

Playground: The First Step into the Digital World

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Abstract : In today's rapidly advancing digital landscape, computer literacy is essential for academic achievement, career readiness, and personal development. Despite its importance, many students in Malaysia, particularly those in rural and underserved communities, face significant challenges in acquiring these crucial skills. These barriers include limited access to resources, inadequate training programs, and insufficient exposure to technology. The study investigates the impact of these challenges on students' academic performance, confidence, and preparedness for future opportunities in the global digital economy. By analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data, it identifies the root causes of the digital divide, highlighting disparities in infrastructure, curriculum integration, and teacher support. This research emphasizes the importance of implementing innovative and practical strategies to enhance computer literacy in schools. Recommendations include the development of accessible training programs, improved infrastructure, and collaborative efforts between policymakers, educators, and communities. The findings reveal that the lack of computer literacy not only widens the educational gap but also restricts students' ability to participate meaningfully in an increasingly tech-driven world. By addressing these issues, this study aims to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and equitable educational environment. The study concludes by ensuring students across Malaysia are equipped to thrive in the digital age and contribute to the nation's progress as a digitally empowered society. These efforts will lay the foundation for a more equitable and sustainable future for all learners.

Keywords : computer education, digital empowerment, digital skills, ICT literacy

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