Digital Transformation and Innovative Approaches in Adult Education

Participants:

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Aim:

In the roundtable meeting, information/opinion was shared about the effects of digital transformation in adult education and the innovative applications that may emerge or may emerge with this transformation. The process was carried out within the framework of the following guiding questions:

1. How has the digital transformation process affected the life skills of adults?
2. What is the role/importance of digital technologies in adult education?
3. How do you evaluate the potential of using digital technologies in the education of adults?
4. In addition to/different from face-to-face learning environments, how can digital learning environments contribute to adult education?
5. What do you think the future of adult education will be shaped with digital transformation?
6. What kind of innovative practices are carried out on adult education? What are your suggestions in this regard?

Evaluation Report

In the 21st century world, which is guided by the ideas on the basis of globalization, digitalization and digital information society, education is a process that ensures continuous learning, knowing information, being knowledgeable, producing information, living with information, and in the information society, individuals are expected to be creative, questioning, thinking and producing people. Changes in our view of the world lead to changes in the understanding of learning and teaching; leads to the emergence of different paradigms in the field of education. Learning is multidimensional; It is a process that takes place throughout life, in the depth of life and in the breadth of life. Individuals in the society need continuous education in order to follow the rapidly developing information and technology and to improve themselves. In this case, it is obvious that it will not be enough for individuals to receive formal education throughout their lives in order to keep up with the developments in the society and the world. It is necessary for individuals to develop their lifelong learning skills in order to continue their education throughout their lives, to develop their knowledge, skills and competencies, and to have a place in society. In this context, adult education helps to change lives and transform societies. Adult education plays a key role in solving some of the most important
problems facing Europe today. Digitalization has already changed and will continue to change our living conditions, mobility, environment, communication and other living spaces. This will also change the life skills necessary to manage these changes and the abilities students will need to participate in society. Adult learning provides essential life skills, as well as anticipating and shaping future developments. With the demographic change, a changing population is observed in Europe and with the increase in age, individuals want to be active and healthy for a longer period of time. In many regions and countries where significant changes in employment opportunities and few options for re-education are offered, unemployment is particularly high among the youngest and oldest adult segments. Increasing digitalization requires employees, citizens and consumers to develop new skills and competences.

The European Adult Education Platform (EAEA) states that 43% of the European adult population does not have basic digital skills. Adults who do not have sufficient skills are at risk of social exclusion. By 2024, roles requiring digital skills will grow by 12%, and the ability to control digital tools will be critical in the next 5 years. In addition, the ability to seize the opportunities provided by digitalization is not evenly distributed. Disadvantaged adults may face an exponential disadvantage in the future because they are not aware of these changes or do not have the tools to adapt to them, and it will be even more important to ensure that all adults have access to education and training for basic and intermediate digital skills.

Understanding the opportunities, challenges and impact of digitalization on work and learning is important for every adult participating in lifelong learning; it is indispensable in promoting personal satisfaction and development, employability, social inclusion and active citizenship. Everyone now needs to have an appropriate level of digital competence to play an active role in society.

We can list the reasons that make the digital transformation of adults necessary as follows:

**Social Dimension**

1. Keeping up with the globalizing world,
2. To be an active stakeholder of the sustainable world,
3. To protect the ecological balance,
4. Contributing to the economy,
5. Participate in the democratic process
6. Being a digital citizen

**Individual Dimension**

7. Being individuals who can produce and use
8. Reaching job and life satisfaction (wellbeing)
9. Socialize and have fun
10. Social and emotional development
11. Supporting lifelong learning
12. Facilitate health, banking and shopping transactions
13. Supporting daily living skills
The European Commission has set targets to ensure that 70% of adults acquire key digital competences by 2025. The European Union has identified 5 priority areas for Adult Education for 2030.

1. Establishing policies on adult education
2. Creating opportunities for lifelong learning
3. Designing and implementing inclusive professional development opportunities for adult education
4. Gaining the necessary skills to transition to a green digital world
5. Ensuring flexibility and accessibility of adult education

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11th Development Plan of the Republic of Turkey, these expressions for adults were included: “Protection of the young and dynamic population structure; In order to increase the quality of life of the elderly, the main purpose is to participate in economic and social life effectively, to lead their lives actively and independently, to benefit from high quality long-term care, health and other services, and to create active aging environments.

Innovative Approaches and Practices in Adult Education

In the light of the researches and discussions, some approaches and practices that are currently used in adult education and that are expected to be used in the future have been determined:

1. Refreshment/3. Age Universities
2. Time Banking
3. Intergenerational Learning / Technology Mentoring
4. Peer Learning (Get Set Up etc.)
5. Digital Storytelling
6. Gamification
7. Adaptive Learning Environments (Siri, Alexa, etc.)
8. Online retirement preparation training
9. MOOC apps for self-improvement
10. Mobile applications for personal interests (in the field of culture and art)
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