



## Reducing Inequalities in Digital Education



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Most adults are learning how important education really is. But why is education important? During school, you might have thought it was boring or useless, or that you only needed it to get a job. The truth is, education is much more than that — it's one of the most powerful things in the world.

However, in some countries, digital education isn't equal. UNESCO warns that while using technology in education can make learning more flexible and creative, it can also cause problems like the digital divide, meaning not everyone has the same access to technology or the internet. According to UNESCO data, many students don't have internet access or digital devices. During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools switched to online learning, but nearly half of all students didn't have a computer, and over 40% didn't have internet access.

This problem isn't just about having a device, it also depends on the family's living conditions. Children from richer families are much more likely to have the internet at home, which makes digital inequality worse between rich and poor families.

Many organizations around the world, including the United Nations, governments, and volunteers have agreed that all children should have equal access to digital learning. No matter their family income, location, or disability, every student should have the tools they need for online learning. The main goal of this promise is to make sure everyone has fair and equal access to digital education, helping to reduce the digital divide.

In the United Kingdom, digital education inequality is still a problem. Even though the UK is a developed country with good technology, not all children have the same access to digital tools, which causes differences in learning opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK government started the "Get Help with Technology" program. Through this, they gave laptops and tablets to students from low-income families. They also provided free internet data for students who didn't have Wi-Fi at home. Teachers were trained to use digital tools and teach lessons online effectively.

We believe it's very important that teachers get training on how to use digital tools like tablets, computers, and phones. They should also learn how to reach all students, including those with disabilities or special needs. Schools should teach digital skills as part of the

national program so students can be ready for modern jobs. Lastly, countries should share their best ideas and successful programs with each other to make progress faster and help everyone learn better.









