

Review of: "The Students and Faculty Perception of Digital Citizenship Practices in Distance Learning Environment – The Case Study of Al-Quds Open University"

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I recently had the opportunity to review the research entitled: “The Students and Faculty Perception of Digital Citizenship Practices in Distance Learning Environment – The Case Study of Al-Quds Open University”, and while I appreciate the effort you put into conducting a mixed-method study, I have some concerns about the approach you took.

Abstract

- This statement is fragmented “it becomes critical that provide positive, safe, legal, and ethical behavioural online”.
- Use Mixed method instead of mix methods.
- While the abstract mentions that the study used a mix method approach, it does not provide any details on the research methods used or how the data was collected and analyzed. It would be helpful to include more information on the study design, sample size, data collection methods, and analysis techniques.
- While the abstract provides a general overview of the study's findings, it does not provide any specific details or examples of the results. It would be helpful to include some specific findings that illustrate the lack of understanding of digital citizenship principles among students and faculty, and how this can impact their online behavior and privacy.
- The abstract does not provide any information on the practical implications of the study's findings. It would be helpful to include some information on how the study's results can be used to improve digital citizenship education and practice in distance learning environments.

Introduction

- While the introduction briefly mentions the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, it does not provide any context or background information on why this topic is important. It would be helpful to include some statistics or trends to show the significance of the rise in e-learning and distance education, and why digital citizenship is critical in this context. You can refer to the following paper (See for example, Al Shbail, Alshurafat, et al., 2021; Al Shbail, Esra'a, et al., 2021; Alshurafat et al., 2021; Patki et al., 2020; Smith et al., 2021).
- The introduction section jumps around between different concepts, definitions, and studies without a clear focus or structure, making it difficult for the reader to follow.
- There are several redundancies and repetitions, such as the definition of digital citizenship that appears multiple times,

which could be consolidated or summarized for clarity.

- The inclusion of information such as the definition of distance learning, advancements in technology and education, and the Open University library's approach, may not be directly related to the topic of digital citizenship and distance learning, and therefore could be removed or better contextualized.
- The introduction section should be concluded using a paragraph that illustrates the paper structure.
- Overall, the introduction could benefit from a clearer focus on the topic of digital citizenship and distance learning, a more structured and coherent presentation of the relevant literature, and a synthesis of the main findings of the studies cited.

Literature review

- The section presents several studies that relate to digital citizenship and distance learning, but it does not synthesize the main findings or provide an overview of the literature on the topic.
- While the literature review section provides a comprehensive overview of prior studies on the topic of digital citizenship, it may benefit from a more engaging approach to storytelling. The author could consider providing more context and background information to frame the studies within a larger narrative, highlighting the significance and relevance of the research to the reader. A storytelling approach could also help to maintain the reader's interest and attention throughout the literature review section, making it more enjoyable and memorable. However, it's important to strike a balance between presenting the research findings accurately and effectively communicating the story behind the research.
- The section presents studies with varying levels of detail, and the formatting of the citations could be made more consistent. For example, some studies provide only the authors and year, while others provide more detailed information. A consistent format would make the section easier to read and follow.

Section 3, 4 and 5 should be embedded within the introduction section.

It is common practice to include the research objectives, research questions, and definition of terms within the introduction section of a research paper. Placing these sections within the introduction helps to provide a clear overview of the study, its goals, and its focus. Additionally, it can help readers to better understand the context and significance of the research being presented.

Methodology

- Specifically, I noticed that you used different participant types in each method, with eight faculty members participating in the qualitative interview and 559 students participating in the quantitative survey. As a result, the two methods appear to be unrelated studies. In the future, I suggest using a more homogeneous sample across both the qualitative and quantitative methods to increase the validity of the findings. This will ensure that the two methods complement each other and provide a more robust analysis.
- The first sentence of section 6.1 should be rewritten to be more concise and clear. For example: "This study uses a mixed method approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis (Saunders et al,

2016)."

