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## Digital Transformation and the Role of Digital Platforms in Enhancing Organizational Performance

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### Abstract

Modern technology, with its digital platforms, has become an integral part of contemporary life, providing significant opportunities to harness this revolution optimally for the benefit of individuals and societies. Institutions have played a substantial role in investing in this digital revolution by increasing communication spaces with the community, strengthening relationships with their clients, and focusing on guidance, awareness, reputation enhancement, crisis management, and digital marketing, among other gains achieved through digital platforms. These platforms have also created unprecedented opportunities for workers, companies, and society, unleashing innovation on a global scale. However, at the same time, they pose serious threats to decent work and fair competition. Therefore, this research paper aims to shed light on the role of digital platforms in improving institutional performance, in addition to the challenges they face.

**Keywords:** Interactivity, Educational Platforms, Commercial Platforms Social Media, Technology Integration, Innovation, Challenges in Digital Platforms, User Engagement, Digital Marketing, Transparency, Accessibility, E-Learning

### Introduction

Our contemporary reality has witnessed a significant leap that has led to an unprecedented revolution in the fields of communication and media, unmatched in the history of humanity. The proliferation of media outlets, diversification of methods, and expansion of areas of influence have been remarkable.

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Additionally, the ease of interaction and the widespread reach of these platforms have contributed to enhanced communication among individuals. This technological revolution has prompted organizations to seek ways to invest in and leverage this transformation through its various channels, with digital platforms being among the most prominent.

Recently, digital platforms have been employed across multiple sectors, including education, industry, labor, commerce, marketing, and many other fields.

### **Research Problem**

Given the extensive reach and influence of digital platforms, which have enabled many individuals to disseminate information, share news, exchange ideas, and facilitate tasks across various aspects of life, several key questions arise. How have digital platforms contributed to improving organizational performance? What prominent roles have these platforms played in serving organizations? Additionally, what challenges have organizations encountered in utilizing digital platforms.

### **Research Questions**

- A. What is the concept of digital platforms?
- B. How have digital platforms contributed to improving the operational efficiency of organizations?
- C. What challenges have organizations faced in utilizing digital platforms?

### **Research Objectives**

- A. To diagnose the concept of digital platforms.
- B. To identify the role of digital platforms in improving organizational performance.
- C. To clarify the challenges faced by organizations in employing digital media.

## **Chapter One**

### **The Concept of Digital Platforms**

A. Definition of Digital Platforms: Digital platforms are business models based on the use of technology that allow multiple participants, including producers and consumers, to connect and interact with one another, creating and exchanging value. These models are user-friendly and do not require specialized training for effective



use. They enable many individuals to communicate simultaneously without affecting the performance of the platform's services. Examples of digital platforms include social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as knowledge and commercial platforms<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, digital platforms are software systems and virtual environments that facilitate interaction, communication, and the exchange of information, goods, and services over the internet. These platforms serve as hubs that connect multiple users, making the exchange of benefits and ideas more efficient, quicker, and less costly. Dr. Iman Marai emphasizes this by stating that the primary purpose of digital platforms is to enhance collaboration among end-users, producers, and service providers. This interaction allows users to share a variety of information based on the nature of the platform and the services it offers. The fundamental concept of the platform has evolved from simple communication between two parties to encompass digital content, job advertisements, business groups, electronic wallets, digital stores, and many other functions<sup>2</sup>.

## **B. Characteristics of Digital Platforms**

The characteristics of digital platforms can be summarized in the following points<sup>3</sup>:

1. **Interactivity:** Digital platforms provide an interactive environment between producers and consumers regarding the desired content, utilizing technological methods for interaction, whether in terms of time or space.
2. **Flexibility:** Digital platforms allow consumers to access their content at any time and from any location. They also accommodate age-related, intellectual, and diversity differences among the interacting audience.
3. **Engaging Content Presentation:** Digital platforms are characterized by presenting content in engaging ways, utilizing audio, visuals, and effects to enhance excitement and capture the attention of users.
4. **Cost Reduction and Ease of Use:** Digital platforms achieve lower costs compared to traditional methods and prioritize user-friendliness, ensuring that users do not need extensive information or a high level of education to navigate them effectively.



