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The Application of Information Technology in Student Learning

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Abstract: *This paper investigates the current state of information technology (IT) application in university student learning. Through surveys and analysis, the research reveals that IT offers numerous benefits to students, including quick access to knowledge, the development of soft skills, and flexible learning opportunities. However, several challenges persist, such as inadequate equipment, limited technology skills, information security issues, and unstable internet connectivity. To overcome these barriers and enhance the effectiveness of IT applications, investments in infrastructure, technology skill training, information security, and improved internet connectivity are necessary. The application of IT is expected to continue its robust development in the future, contributing to sustainable societal development and meeting the demands of the modern labor market.*

Keywords: *Information technology application, online learning, technology skills, information security, educational infrastructure, internet connectivity in learning.*

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's era, information technology (IT) plays a crucial role in every aspect of life, particularly in education. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has predicted that IT will fundamentally, comprehensively, and systematically transform education, becoming highly integrated at the beginning of the 21st century. The explosion and development of educational technology have created non-traditional educational methods, strongly promoted the advancement of education and brought about profound transformations for humanity. The application of IT is currently and will continue to be a common trend, especially in the teaching and learning process. This requires us to recognize and evaluate the importance of IT in education in general and higher education in particular, and to conduct research on the current state of IT application in universities.

In Vietnam, the application of IT in learning has received significant attention and focus from the government. The Party and the State have implemented synchronized policies to promote IT application in education. The Politburo's Resolution No. 52-NQ/TW dated September 27, 2019, on several guidelines and policies to proactively participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution emphasized that participating in this revolution is a particularly important and urgent strategic task for the entire political system and society, closely linked to the process of deep international integration. The project "*Enhancing the application of information technology in the management and support of teaching, learning, and scientific research activities, contributing to improving the quality of education and training for the period 2016-2020, with an orientation to 2025*," approved by the Prime Minister, aims to vigorously promote the application of IT to innovate content, teaching methods, evaluation, and scientific research.

Today's students tend to use IT for learning and self-equipping themselves with the necessary skills to prepare for the labor market. IT not only supports learning and teaching but also helps students enhance self-study skills, information searching, communication, and collaboration through various social networks and applications. However, the application of IT in learning also poses several challenges, such as the overuse of technology leading to decreased concentration in studies, access to inappropriate content, and issues of academic dishonesty.

2. Research Methodology

2.1. Information Collection Methods

Document Analysis: This method examines articles, books, newspapers, specialized journals, and research projects to understand the research topic comprehensively. The collected information is compared and contrasted to enrich the study, focusing on reports about IT application in student learning, scientific articles, and ISSN-indexed journals.

In-depth Interviews: Interviews were conducted with 20 university students to gather detailed insights into the current state of IT application in their learning, their motivations, purposes, and the factors influencing IT effectiveness. Pre-designed questionnaires were used to collect students' opinions on IT application in learning, the influencing factors, and possible solutions to enhance IT use.

Sampling Procedure: A purposive random sample of 406 students from various university disciplines was selected to ensure representativeness. The sampling process included: Defining Objectives: Ensure representativeness across disciplines. Categorizing Subjects: Classify students by discipline, year, and gender. Random Sampling: Select students randomly from each category.

Checking Representativeness: Ensure the sample reflects the student population accurately.

2.2. Information Processing Methods

Data was processed using SPSS 22 software following these steps:

Data Entry: Enter survey and interview data into SPSS. Data Cleaning: Remove missing values, outliers, and entry errors. Descriptive Analysis: Summarize data with means, standard deviations, and frequency distributions. Inferential Analysis: Conduct hypothesis testing, ANOVA, and regression analysis to explore variable relationships. Present Results: Display results in tables, charts, and descriptive reports for easy interpretation. Using SPSS ensures efficient data processing, accuracy, and scientific validity. The study's findings serve as valuable references for researching IT applications in student learning.