- It would be helpful to provide more detail on the digital citizenship scale, including how it was developed, what it measures, and how it was modified based on input from teachers, experts, and decision makers.
- The use of non-probability sampling should be justified, as it may limit the generalizability of the findings. The researchers should explain why they chose this sampling technique and how it helped them achieve their research objectives.
- The table provided in section 6.2 could be formatted more clearly to make it easier to read and understand.
- The sample size for the online survey (559 students) should be justified. Is this considered a representative sample of the total student population at Al-Quds Open University, or was a larger sample size unfeasible? It would also be helpful to provide more information on the survey design and questions.
- In this section on methodology, there is no detailed discussion of the data analysis techniques that will be used to analyze the data collected from these instruments. It would be helpful for the author to provide more information on the specific methods they plan to use to analyze the qualitative and quantitative data.
- For the structured interviews, the author should specify if they will be transcribing the interviews and using a thematic analysis or another method to analyze the data. Thematic analysis involves identifying themes, patterns, and codes in the data, and it is a commonly used method in qualitative research (See for example, Alhusban et al., 2020; Alshurafat, 2021; Alshurafat et al., 2020; Haloush et al., 2021). Alternatively, the author could use another method such as content analysis or discourse analysis (See for example, Alshurafat et al., 2019; Alshurafat, 2019).
- Regarding the digital citizenship scale, the author should explain how they plan to analyze the data collected from the scale. They could use descriptive statistics to summarize the data, or they could use inferential statistics to test hypotheses or relationships between variables. The author should also mention if they plan to perform any reliability or validity tests on the scale.
- For the online survey, the author mentioned using a simple random sampling technique to select respondents. It would be helpful for the author to provide more information on the survey questions and how they plan to analyze the data. Will they use descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, or both? The author could also mention if they plan to use any statistical software to analyze the data.
- Overall, it is important for the author to provide more detail on the data analysis techniques to be used in the study as this is a crucial aspect of research methodology.

Results

- The description of the sample is incomplete. There is no information about the field of study or the distribution of the sample across the different faculties or departments of the university. Moreover, the sample size is relatively small compared to the total number of enrolled students, which raises questions about the representativeness of the sample and the generalizability of the results.
- The section presents only descriptive statistics without any inferential statistics, which makes it difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions. It would be more informative to use statistical tests such as chi-square or t-test to compare the responses of different groups of students and to identify any significant differences.

- The section does not provide any interpretation or discussion of the results. The authors should explain what the results mean, what are the implications for digital citizenship education, and what are the limitations of the study.
- The section lacks coherence and structure. The presentation of the results is disorganized and confusing, with some items presented in a table and others in a paragraph. It would be better to present the results in a logical and consistent manner, for example, by grouping the items according to their themes or dimensions.

Discussion

- The first sentence should be revised to "The study results revealed that the students at Al-Quds Open University were knowledgeable about digital citizenship" to make it grammatically correct.
- The sentence "The students have no restrictions on joining an online community related to social or political issue" could be rephrased to be clearer - for example, "The students expressed a willingness to join online communities related to social or political issues."
- The sentence "This findings with line of study results conducted by Pedersen et al., (2018) who concluded that the hyper model was successful in strengthening the gaps that were part of the digital citizenship and distance learning platform" is unclear and needs revision to make it more comprehensible.

Conclusion

- The first sentence could be more concise and straightforward, for example: "The study shows that distance learning and digital citizenship are interconnected in terms of safety and ethical use of technology."
- The sentence "It was pointed out that if incumbent efforts are made to enhance distance learning tools, it could become a Digital Citizenship Practice pioneer" is unclear and should be revised to be more specific about what kind of efforts are needed to improve distance learning tools.

Recommendation

- The sentence "Several ideas should be discussed at the norm level" is vague and should be more specific about what kind of ideas are being referred to.
- It's unclear what is meant by "government policies for digital citizenship in distance learning" - the recommendation should be more specific about what policies are needed and what their purpose would be.
- The sentence "Guidelines for digital citizenship in distance learning should be created to guide the students in the distance learning environment" could be expanded to specify what the guidelines would cover and how they would be implemented.
- Overall, the sections could benefit from clearer and more concise language, as well as more specific recommendations for how to address the issues identified in the study.

Thank you for your hard work on this study, and I hope my feedback is helpful in improving the quality of your research.

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