCATION SYSTEM



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Abstract

This thesis explores the development of students' independent learning activities in higher education based on the smart learning environment model implemented in the Korean education system. The study emphasizes that a learning environment organized through modern digital technologies serves as an important factor in increasing students' academic engagement and learning activity.

In addition, the research proposes the creation of a digital educational platform called "Independent Learning" for university students. The platform is intended to include lecture materials, test assignments, practical exercises, visual resources, and various interactive learning materials. Students will be able to access the platform through mobile devices or computers, which will expand opportunities for independent learning and contribute to improving the overall effectiveness of the educational process.



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Keywords: Smart learning environment, digital educational platform, independent learning, Korean education system, student engagement, mobile learning, interactive learning, educational technologies.

Introduction

In the current era of globalization and the rapid development of digital technologies, the modernization of the education system, the organization of the learning process through modern technologies, and the enhancement of students' learning engagement have become some of the most pressing issues in education. The widespread development of digital technologies has increased the need for new pedagogical approaches, digital learning environments, and interactive educational platforms within the teaching and learning process. At the same time, the growing adaptation of modern students to digital environments has, in some cases, reduced their interest in traditional lecture-based instruction. As a result, actively engaging students in the educational process and developing their independent learning activities have become essential objectives of modern education systems.

From this perspective, the smart learning environment model organized through digital technologies possesses significant pedagogical importance. This model involves organizing the educational process through digital platforms, mobile devices, and interactive learning resources. Consequently, the learning process is no longer limited to the traditional classroom environment but can also continue within digital spaces. This, in turn, expands students' opportunities for independent learning and contributes to increasing their participation and engagement in the educational process.

Issues related to the organization of smart learning environments and the use of digital educational platforms have been studied by many international and local



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scholars. In particular, Kirsti Lonka emphasizes that digital learning environments are an important factor in developing students' independent thinking and improving the effectiveness of the educational process [1]. Likewise, Irmeli Halinen notes that innovative pedagogical approaches and digitally organized learning environments play a significant role in enhancing students' learning engagement within modern education systems [2]. Among local pedagogical scholars, N.A. Muslimov highlights that the application of modern pedagogical technologies in education is an important factor in increasing students' learning motivation and ensuring educational effectiveness [3]. Furthermore, O.A. Qo'ysinov states that the effective organization of the educational process requires the use of innovative methods and digital educational tools [4].

Therefore, introducing the smart learning environment model into higher education based on the experience of the Korean education system, as well as creating a digital educational platform called "Independent Learning" for students, may contribute to enhancing students' learning engagement, developing independent learning activities, and improving the overall effectiveness of education.

Main Part

A smart learning environment refers to an innovative educational setting organized through digital technologies in the modern educational process. In such an environment, teaching and learning activities are carried out through various digital platforms, mobile devices, interactive educational resources, and online learning tools. The smart learning model serves to ensure students' active participation in the learning process, develop their independent learning activities, and organize education more effectively.



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Within the Korean education system, smart learning environments are widely implemented and are regarded as an important pedagogical tool for organizing modern education. In Korean universities, digitally organized learning environments provide students with opportunities to acquire knowledge not only during classroom instruction but also through online platforms. Such an approach enhances students' academic engagement and develops their independent learning skills. Digital educational platforms contain lecture materials, interactive assignments, test questions, video lessons, and various multimedia resources. Through mobile devices or computers, students can access these materials and independently reinforce their knowledge.

From this perspective, based on the experience of the Korean education system, it is proposed to create a digital educational platform called "Independent Learning" for students in higher education institutions. This platform is intended to support students' independent learning activities and improve the effectiveness of the educational process. The platform may include lecture texts, practical assignments, test questions, visual materials, images, and interactive learning exercises. Students will be able to access the platform at any time through mobile phones or computers.

The "Independent Learning" platform will enable students to strengthen their knowledge outside classroom hours, review topics independently, and evaluate their own level of understanding. Furthermore, the platform will contribute to improving interaction and educational cooperation between teachers and students. As a result, the educational process will not be limited solely to classroom instruction but will also continue through the digital learning environment. This will contribute to increasing students' learning engagement, developing independent learning skills, and enhancing the overall effectiveness of education.



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Conclusion

In conclusion, organizing the educational process on the basis of modern pedagogical approaches has become increasingly important in the current era of rapidly developing digital technologies. The smart learning environment model implemented in the Korean education system serves as an effective tool for organizing education through digital technologies and enhancing students' learning engagement. Such an educational environment allows the learning process to continue not only within traditional classrooms but also through digital platforms.

The findings of this study indicate that establishing a digital educational platform called "Independent Learning" for students can significantly contribute to the development of their independent learning activities, the reinforcement of their knowledge, and their active involvement in the educational process. Through this platform, students will have opportunities to work independently with lecture materials, assignments, tests, and various multimedia resources. As a result, students become more actively engaged in the learning process, their independent learning skills develop, and the effectiveness of education increases.

Therefore, the development of smart learning environments and the use of digital educational platforms in higher education should be considered one of the important directions of modern education.

References

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