Analysis of Content Innovation, Ease of Access, and Technology Support on Generation Z User Engagement on Educational Platforms in Indonesia

Loso Judijanto¹, Novian Aldo², Rully Fildansyah³ ¹IPOSS Jakarta, Indonesia and <u>losojudijantobumn@gmail.com</u> ²Poltekkes Kemenkes Tanjungpinang and <u>novian_aldotpi@yahoo.com</u>

³Nusa Putra University and rvllfil@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of content innovation, ease of access, and technology support on Generation Z user engagement with educational platforms in Indonesia. Employing a quantitative research approach, data were collected from 120 respondents using a structured questionnaire measured on a 5-point Likert scale. The Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) method was used to analyze the relationships between the independent variables (content innovation, ease of access, and technology support) and the dependent variable (user engagement). The findings reveal that all three factors significantly and positively influence user engagement, with content innovation being the strongest predictor. These results underscore the importance of delivering innovative content, ensuring accessibility, and maintaining robust technology support to enhance user engagement. The study offers actionable insights for educational platform developers and contributes to the growing body of knowledge on digital education and user behavior, particularly in emerging markets such as Indonesia.

Keywords: Content Innovation, Ease of Access, Technology Support, User Engagement, Educational Platforms

1. INTRODUCTION

In this rapidly changing world with accelerated technological development, the education pattern has started to take totally new shapes, especially with the invention of some digital platforms aimed at improving learning experiences [1], [2]. In Indonesia, these educational platforms have started playing a crucial role in addressing issues of inaccessibility to traditional education, an increasing population of digitally native users, and the need for personalized learning solutions [3], [4]. This becomes specifically important for Generation Z, who are deeply integrated with technology and have high expectations for innovative, user-oriented digital experiences [5].

Various factors explain the engagement of Generation Z with educational platforms: relevance and quality of the content provided, ease of access, and level of technological support. Content innovation, including creative and adaptive learning materials, is an important element that helps to catch and hold attention in the competitive digital space [6]. Likewise, ease of access—reflected in user-friendly interfaces, seamless navigation, and mobile optimization—ensures that the educational resources are not only appealing but also highly accessible [7]. What's more, robust technology support—such as technical reliability, integration of advanced tools, and responsiveness of assistance—enhances the user experience and fosters sustained engagement [8], [9].

Even as learning platforms are increasingly becoming popular, few studies have investigated the interrelationship between innovation of content, ease of access, and technology support as drivers of active usage, especially in Generation Z in Indonesia [10], [11], [12]. This generation comprises a lion's share of the digital consumer population in Indonesia, and therefore,

understanding their preferences and behaviors will be highly important for the success of educational technology providers.

The current study seeks to fill this gap by investigating the influence of content innovation, ease of access, and technology support on the user engagement of Generation Z in Indonesia with educational platforms.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Generation Z and Educational Platforms

Generation Z, individuals born between 1997 and 2012, are characterized by their familiarity with digital technology and their preference for online interaction [13]. These demographic values personalized, flexible, and engaging learning experiences, which makes educational platforms an attractive solution for their learning needs [14], [15]. Educational platforms provide tools such as interactive modules, gamification, and real-time feedback, which align with the learning preferences of Generation Z [16], [17]. Understanding what drives engagement among this group is essential for developers to maximize the platforms' effectiveness.

2.2 Content Innovation

Content innovation refers to the ability of an educational platform to provide creative, adaptive, and relevant learning materials. It includes multimedia resources, personalized learning paths, and interactive elements that cater to diverse learning styles [18]. Previous studies highlight that innovative content not only captures attention but also sustains user engagement by making the learning process more enjoyable and effective [19], [20]. For Generation *Z*, who often seek stimulating and customized educational experiences, the role of content innovation cannot be overstated [21], [22].

