

ISSN: Print - 0794-1447 Online — 2682-35X DOI: https://doi.org/10.61448/djerd22123

# Use of Technological Instructional Materials for the Effective Learning of Social Studies in Building Resilient Future

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### Abstract

The significance of technology-based instructional materials for enhancing Social Studies instruction and creating a resilient future was examined in this article. Social Studies education plays a critical role in promoting civic competence, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. The use of traditional instructional materials in Social Studies education has been a longstanding practice, but the dynamic nature of the society has created a need to integrate technological instructional materials into the learning of Social Studies. Students who receive Social Studies education are more equipped to comprehend cultural variety, examine global challenges, and take an active role in civic life. This article examined the various forms, benefits, and effective incorporation of technological instructional materials into Social Studies instruction, highlighting the ways in which they can foster critical thinking, analysis, and knowledge application. In addition to creating immersive and dynamic learning settings, the article examined how technology-based educational tools can promote global connections, diverse perspectives, and primary sources. The challenges of combining technology with instructional materials are also covered, emphasizing the need for infrastructure, continuous evaluation, and teacher support. This article explores the significance of technological instructional materials in creating resilient future, providing insights for educators, policymakers, and scholars seeking to use technology to improve Social Studies instruction and prepare students for success in the digital age.

**Keywords:** Technological Instructional Materials; Social Studies Education; Effective Learning; Critical Thinking.



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## Introduction

The goal of Social Studies curriculum is to provide students the values, mindset, and abilities they need to thrive in a changing society. Therefore, using educational resources that will improve learning is essential. Technological instructional materials can help students understand complex concepts like democracy, human rights, and global connection on a deeper level. Although Social Studies has always been taught using traditional teaching resources, the ever-changing nature of society has made it necessary to incorporate technology into Social Studies instruction. The issue of inadequate Social Studies teaching resources has a big impact on students' civic engagement, critical thinking, and cultural sensitivity. The problem could lead to a lack of readiness for a world that is becoming more linked and complex. Technology has completely changed how we teach and learn in classrooms. Technology-based teaching resources are now required in social studies curriculum since they provide numerous advantages and chances for successful learning.

Using a variety of digital tools, platforms, and resources, technological instructional materials support both teaching and learning. Koehler (2019) lists interactive simulations, digital archives, online databases, multimedia presentations, educational software, and virtual field trips as examples of technology instructional tools used in Social Studies training. With the help of these resources, students can interact with the Social Studies curriculum more thoroughly, actively, and intentionally. Effective social studies learning requires more than just memorizing dates and information. It requires analytical reasoning, critical thinking, and the application of knowledge to practical situations. Technological educational resources can facilitate this type of learning by providing students with access to a range of perspectives, original sources, and global connections. In order to increase student involvement and understanding, teachers increasingly need to use technology. This research review looks at the value of these resources in the Social Studies classroom, paying special emphasis to how they impact students' learning, engagement, and skill development. Virtual reality and simulations are examples of interactive digital tools that encourage increased engagement with historical knowledge and civic concepts (Mike, 2018). These resources improve and humanize learning by allowing students to explore complex scenarios.

Technological instructional materials enable access to a diversity of information and perspectives that may not be available through traditional textbooks. Through internet channels, students can research original materials, multimedia presentations, and global viewpoints. With the use of technological instructional resources, educators can modify their methods to meet a variety of learning needs. Technology-enabled instructional materials can adjust to students' varying learning preferences and rates, giving them personalized learning experiences. Technological educational materials have a major role in the development of basic skills such as analysis and critical thinking. Interactive technologies like digital mapping and data visualization empower students to actively investigate and assess information. With the use of technology teaching materials, students can work together on projects and engage discussions regardless of their physical location. Students are better prepared for a technologically driven future when technology is used in the classroom. Future academic and professional success requires familiarity with digital tools. Cengiz and Murat (2021) assert that skills learned through tech-enhanced Social Studies training, such as digital literacy, research competency, and information appraisal, are becoming increasingly important in the twentyfirst-century workforce.