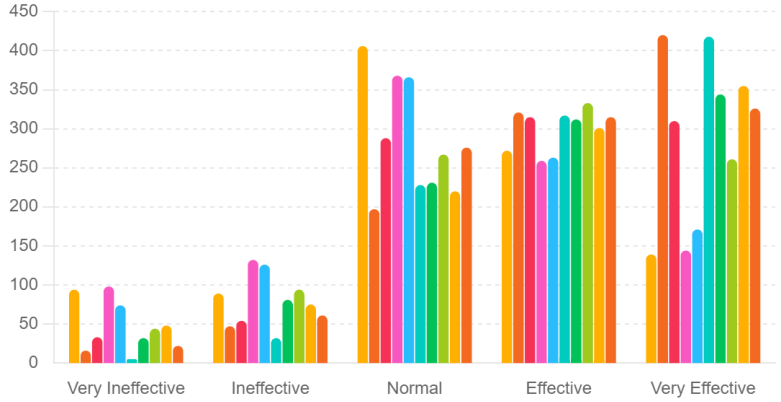
3. Analysis of the Current State of Information Technology Application in Student Learning

3.1. Types of Software and Usage Effectiveness

Below is a survey table assessing the effectiveness of the software used by students in their learning:

Software	Very ineffective	Ineffective	Neutral	Effective	Very effective
Mendeley Desktop	94	89	406	272	139
Microsoft Office	16	47	197	321	420
Google Slides	33	54	288	315	310
Camby	98	132	368	259	144
Prep	74	126	366	263	171
Canva	5	32	228	317	418
Google Translate	32	81	231	312	344
Duolingo	44	94	267	333	261
Dictionary	48	75	220	301	355
Oxford Dictionary of English	22	61	276	315	326

The chart below illustrates the effectiveness of various software/applications in learning:



3.2. Application of IT in Online Learning

Online learning has become a prevalent trend, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students use various online learning platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, and Microsoft Teams to continue their studies without interruption. Below are the advantages and specific data on the effectiveness of online learning: Advantages of Online Learning: Flexibility in Time and Location: Students can attend classes remotely, saving time and travel costs. In a survey, 72.5% of students found online learning to be very convenient. Diverse Learning Materials: Online platforms offer a wealth of learning materials, including video lectures, reference documents, and online exercises.65.5% of students highly rated the effectiveness of Google Translate for searching and translating study materials.

Easy Interaction: Online learning facilitates easy interaction with instructors and peers through chat tools, group discussions, and online teamwork.66.4% of students felt that online learning made them more confident in asking questions. Challenges of Online Learning: Unstable Internet Connection: A major challenge is the reliance on internet quality, which affects participation and interaction during online classes. Survey results show that 10% of students disagreed that online learning helped them understand lessons more quickly, primarily due to internet connectivity issues.

Difficulty in Maintaining Study Motivation: Distance learning can reduce students' motivation due to the lack of direct supervision and a professional learning environment.29% of students felt distracted when using IT for learning. Limited Direct Interaction with Instructors and Peers: The inability to meet face-to-face can hinder quick exchanges and resolution of questions.32% of students found it more challenging to communicate with group members during online learning.

Table1. *Student Evaluation of Online Learning Effectiveness*

Criteria	Very ineffective	Ineffective	Neutral	Effective	Very effective
Online learning makes me more confident in asking questions.	15%	4.5%	27.6%	33.7%	32.7%
I find online learning very convenient.	1.0%	5.9%	20.6%	33.8%	38.7%
Online learning helps me understand the lessons more quickly.	3.0%	11.9%	31.3%	30.8%	22.9%
I find it easier to communicate with my group members during online learning.	3.9%	9.9%	25.1%	29.1%	32.0%

Source: *Survey results from the study*

Table2. *Student Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Information Technology in Searching for Study Materials*

Student Evaluation	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
	19%	14%	115%	284%	567%
I find studying easier with the support of search tools for study materials.	5%	34%	207%	346%	406%
My grades are higher with the support of search tools for study materials.	10%	29%	346%	298%	317%
My learning largely depends on searching for study materials.	14%	38%	240%	317%	389%
I can easily use the materials I find.	10%	19%	192%	380%	399%
I can easily gather information to write reports.	10%	24%	154%	351%	462%

Source: *Survey results from the study*

Through the tables and specific data, it is evident that online learning offers many benefits to students, but there are also challenges that need to be addressed to improve learning effectiveness.