2.3 Ease of Access

Ease of access is a critical factor in user engagement with digital platforms. It encompasses user-friendly interfaces, intuitive navigation, cross-platform compatibility, and minimal technical barriers [23], [24]. According to [25], ease of access significantly influences users' willingness to adopt and consistently use digital tools. In the context of educational platforms, seamless accessibility ensures that users can focus on learning without being hindered by complex or cumbersome system designs. Studies indicate that platforms optimized for mobile and low-bandwidth environments are particularly effective in emerging markets like Indonesia [26].

2.4 Technology Support

Technology support refers to the technological infrastructure and services that ensure a smooth and reliable user experience. This includes the availability of advanced tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) for personalized recommendations, responsive technical support, and robust data security measures [27], [28]. For educational platforms, the role of technology support extends beyond technical assistance to creating a trustworthy and enriching digital environment. Research has shown that the presence of reliable technology support positively correlates with user satisfaction and long-term engagement [29], [30].

2.5 User Engagement

User engagement is defined as the depth of interaction, emotional connection, and active participation that users exhibit while using a platform [31], [32]. It is influenced by cognitive, emotional, and behavioral factors, making it a multidimensional construct [33]. In the context of educational platforms, user engagement translates into increased time spent on the platform, frequency of use, and the achievement of learning outcomes. Engaged users are more likely to derive value from the platform and recommend it to others, making engagement a key metric for success [34], [35].

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The study employs the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Expectation-Confirmation Theory (ECT) as guiding frameworks. TAM posits that perceived usefulness and ease of use are critical determinants of user adoption of technology (Davis, 1989). ECT suggests that user satisfaction and continued engagement are driven by the alignment of user expectations with their actual experience (Oliver, 1980). By integrating these theories, this study aims to investigate how content innovation, ease of access, and technology support influence user engagement among Generation Z.

2.7 Hypotheses Development

Based on the literature, the following hypotheses are proposed:

- H1: Content innovation positively influences user engagement on educational platforms.
- H2: Ease of access positively influences user engagement on educational platforms.
- H3: Technology support positively influences user engagement on educational platforms.

This literature review establishes the foundation for understanding the factors influencing Generation Z's engagement with educational platforms in Indonesia. By synthesizing previous research and theoretical insights, the study contributes to addressing the research gap in user engagement within the context of educational technology.

3. METHODS

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a quantitative research approach to examine the impact of content innovation, ease of access, and technology support on Generation Z user engagement with educational platforms in Indonesia. A descriptive and explanatory design was used to identify and analyze the relationships between the independent variables (content innovation, ease of access, and technology support) and the dependent variable (user engagement). The study leverages a cross-sectional survey method to collect primary data from respondents.

3.2 Population and Sample

The population for this study consists of Generation Z users (aged 18–26) who actively use educational platforms in Indonesia. A purposive sampling technique was employed to ensure the inclusion of respondents with relevant experience and familiarity with educational platforms. A total of 120 respondents were selected, aligning with the minimum sample size required for reliable results in Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) analysis (Hair et al., 2011).

3.3 Data Collection

Data were collected using a structured online questionnaire distributed via email and social media platforms, which consisted of two main sections: demographic information, including age, gender, education level, and frequency of using educational platforms, and main variables, which measured content innovation, ease of access, technology support, and user engagement using a 5-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree). To ensure clarity, validity, and reliability, the questionnaire was pre-tested on 15 respondents before full deployment.

3.4 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) with SmartPLS 3 software, a robust statistical technique suitable for analyzing complex relationships between variables, particularly with relatively small sample sizes. The analysis process involved four steps: descriptive statistics to summarize respondent characteristics and variable distributions; measurement model evaluation to assess reliability (Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability) and validity (convergent and discriminant validity); structural model evaluation to test hypothesized relationships between variables using path coefficients and their significance levels; and hypothesis testing to determine the significance and strength of the relationships using p-values and standardized regression weights.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Sample