In order to prepare students to think critically, negotiate complicated global challenges, and make educated decisions, Social Studies education is essential. Social Studies has been



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taught using traditional teaching resources such as textbooks, chalkboards, and printed handouts. Traditional instructional materials are no longer effective in motivating students to actively investigate and assess information using interactive technologies like digital mapping and data visualization because of how dynamic society has become. In the current digital era, the use of technological instructional materials in Social Studies education has grown in significance. Critical thinking, cultural competency, and student engagement can all be improved through the efficient use of digital tools, multimedia presentations, and internet resources. With an emphasis on creating a resilient future, this study aims to examine how well technological instructional materials can enhance the learning of Social Studies.

# Traditional Instructional Materials and Technological Instructional Materials for Effective Teaching and Learning of Social Studies

Technology is a key component in improving the educational process. The teaching-learning of Social Studies is no different. Technology integration in Social Studies classes can greatly enhance students' comprehension, retention, and engagement with difficult ideas. For many years, the mainstay of Social Studies education has been traditional teaching resources including textbooks, whiteboards, and printed handouts. Due to their affordability, accessibility, and convenience of use, traditional instructional materials have been extensively utilized in Social Studies education (Hicks & Wiedmaier, 2018). For instance, textbooks offer a methodical and planned approach to education, whereas printed handouts and chalkboards provide a tactile and visual learning environment. These resources have been essential in influencing students' educational journeys and encouraging civic engagement, critical thinking, and cultural sensitivity (Berson & Berson, 2019).

Notwithstanding their significance, traditional instructional materials have a number of drawbacks that prevent efficient learning and the acquisition of critical abilities for creating a resilient future (Hicks & Wiedmaier, 2018). Mayer (2017) asserts that conventional teaching resources frequently fall short in terms of student engagement, critical thinking, and cultural competency. According to Berson & Berson (2019), traditional resources like textbooks and handouts could provide out-of-date information, which could make social studies instruction less accurate and relevant. Students' interactions with the curriculum have changed as a result of the use of technology in social studies instruction, particularly in the areas of digital textbooks, interactive simulations, online primary sources, and virtual field trips. In addition to enhancing the educational process, these resources promote engagement and a deeper understanding of the material.

Digital textbooks have become more and more popular because they provide multimedia content that goes beyond standard text. Hristova (2019) highlights the advantages of digital textbooks over paper-based ones in teaching and learning by pointing out that they contain interactive tests, audio, video, and animations—all of which significantly improve the learning process. Students can access a wide range of extra materials and engage with the content in many ways with the aid of digital textbooks. Additionally, Aleksieva (2019) emphasizes how aspiring educators have a positive opinion of the use of digital textbooks, pointing out that they can improve students' digital literacy and assist them in visualizing complex concepts.

Through virtual experiences in an immersive environment provided by interactive simulations, students can experiment and learn. Through virtual field visits, students can learn about historical situations and settings that they would not otherwise be able to. They can provide an engaging way to learn about different cultures, ecosystems, and historical sites with



DELSU Journal of Educational Research and Development (DJERD), Vol. 22, No. 1, June, 2025, pp. 245-254 **DOI:** https://doi.org/10.61448/djerd22123

ISSN: Print - 0794-1447 Online — 2682-35X

interactive features like 360-degree video and guided tours. Virtual and augmented reality have been shown to improve students' spatial awareness and increase learning engagement in the classroom (Kononowicz et al., 2019). When students have access to online primary sources. they can engage directly with original historical documents, data, and other primary resources. This method develops critical thinking and analytical skills by letting students look at raw facts rather than relying solely on secondary judgments. The use of these tools is especially crucial in Social Studies class, where understanding the context of events is crucial. Teaching-learning that incorporate online primary materials have been shown to foster inquiry-based learning and aid students in developing a more thorough understanding of the concepts. (Koehler, 2019).

## Building Resilient Future through Effective Teaching and Learning of Social Studies **Using Technological Instructional Materials**

As social, political, and environmental challenges make the world increasingly complex, Social Studies education is essential to helping the next generation become resilient. Building a resilient future requires equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for engaged citizenry and well-informed decision-making. Building a resilient future requires developing ecosystems, people, and systems that can withstand, adapt to, and recover from a range of adversities, such as natural catastrophes, economic disruptions, social inequalities, and climate change. It means actively improving resilience to shocks and pressures while maintaining essential functions and adjusting to changing conditions. The key elements of a resilient future are inclusive strategies, innovative solutions, and sustainable growth that provide stability and long-term well-being.