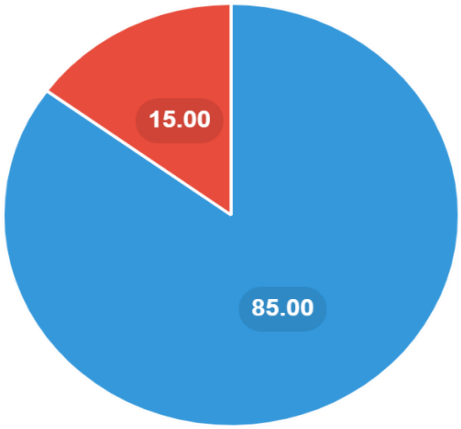
3.3. Barriers to Using Information Technology in Learning

Despite the many benefits of IT applications, students still face several barriers. Below are the main obstacles along with specific tables and data illustrating these challenges:

3.3.1. Lack of Equipment and Infrastructure

Personal Equipment: Not all students have the means to own laptops, tablets, or necessary electronic devices for effective online learning. In a survey, 15% of students reported that they did not have adequate equipment for effective online learning. School Infrastructure: Some classrooms are not fully equipped with supporting devices such as projectors, computers, and high-speed internet. Only 65% of classrooms are fully equipped for online learning.

Chart 1: Percentage of students facing difficulties due to lack of personal equipment

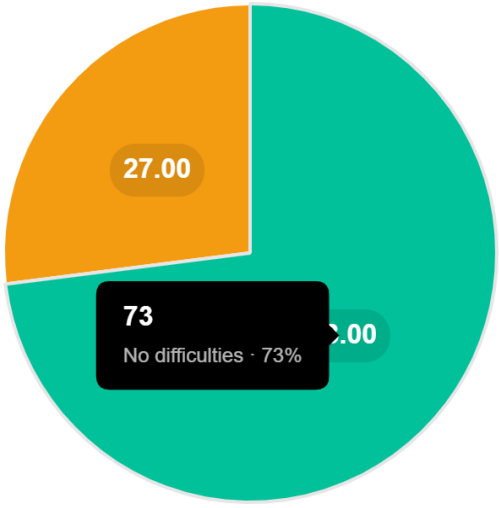


The chart shows that 15% of students face difficulties due to a lack of personal equipment, while 85% of students do not have this issue.

3.3.2. Knowledge and Skills in using Technology

Limited Technology Skills: Some students are not adequately equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively use IT software and tools. 27% of students reported having difficulties using IT tools in their studies. Lack of Training and Support: The school needs to provide specific training courses and guidance to help students acquire the necessary skills for using IT. 40% of students expressed a desire for more IT training courses.

Chart 2: Percentage of students facing difficulties due to lack of technology skills



The chart shows that 27% of students face difficulties due to a lack of technology skills, while 73% of students do not have this issue.

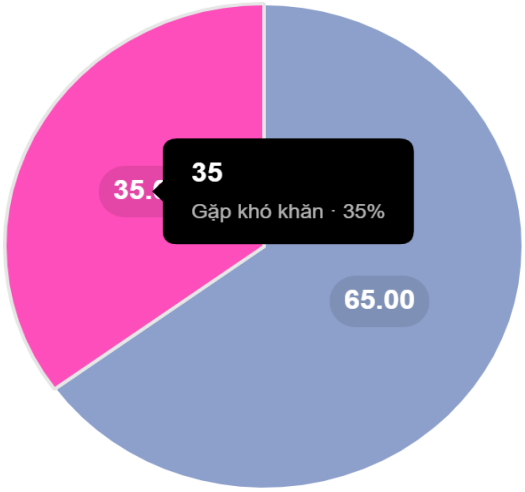
3.3.3. Security and Privacy Issues

Information Security Risks: When using online applications and platforms, students may encounter risks related to the security of personal and academic data. 22% of students are concerned about the security of their personal information when learning online. Data Management: Students need guidance on how to protect their personal data and academic information. 18% of students do not know how to protect their personal data.

3.3.4. Unstable Internet Connection

Speed and Stability of Internet Connection: For online learning, the speed and stability of the internet connection are crucial factors. 35% of students face issues with unstable internet connections.

Chart 3: Percentage of students facing difficulties due to unstable internet connection



The chart shows that 35% of students face difficulties due to unstable internet connections, while 65% of students do not have this issue.

3.3.5. Unfavorable Learning Environment

Study Space: Some students lack a separate, quiet study space at home, making it difficult to concentrate on their studies. 28% of students reported not having a quiet study space at home.