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### **C. Types of Digital or Electronic Platforms**

Digital or electronic platforms can be categorized into several types, the most important of which include:

1. **Commercial Platforms:** These are online platforms that facilitate commercial interactions between at least two different groups, typically one consisting of suppliers and the other of consumers. Each platform establishes distinct rules to enhance these interactions.
2. **Educational Platforms:** These are integrated, interactive educational software systems that offer a variety of learning resources on the internet. They provide courses, educational programs, and learning activities for students anytime and anywhere, both synchronously and asynchronously, using interactive educational technology and communication tools. This setup enables instructors to assess learners effectively.
3. **News Platforms:** These platforms are responsible for disseminating news and political discussions, providing the latest updates and developments from around the world. They are often affiliated with global, regional, or independent news agencies.
4. **Social Platforms:** These platforms are specialized within the social and cultural domain, whether at the local, regional, or global level. Their topics vary based on cultural and social issues that are of interest to individuals and communities.

### **D. Benefits of Electronic Platforms**

1. An electronic platform serves as a dedicated environment for all types of publishing, whether it involves disseminating information or products, and it fosters numerous interactions.
2. This platform leverages all internet-related technologies while being managed responsibly regarding the type of content available on the platform or across social media networks.
3. Electronic platforms facilitate the sharing of content and the exchange of diverse ideas and information.
4. They provide access to various digital resources through social media channels.



5. The electronic platform bridges the management of content intended for public dissemination, regardless of its nature, with various social media networks such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and others.

6. Electronic platforms have enabled teachers and university professors to share their lessons with students worldwide, allowing them to study and benefit from the material. Numerous assignments and educational activities have also been integrated into these platforms.

7. Additionally, electronic platforms have facilitated the sharing of both scientific and practical content, contributing to the production of high-quality educational outcomes.

## **Chapter Two**

### **The Role of Digital Platforms in Enhancing Organizational Services**

#### **A. Improvement Tools of Digital Platforms for Organizations**

Undoubtedly, digital platforms have begun to play a vital role in serving organizations. They have become a powerful tool for implementing organizational strategies, achieving goals, and expanding service offerings. The role of digital platforms in improving organizational performance can be summarized through the following pathways:

##### **First: Effective and Rapid Communication**

Today, organizations can communicate with their audience and the public at any time and from any location through digital platforms. There is no need for fixed business hours, nor is it necessary to physically visit the organization to obtain information or services. These platforms facilitate quick and effective communication with organizational management, alleviating the burden on clients. Additionally, they reduce the financial costs associated with travel and minimize the time wasted on visits and promotions. Furthermore, these platforms can reach a larger and broader audience as they are not constrained by geographic, political, religious, or ethnic boundaries.

##### **Second: Crisis Management and Public Opinion Direction**

In our contemporary reality, digital platforms have played a critical role in managing crises that affect various regions and events occurring around the world, such as



wars, conflicts, and adverse weather conditions like earthquakes and hurricanes. In such circumstances, digital platforms act as facilitators, sources of reassurance, lifelines, and guiding lights for people during difficult times. They possess a remarkable capacity to shape public opinion, whether by encouraging participation in elections, promoting volunteer work, ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, or educating communities about issues such as cleanliness, caring for individuals with special needs, and other matters of societal concern.

### **Third: Data Analysis and Gathering Public Opinions**

Digital platforms provide organizations with the ability to analyze data and collect statistics with accuracy, transparency, and ease. These platforms assist organizations in gaining a deeper understanding of their audience and meeting their needs more effectively by soliciting feedback in a clear and informed manner. Additionally, they contribute to the processes of correction, review, and addressing errors and shortcomings. Consequently, digital platforms play a significant role in strengthening the relationship between organizations and the community, allowing for a direct understanding of public needs.

### **Fourth: Enhancing Credibility and Transparency**

Through digital platforms, organizations have been able to disseminate accurate and verified information, countering rumors and falsehoods circulated against them, which in turn increases public trust in the organization. Furthermore, these platforms facilitate the raising of issues and challenges, transforming them into matters of public concern, thereby expediting their resolution and garnering attention from relevant stakeholders.