It emphasizes resource diversification, infrastructural development, and the creation of adaptable governance that can respond swiftly to unforeseen challenges. The goal is to protect the future for coming generations by reducing vulnerabilities, boosting adaptability, and promoting sustainable growth. By incorporating technology-based teaching resources into Social Studies classes, this goal can be achieved. Because they have acquired critical thinking skills, cultural awareness, and civic engagement, students who obtain a high-quality social studies education are better equipped to navigate and overcome these challenges. With the use of electronic educational resources, students can research global issues such as social justice, economic inequality, and climate change. Engaging with these topics through interactive maps and digital simulations promotes a deeper understanding of their complexity and connections (Hristova, 2019).

The use of technology in the classroom can enable students to participate in civic life. For instance, platforms that let students engage in online discussions or mimic governmental processes might encourage students to take an active role in democratic processes and to feel like they have agency (Caldwell, 2022). Through the use of technical tools, students acquire critical thinking, digital literacy, and problem-solving skills. Data literacy is also promoted by incorporating technology into Social Studies classes. Given the increasing importance of data in decision-making, it is crucial to teach students how to assess and understand data. Eren and Cankaya (2024) assert that by utilizing tools such as data visualization software, students can examine statistical data related to Social Studies courses, fostering a more profound understanding of societal trends and patterns.

When students are exposed to social issues through technical resources, they are more likely to feel empowered and motivated to take action in their communities. Using technology in Social Studies instruction can broaden students' perspectives on global issues. This exposure is essential for the formation of global citizens who are understanding and informed about



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global issues. Using technology in the classroom helps to improve students' understanding and memory of Social Studies subjects. Through interactive simulations, virtual field trips, and multimedia presentations, students can gain a deeper understanding of complex historical events, geographical locations, and cultural customs (Aleksieva, 2019). Technology-based educational resources can help social studies students become more analytical and critical thinkers. Digital archives, learning databases, and online primary materials provide a wealth of information for students to study and understand. By using technology-based instructional materials, social studies curricula can assist students in preparing for life in the digital age. In the modern world, technology is an essential instrument for assessing, obtaining, and sharing information. Integrating internet resources into Social Studies lessons can help students learn how to properly navigate the digital world. Students studying social studies who have access to technology were better prepared to interact with digital materials and participate in online civic engagement activities (Pew Research Center, 2022).

Learning with dynamic and visually appealing materials boosts student engagement, claims Hristova (2019). Digital tools have the potential to create a more dynamic learning environment and catch students' interest. For instance, interactive timelines and virtual field trips allow students to explore historical events and cultural contexts in an immersive way, making learning more interesting and applicable. By encouraging students to evaluate, synthesize, and analyze material from several sources, technical resources can promote critical thinking. Online tools that foster collaboration allow students to collaborate on projects, share ideas, and engage in debates. Multimedia presentations and interactive simulations are examples of technical teaching resources that have been shown to significantly boost students' interest in social studies. According to a study by Arfa et al. (2023), students who used digital tools were more likely to actively participate in discussions and demonstrate a deeper interest in the subject matter. Interactive platforms foster a learning environment that promotes involvement and inquiry, which raises academic attainment.

Multimedia resources that support a variety of learning styles and make Social Studies content more accessible include podcasts, digital storytelling, and videos. This multimodal approach not only maintains students' interest but also aids in their retention of the content, allowing for a greater understanding of complex societal issues. Technology resources facilitate inquiry-based learning by encouraging students to conduct research and ask questions. A recent study by Alain (2019) found that students' critical thinking and problemsolving skills are enhanced by inquiry-based learning methodologies that utilize digital resources. As they use primary sources and digital archives to study historical events, students develop the basic analytical skills necessary to understand contemporary issues.