3.3.6. Dependence on Technology

Overuse of Technology: Excessive use of IT can lead to dependency, reducing the ability to think and solve problems independently. 24% of students felt they were overly dependent on technology. Inappropriate Content: Students can easily access inappropriate or irrelevant content on the internet, which can distract them from their studies. 19% of students reported being distracted by irrelevant content on the internet.

3.3.7. Academic Dishonesty

Cheating in Exams: Using IT can facilitate cheating in exams and assignments. 14% of students admitted to having cheated in exams using IT.

Table1. *Student evaluation of barriers to using IT in learning*

Criteria	**Percentage of Students Facing Difficulties (%)**
Lack of personal equipment	15%
Lack of school infrastructure	35%
Limited technology skills	27%
Lack of training and support	40%
Concerns about personal information security	22%
Not knowing how to protect personal data	18%
Unstable internet connection	35%
No quiet study space	28%
Over-dependence on technology	24%
Distracted by irrelevant content	19%
Cheated in exams using IT	14%

Source: *Survey results from the study*

Based on the specific tables and data above, it is evident that while IT offers numerous benefits, many barriers still need to be addressed to enhance learning effectiveness. Schools need to focus on improving infrastructure, providing IT skills training, and ensuring information security for students.

From the analysis, it is clear that the application of IT in student learning has achieved positive results, enhancing the effectiveness of learning and scientific research. However, to fully maximize the potential of IT, solutions must be found to overcome current barriers and challenges. Schools should invest more in infrastructure, equipment, and offer technology skills training courses for students. Additionally, measures should be taken to ensure safety and information security when using online applications and platforms.

3.4. Solutions to Overcome Barriers

To overcome the barriers in applying IT in learning, the following solutions should be implemented: Investment in Infrastructure and Equipment:

Upgrade Infrastructure: Schools should invest in upgrading infrastructure, ensuring that classrooms are fully equipped with supportive devices such as projectors, computers, and high-speed internet systems. Support Equipment for Students: Provide students with access to necessary learning devices like laptops and tablets through loan programs, rental options, or installment purchase plans at reasonable costs. Technology Skills Training and Support: Organize Training Courses: Schools should organize IT skills training courses for students, including how to use educational software, online tools, and basic cyber security skills. Technical Support: Provide technical support services for students and lecturers to help them resolve technical issues promptly and effectively. Ensure Information Security and Privacy: Implement Security Measures: Schools need to apply strong security measures such as data encryption, two-factor authentication, and regular updates of security software to protect personal and academic information of students. Educate on Security: Organize classes or workshops on information security, guiding students on how to protect their personal data and avoid cyber security risks. Improve Internet Connectivity: Enhance Internet Network: Ensure the school's internet network has wide coverage and high speed, especially in common areas and libraries.

Support internet access for students: Provide internet support packages for students in difficult circumstances, ensuring all students have access to stable internet connections.

Create a conducive learning environment: Encourage students to create quiet study spaces at home, such as a separate study corner away from noise and distractions.

Develop digital libraries: Expand and develop digital libraries with a wealth of learning materials, making it easier for students to access and research online.

Educate on responsible use of technology: Raise Awareness: Increase student awareness about using IT responsibly, avoiding over-dependence on technology, and developing self-study skills and creative thinking. Implement reasonable use policies: Schools should establish and enforce reasonable IT use policies to ensure students use technology purposefully and effectively. Control academic dishonesty: Use monitoring tools and anti-cheating software in exams and assignments to ensure fairness and transparency in academic assessment. Educate on academic ethics: Organize sessions on academic ethics, emphasizing the importance of honesty and fairness in learning and exams.

3.5. Overall Assessment

From the above analysis, it can be seen that the application of information technology (IT) in the studies of students at the Trade Union University has brought significant benefits. IT has helped enhance learning efficiency, improve access to materials and information, and develop important soft skills such as creative thinking, teamwork, and self-study.

However, to fully utilize the potential of IT and overcome current challenges, there needs to be synchronized investment from the school, as well as support and awareness from the students. Challenges such as lack of equipment, limited technology skills, information security issues, unstable internet connection, and an unfavorable learning environment all need to be addressed seriously and comprehensively.

