

Manuscript No.: IJAR-58551

Title: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PLATFORMS IN MOROCCO: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BEFORE AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality	✓			
Clarity	✓			
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr.Mithilesh kumar shukla

Reviewer's Comment for Publication:.

The paper Uses a longitudinal pre-post comparative design that effectively isolates the impact of COVID-19 as an accelerant for digital adoption. Provides critical insight into digital transformation in a developing country context (Morocco), addressing a gap in literature focused on the Global South. The paper analyzes the rapid digital transformation in Moroccan higher education before (2019) and after (2023) the COVID-19 pandemic using four key indicators: MASSAR system users, online courses, distance learning programs, and local MOOCs. It reveals exponential growth, with online courses increasing by 1011% and local MOOCs by 620%, showing a shift towards hybrid and distance learning models. The pandemic accelerated digital adoption, transforming digital platforms from supportive tools into core infrastructures. Despite these advances, challenges in digital equity and pedagogical adaptation remain. The study stresses the need for sustainable integration and policy support to maintain this transformation.

Recommendation: Accept after minor revision,

Detailed Reviewer's Report

STRENGTHS:

- 1- The paper uses robust quantitative data from official sources to compare digital platform adoption..
- 2- It focuses on four clear, strategic indicators (MASSAR users, online courses, distance learning programs, local MOOCs).
- 3- Provides critical insight into digital transformation in a developing country context (Morocco), addressing a gap in literature focused on the Global South.
- 4- It Identifies implications for policy and institutional strategies, emphasizing sustainable integration, digital equity, and quality assurance.
- 5- It Highlights the Institutional Impact, Pedagogical Innovation, and Future Research Directions.
- 6- It Highlights how digital platforms contribute to making higher education institutions more adaptable to crises

WEAKNESSES:

- 1- Lack of Qualitative Data.
- 2- The paper cannot establish causal relationships between technological investments and actual educational outcomes due to its design and data limitations.
- 3- Absence of a Control Group.

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