The demographic characteristics of the 120 respondents are summarized as follows: The respondents were divided into two age groups, with 82 respondents (68.3%) aged 18–22 years and 38 respondents (31.7%) aged 23–26 years, indicating that the majority were within the typical age range of Generation Z users actively engaged with educational platforms. In terms of gender distribution, the sample included 68 female respondents (56.7%) and 52 male respondents (43.3%), ensuring balanced representation and capturing perspectives from both genders. Regarding educational background, 45 respondents (37.5%) were high school graduates, 62 respondents (51.7%) were undergraduate students, and 13 respondents (10.8%) were postgraduate students, with most being undergraduates, reflecting their active use of educational platforms for academic purposes. The frequency of platform usage showed that 47 respondents (39.2%) used platforms daily, 53 respondents (44.2%) used them several times a week, and 20 respondents (16.6%) used them once a week or less, highlighting that 83.4% accessed educational platforms multiple times weekly. Finally, primary device usage revealed that 84 respondents (70%) primarily used smartphones, 29 respondents (24.2%) used laptops/PCs, and 7 respondents (5.8%) used tablets, demonstrating a clear preference for mobile-optimized educational solutions among Generation Z users in Indonesia.

4.2 Measurement Model Evaluation

The measurement model was evaluated to ensure the reliability and validity of the constructs. The key metrics assessed include Cronbach's Alpha (CRA), Composite Reliability (CR), Average Variance Extracted (AVE), and Loading Factors (LF).

1. Reliability Analysis

Reliability was assessed using Cronbach's Alpha (CRA) and Composite Reliability (CR), with thresholds for acceptable reliability set at CRA > 0.70 and CR > 0.70 (Hair et al., 2011). All constructs exceeded these thresholds, demonstrating strong internal consistency. The CRA and CR values for each construct were as follows: Content Innovation (CRA = 0.874, CR = 0.914), Ease of Access (CRA = 0.842, CR = 0.892), Technology Support (CRA = 0.856, CR = 0.905), and User Engagement (CRA = 0.884, CR = 0.921). These results confirm the reliability of the measurement model.

2. Convergent Validity

Convergent validity was assessed using Average Variance Extracted (AVE), which measures the proportion of variance captured by a construct relative to the variance due to measurement error, with AVE values above 0.50 indicating good convergent validity. The AVE values for all constructs exceeded this threshold, confirming convergent validity: Content Innovation (AVE = 0.734), Ease of Access (AVE = 0.682), Technology Support (AVE = 0.708), and User Engagement (AVE = 0.763). These results validate the measurement model's ability to accurately capture the intended constructs.

3. Indicator Loadings (Loading Factors, LF)

Loading factors represent the correlation between observed indicators and their respective latent constructs, with a loading factor (LF) above 0.70 considered acceptable (Hair et al., 2011). All indicator items in this study demonstrated satisfactory loadings, confirming good item reliability. The loading factors for each construct were as follows: Content Innovation (CI1 = 0.783, CI2 = 0.825, CI3 = 0.876), Ease of Access (EA1 = 0.742, EA2 = 0.814, EA3 = 0.855), Technology Support (TS1 = 0.765, TS2 = 0.802, TS3 = 0.838), and User Engagement (UE1 = 0.794, UE2 = 0.843, UE3 = 0.892). These results indicate that all indicators strongly loaded onto their respective constructs, supporting the reliability of the measurement model.

4. Discriminant Validity

Discriminant validity was evaluated using the Fornell-Larcker Criterion, which requires that the square root of the AVE for each construct be greater than the correlations with other constructs. The diagonal values in the correlation matrix represent the square root of the AVE, while the offdiagonal values represent inter-construct correlations. The results demonstrated that the square root of the AVE for each construct was greater than its correlations with other constructs, confirming discriminant validity: Content Innovation (0.854), Ease of Access (0.826), Technology Support (0.842), and User Engagement (0.876). These findings validate that each construct is distinct and adequately measured in the model.

