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EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF DIGITALIZATION

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Currently, we are witnessing a revolution that radically changes the usual way of life of a person - the way he lives, works and communicates with other people [1]. The fourth industrial revolution is associated with the active, high-speed, introduction of new innovative technologies that make changes in all spheres of human life. New technologies give rise to others, introducing them into the economy, culture, politics, public sector, education. The innovations brought by the fourth industrial revolution are primarily associated with digital transformations - autonomous vehicles, blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, 3-D printing, virtual reality and much more.

The new world with advanced digital technologies requires qualified, competitive personnel, which is the area of responsibility of the institution of education. In turn, general digitalization dictates the need to search for new approaches to the organization of higher education within the framework of progressive scientific and technological development: restructuring the educational process, redefining the role of the teacher, changing approaches to the management of the educational organization. In this regard, the interest of many scientists is attracted to the topic of changes in the educational system that occur under the influence of digitalization [2-4]. Existing publications show the benefits of using digital technologies in the educational environment, which make education open, mobile, accessible to a wide audience of students [5, 6]. Some researchers are skeptical about the digitalization of education, expressed in a radical change in the content of educational programs for teaching students, which may lead to the formalization of professional training and a decrease in students' knowledge, especially when teaching in a distance form due to the lack of direct teacher-student contact [7]. Each work on this issue considers some specific aspect of digitalization of higher education and, in our opinion, there is currently a lack of research that would conduct a comprehensive analysis of this phenomenon in terms of its impact on higher education as a whole. The experience gained by higher education in 2020 in connection with the introduction of restrictions due to the pandemic of the new coronavirus infection and the transition of many universities to distance learning allows for a deep reflection of the organization of higher education in the context of digitalization. As part of this work, we will turn to the element of online learning in the context of a pandemic and the trends in the use of distance learning in universities in the future.

The institute of education has always attracted the attention of researchers. Modern scholars in their research are actively addressing the problems of reforming higher education, pointing out the ambiguity and inconsistency of modernization [8; 9]. They discuss the functions of higher education in reforming the education system, developing qualified personnel for the effective functioning of higher education, continuing education, and the formation of a market for educational services and products. Among the issues of interest to researchers, there is also the issue of training digital personnel, in modern conditions [10]. An important place in research related to education issues is occupied by questions about the advantages and problems of digitalization of higher education: blended learning models, the creation of a digital educational environment, and the transition to online learning [11]. The term “digitalization” itself is being transformed and acquires new definitions. If earlier the process of digitalization was understood as the transition from paper to electronic media, now this concept is changing and acquiring a slightly different semantic contour, where social relations based on the use of digital communication and digital media are being transformed. Thus, digitalization of education today is not just the use of

information technologies in the educational process; it is something more - a change in the educational paradigm, educational technologies, and a change in the content, forms and methods of the learning process in the context of digital reality. In order to understand how the organization of higher education takes place in the context of digitalization, it is necessary to understand what higher education is as a social institution, what digitalization trends in education can be traced, and what impact they have on higher education, how the management of an educational organization is changing in the context of digitalization.

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