The school needs to invest in upgrading infrastructure, provide necessary learning equipment, and facilitate students' easy access to IT. Additionally, it is essential to organize technology skills training courses for students, ensuring they have enough knowledge and skills to use IT effectively and safely. Ensuring information safety and security is also a crucial factor, helping students confidently use

applications and online platforms without worrying about security risks. Improving internet connectivity and creating a conducive home learning environment are also necessary solutions to support students in their studies.

Moreover, educating students on responsible technology use and controlling academic dishonesty are essential to ensure education quality and fairness in academic assessments. Students need to be raised awareness about using technology for the right purposes and developing self-study and creative thinking skills. With specific and practical solutions, we can create an effective learning environment that supports students' comprehensive development and better prepares them for the future in the digital era. The application of IT in education not only enhances the quality of education but also contributes to the sustainable development of society, meeting the increasing demands of the labor market and international integration.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. The Importance of Information Technology in Learning

Information technology (IT) has been playing a crucial role in improving the quality of education and learning. The rapid development of technology has brought numerous conveniences to the learning and teaching processes, enabling students to access knowledge more easily and effectively. IT not only supports information retrieval and assignments but also helps students develop self-study skills, creative thinking, and teamwork capabilities. The application of IT in higher education has become an indispensable factor, contributing to the enhancement of teaching and learning efficiency and providing favorable conditions for students to access a wealth of knowledge.

4.2. The Effectiveness of IT Application in Student Learning

Survey results indicate that the majority of students at the Trade Union University have been effectively using IT in their studies. Software such as Microsoft Office, Canva, Google Translate, and Chat GPT have been highly rated for their effectiveness and support in the learning process. Students have utilized these tools to enhance their notetaking, presentation, translation, and information-seeking capabilities.

Charts depicting the effectiveness of various software/applications in learning clearly show that IT tools have become an indispensable part of students' learning processes. This underscores the necessity and importance of continuing to invest in and develop technological infrastructure in education. Effectively using IT tools not only helps students learn more efficiently but also prepares them with essential skills to compete in the modern labor market.

4.3. Barriers and Challenges

Although the application of IT in learning has brought many benefits, several barriers and challenges still need to be addressed. These barriers include:

Lack of Equipment and Infrastructure: Some students lack access to essential devices such as laptops and tablets, and some classrooms are not adequately equipped with necessary support devices.

Technology Skills: Some students lack the knowledge and skills needed to effectively use IT software and tools. Security and Privacy Issues: Risks related to information security and personal data when using online applications and platforms remain a concern. Unstable Internet Connection: Unstable internet connectivity creates difficulties in participating in online classes and completing online assignments.

4.4. Solutions

To overcome these barriers and enhance the effectiveness of IT application in learning, the following solutions should be implemented: Investment in Facilities and Equipment: The school should invest in upgrading infrastructure and learning support equipment and provide assistance to students in need to access necessary devices. Technology Skills Training and Support: Organize training courses and provide guidance on IT skills for students and offer technical support services when needed.

Ensuring Information Security and Privacy: Implement robust security measures and educate students on how to protect personal data and academic information.

Improving Internet Connectivity: Ensure that the school's internet network has wide coverage and high speed, and support students in achieving stable internet connections.

Creating a Conducive Learning Environment: Encourage students to create quiet study spaces at home and develop a digital library with rich learning materials.

4.5. Looking to the Future

Looking to the future, the continued application of IT in learning will become an inevitable trend and a decisive factor in improving the quality of education. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and machine learning will open up new opportunities for learning and teaching. Students need to be equipped with advanced technology skills to prepare for an increasingly competitive and complex labor market.

To achieve this, close cooperation between the school, lecturers, students, and related parties is needed to build a modern, creative, and efficient learning environment that meets the demands of the digital age. The school should not only focus on providing modern facilities but also emphasize improving teaching quality through IT skills training programs and comprehensive student support measures.

5. CONCLUSION

The application of information technology (IT) in learning has brought numerous benefits to university students, enhancing learning efficiency, developing soft skills, and creating a flexible learning environment. Students can easily access a wealth of resources, improve their self-study and research abilities, and enhance the technological skills necessary for the modern labor market.

However, challenges such as lack of equipment, limited technology skills, security issues, and unstable internet connectivity still exist. To fully leverage the potential of IT, it is essential to focus on investing in infrastructure, training technology skills, and ensuring information security. Continued development and application of IT in learning will help improve the quality of education, equipping students with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the modern labor market and international integration.

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