4.3 Model Fit

Model fit was assessed to evaluate the overall adequacy of the structural model and its suitability for hypothesis testing. Key model fit indices include the Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (SRMR), Normed Fit Index (NFI), and R-squared (R²) values. The SRMR, which measures the difference between the observed and predicted correlation matrices, was 0.067, below the recommended threshold of 0.08, indicating an acceptable model fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999). The NFI, which evaluates the improvement of the model over the null model, was 0.91, exceeding the acceptable threshold of 0.90, demonstrating a good fit. Additionally, the R² value for user engagement was 0.68, indicating that 68% of the variance in user engagement is explained by content innovation, ease of access, and technology support, reflecting substantial explanatory power.

Predictive relevance (Q^2) was assessed using the blindfolding procedure, yielding a Q^2 value of 0.45, which confirms the model's adequate predictive relevance for user engagement. The Goodness of Fit (GoF), calculated as the geometric mean of the average AVE (0.72) and R^2 (0.68), was 0.70, well above the threshold of 0.36, indicating a strong overall model fit (Wetzels et al., 2009). These results collectively confirm that the structural model is robust and well-suited for further analysis and hypothesis testing.

4.4 Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis testing was conducted to evaluate the relationships between the independent variables (Content Innovation, Ease of Access, Technology Support) and the dependent variable (User Engagement). The analysis used path coefficients (β), t-statistics, p-values, and the level of significance ($\alpha = 0.05$) as criteria for hypothesis acceptance.

Hypothesis	Path Coefficient (β)	t- Statistic	p- Value	Result
H1: Content Innovation \rightarrow User Engagement	0.425	5.122	< 0.001	Supported
H2: Ease of Access \rightarrow User Engagement	0.356	4.325	< 0.001	Supported
H3: Technology Support \rightarrow User Engagement	0.385	4.752	< 0.001	Supported

The hypothesis testing results confirm the significant influence of content innovation, ease of access, and technology support on user engagement. The path coefficient for content innovation ($\beta = 0.423$) indicates a strong positive relationship, with a t-statistic of 5.122 exceeding the critical value of 1.96 and a p-value of < 0.001, confirming its significant impact. Educational platforms offering innovative, engaging, and adaptive content are more likely to sustain user interest and participation. Similarly, ease of access demonstrated a positive relationship with user engagement ($\beta = 0.356$), supported by a t-statistic of 4.325 and a p-value of < 0.001, highlighting the importance of simplified navigation, mobile optimization, and minimal technical barriers in encouraging Generation Z users to engage with platforms. Lastly, technology support also significantly influenced user engagement ($\beta = 0.385$), as indicated by a t-statistic of 4.752 and a p-value of < 0.001, emphasizing the critical role of reliable system performance, advanced tools, and responsive technical assistance in building trust and loyalty among users. These findings underscore the importance of these three factors in enhancing user engagement with educational platforms.

Discussion

The discussion interprets the findings of this study, connecting them to existing literature and their practical implications. The results confirm that content innovation, ease of access, and technology support significantly influence Generation Z's user engagement with educational platforms in Indonesia.

1. Content Innovation and User Engagement

The study revealed that content innovation is the strongest predictor of user engagement ($\beta = 0.42$, p < 0.001), aligning with previous research that highlights the importance of dynamic, interactive, and personalized content in capturing the attention of digital-native users [18], [19], [20]. Generation Z particularly values engaging learning materials such as multimedia resources, gamification, and adaptive learning technologies that cater to their preference for active and flexible learning experiences. To capitalize on this, educational platform developers should prioritize content innovation by integrating gamified learning features to sustain interest, multimedia resources like videos and animations to accommodate diverse learning styles, and personalized recommendations based on user progress and preferences. By continuously innovating content, platforms can significantly enhance the learning experience and drive sustained engagement among users.

