



Reducing Inequalities in Digital Education



Name: F. Mehlika Demirel

Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Delegate: United Kingdom

Almost every adult knows that education is really important. But young students do not really know why education is important. When you are a student in school they might think it is boring or that you will not use it in the future, or only if you want a special job. But education is more than that. It helps young people to learn how to think, understand the world, and to make better choices in life.

But, in some countries, digital education is not the same for everyone. UNESCO says that technology in education can make learning more helpful and creative. But it can also create problems. One problem is the digital divide, that means that not everyone has the same quality of technology or internet. When we check the data UNESCO shared, many students do not have internet access or digital devices like laptops and tablets. During the COVID-19 pandemic schools had to do online learning. Almost half of all students did not have a computer and over 40% did not have internet at home. This is a huge issue. This problem is not only about having a computer or tablet. It also depends on how rich or poor the family is. Children from richer families are much more likely to have the internet at home. And that makes digital inequality even worse between rich and poor families.

Many organizations like the United Nations or different governments think that every child must have the same chances to learn online. It should not matter if a child's family is rich or poor, or where they live or has a disability, every student should have what they need for online learning. The main goal of this idea is to make sure everyone has fair and equal access to digital education. So that we can help to reduce the digital inequality.

In my country, the United Kingdom, digital inequality is still a problem unfortunately. Even though the UK has good technology, not all children have the same access to digital tools, which creates differences in learning. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK started the “Get Help with Technology” program. They gave laptops and tablets to students that come from low-income families. They also gave free internet data for students who didn’t have Wi-Fi at home. Teachers were trained to use digital devices and teach lessons online.

We believe it is very important that teachers learn how to use digital tools like tablets, computers, and phones. They should also learn how to help all students, with disabilities or special needs. Schools should teach digital skills so students can be ready for modern jobs. Lastly, countries should share their ideas with each other to make progress faster and help everyone learn better.