### **Fifth: Awareness and Education**

Digital platforms, due to their extensive reach, have been instrumental in awareness and education campaigns addressing various issues, such as health, education, sports, and volunteer initiatives. For instance, we have recently witnessed global campaigns warning against the coronavirus, detailing prevention methods and treatment options for those affected. Digital platforms played a significant role in disseminating information and guiding the public toward safety and security. They have also raised awareness about the dangers of smoking, drugs, and alcohol, as well



as issues related to terrorism, extremism, and other matters that undermine community security and peace.

### **Sixth: Creating New Job Opportunities**

Digital platforms provide organizations with novel ways to engage external parties for a diverse range of tasks, services, and retail operations, thereby enhancing their organizational performance. Companies utilize these electronic platforms for three main purposes: recruitment, cost reduction, and efficiency improvement, as well as acquiring knowledge for innovation. Additionally, digital platforms assist startups in their growth and enable some organizations to redirect their operations and reach broader markets<sup>5</sup>.

#### **B. Challenges Facing Digital Platforms in Serving Organizations**

Despite the significant services that digital platforms offer to organizations, several challenges confront these platforms, including:

1. **Weak Technical and Design Output:** The technical and design quality of digital platforms is sometimes inadequate and does not align with the character of the organizations. This issue often arises when these platforms are designed in a traditional manner or by individuals lacking expertise, which can negatively impact the organization's reputation.
2. **Poor Expressive Formulation and Linguistic Errors:** Many platforms suffer from subpar linguistic expression and grammatical errors. This is often due to the operators of these platforms lacking media experience and language skills. Organizations must ensure they employ qualified and capable personnel for these platforms, as they represent the organization's history and reputation.
3. **Delay in Communicating Updates:** There can be a delay in conveying the latest developments to the organization, as certain updates may spread through activists and journalists before being addressed on the platform. This undermines the platform's credibility and the public's trust in it. It is essential for the organization to consolidate the latest updates through its digital platform rather than relying on other channels.
4. **Weak Servers and Lack of Cybersecurity:** Some organizations establish their digital platforms on outdated or weak servers, leading to delays in loading the platform and accessing its details. Additionally, if the sites are not scientifically



protected, they may be vulnerable to hacking, resulting in data loss, manipulation, or theft. This can also expose users' information and accounts to breaches, causing significant embarrassment and financial loss for the organization due to this avoidable negligence.

5.Challenges Related to Accessibility: Despite the potential of digital platforms to achieve widespread access, there are barriers faced by individuals with minimal technical knowledge, internet access, or digital devices such as smartphones. Many people, particularly in contexts of poverty or inadequate services, may lack these essential conditions. Consequently, there is a risk of excluding the most vulnerable populations, who often do not have access to or familiarity with technologies<sup>6</sup>.

## Conclusion

- ✓ Digital platforms are software systems and virtual environments that enable individuals and organizations to interact, communicate, and exchange information, goods, and services over the internet. These platforms function as hubs that connect multiple users, facilitating the exchange of benefits and ideas more effectively, in a shorter timeframe, and at a lower cost.
- ✓ Digital or electronic platforms can be categorized into several types: commercial platforms, educational platforms, news platforms, and social and cultural platforms, which focus on local, regional, or global social and cultural spheres. Their topics vary according to cultural and social issues that are relevant to individuals and communities.
- ✓ The benefits of digital platforms include serving as a dedicated environment for all types of publishing, employing various internet technologies, and being managed responsibly regarding the content available. Additionally, digital platforms facilitate content sharing and the exchange of diverse ideas and information. They play a crucial role in education by assisting teachers and university professors in disseminating their lessons to students everywhere, allowing for study and utilization, while also integrating numerous assignments and educational activities.
- ✓ The improvement tools of digital platforms in serving organizations include effective and rapid communication, crisis management and public opinion





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direction, data analysis and gathering public feedback, enhancing credibility and transparency, as well as awareness and education initiatives.

- ✓ Despite the progress achieved by digital platforms in providing services, there are still several issues that need to be addressed, including weak technical and design output of official websites, linguistic errors and poor expression, delays in conveying the latest news and updates, as well as inadequate server strength and cybersecurity protections for the sites.

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<sup>4</sup>.source is the platform "Areed."



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