2. Ease of Access and User Engagement

Ease of access significantly impacts user engagement ($\beta = 0.35$, p < 0.001), consistent with [23], [24], [25], who highlighted that intuitive design and seamless usability reduce barriers to adoption and encourage continued usage. Generation Z users, who predominantly access educational platforms on mobile devices, expect simple navigation, responsive design, and minimal technical complexity. To address these expectations, developers should optimize platforms for mobile devices, as 70% of respondents primarily use smartphones for learning, implement user-friendly interfaces and intuitive navigation to ensure accessibility for users with varying levels of digital literacy, and address regional challenges like inconsistent internet connectivity by enabling

offline features or lightweight applications. These measures are essential for improving user satisfaction and expanding the reach of educational platforms in Indonesia.

3. Technology Support and User Engagement

Technology support plays a significant role in influencing user engagement ($\beta = 0.38$, p < 0.001), highlighting the critical importance of reliable infrastructure, responsive customer support, and advanced tools such as AI-driven recommendations and robust data security features in maintaining user trust and loyalty. This finding aligns with previous studies, such as [27], [28], [29], which emphasize that effective technology support enhances the overall user experience. To capitalize on this, educational platforms should invest in AI-powered tools to provide personalized learning recommendations, implement robust data security measures to ensure user privacy and build trust, and establish quick and responsive technical support to address user issues promptly. These investments will enable platforms to foster long-term relationships with users by delivering a reliable and enriching experience.

Theoretical Implications

This study contributes to the body of knowledge by validating the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Expectation-Confirmation Theory (ECT) within the context of educational platforms. According to TAM, content innovation and ease of access enhance perceived usefulness and ease of use, which are critical factors for technology adoption. Meanwhile, ECT highlights how technology support aligns user expectations with actual experiences, resulting in greater satisfaction and engagement. By integrating these theoretical frameworks, the study offers a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing user engagement among Generation Z, providing valuable insights for both academia and practice.

Practical Implications for Educational Platforms

The findings highlight actionable strategies for educational platform developers in Indonesia to enhance user engagement and maximize their impact on digital education. Developers should innovate content by tailoring learning materials to diverse preferences using interactive and gamified features, enhance accessibility by simplifying navigation, ensuring cross-device compatibility, and addressing technical barriers, and strengthen technology support by leveraging AI tools, providing robust security measures, and offering responsive technical assistance. Implementing these strategies will enable platforms to attract and retain Generation Z users, ensuring their relevance and effectiveness in the rapidly evolving digital education landscape.

Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

While the study provides valuable insights, it is subject to several limitations. First, the geographic scope is limited to Indonesia, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to other cultural and technological contexts; future research should explore similar relationships in different regions. Second, the sample size of 120, while sufficient for SEM-PLS analysis, could be expanded in future studies to enhance statistical power and generalizability. Third, as this study utilized a quantitative approach, incorporating qualitative methods in future research could provide deeper insights into user motivations and behaviors, offering a more comprehensive understanding of user engagement with educational platforms.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the critical roles of content innovation, ease of access, and technology support in fostering Generation Z's engagement with educational platforms in Indonesia. The results confirm that content innovation is the strongest predictor of user engagement, emphasizing the need for interactive, personalized, and multimedia-rich learning materials, while ease of access

significantly influences engagement, showcasing the importance of user-friendly design and mobile optimization. Additionally, technology support plays a key role in building trust and sustaining user loyalty through reliable infrastructure and advanced tools. The findings provide actionable recommendations for developers to innovate content in alignment with digital-native preferences, ensure seamless accessibility by minimizing technical barriers, and strengthen technology support to enhance user trust and satisfaction. The study contributes to the theoretical understanding of digital education by validating the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and Expectation-Confirmation Theory (ECT) in the context of educational platforms. While offering valuable insights, future research should expand the geographic scope and incorporate qualitative methods to deepen the understanding of user engagement across diverse contexts. By addressing these factors, educational platforms can better cater to the needs of Generation *Z*, ultimately improving the effectiveness of digital learning in Indonesia.

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