Using technology in the classroom can significantly boost students' civic involvement. A range of student populations can attend classes more easily thanks to technology, especially when utilizing online or hybrid learning approaches, claim Anthony and Brown (2020). This has been particularly relevant in higher education, as digital platforms have enabled flexible course delivery. Developing teachers' and students' digital literacy has also become increasingly important as a result of the shift to digital education. In a thorough analysis, Bozkurt (2020) detailed the evolution of educational technology and underlined the need for digital skills to operate in the increasingly complex educational landscape. This study suggests that incorporating technology entails not only using digital tools but also cultivating critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students' learning has been shown to be enhanced by interactive learning settings, such as those that incorporate smartphones and smart glasses. Kassabolat et al. (2020) examined the views of future educators regarding the use of digital



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technologies in the classroom and stressed the importance of developing materials that satisfy a variety of learning needs. The study found that interactive materials can accommodate different learning styles, enhancing educational inclusion and adaptability to each student's needs. Teaching Social Studies in the classroom requires the use of technology. It increases teaching effectiveness, promotes digital literacy, and creates more dynamic and inclusive learning settings.

As education advances, the use of technology will remain crucial in developing effective teaching and learning practices. Ensmann and Whiteside (2022) assert that technological educational resources promote student engagement and a feeling of community. This is consistent with the broader recognition that, when used effectively, technology may improve Social Studies education and increase student engagement. Digital resources can assist pupils in developing higher-order thinking skills in social studies. Technology integration in the classroom allows students to apply what they have learned to real-world situations, which can enhance their analytical abilities, according a study by Kan (2021). This approach encourages students to consider challenging societal topics more thoroughly. Digital technologies and online learning environments have been crucial in providing flexible learning options, especially during the pandemic. The importance of online teaching platforms in adapting Social Studies training to the needs of distant learners was highlighted in a thorough review by Gregorio (2022). This flexibility allows for a more personalized learning experience that considers different learning styles and speeds. Enhancing pupils' digital literacy is another benefit of integrating technology into Social Studies lessons. According to Bozkurt (2020), educational technology can help students access digital resources and hone their research skills. This gives them the analytical abilities required in the digital age.

Interactive digital tools, such as multimedia presentations and online simulations, have been shown to enhance student performance. As education continues to adapt to technological advancements, these strategies are becoming crucial to properly teaching social studies. Through the incorporation of electronic teaching materials, students can access a range of resources that enable a deeper understanding of the Social Studies content. This exposure not only improves the educational process but also fosters empathy and global awareness in children. When using technology to teach, students work together and communicate more. Tools that facilitate communication and idea sharing include social media, online discussion boards, and collaborative platforms. For implementation to be successful, teachers must obtain enough professional development on how to effectively employ technology instructional tools. Digital textbooks, interactive simulations, virtual field excursions, and online primary materials are a few strategies to enhance student learning and engagement. Each of these technology solutions has unique benefits, ranging from enhancing accessibility to promoting critical thinking. By carefully integrating these tools into conventional learning settings, dynamic, interactive places can be created that better prepare students for future challenges. This review of the literature looks at the key concepts and strategies that support Social Studies teaching in building a resilient future. This article examines the benefits of using technological instructional materials in Social Studies education and backs up its claims with up-to-date references.

# **Challenges of Technological Instructional Materials in Teaching and Learning of Social Studies**

Despite the advantages of utilizing technological instructional materials in the classroom, there are certain challenges when it comes to integrating digital tools, data analytics, and multimedia resources into Social Studies instruction. This study reviews the literature on these topics, focusing on the institutional, pedagogical, and technological challenges that educators



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encounter. According to studies, there is a disconnection between the technological resources and the existing curricula (Harris & Hofer 2019; Umbase, 2023; Viberg *et al.*, 2023). Aligning technological resources with learning goals and objectives can be challenging for certain educators (Caldwell, 2022). Many technological tools are designed for broader applications and may not be appropriate for the specific contexts of Social Studies. Some teachers may feel unprepared to use technological resources in their lessons because they don't receive enough assistance or professional development. Some teachers claim they need more training on how to use digital materials in the Social Studies classroom (Harris & Hofer, 2019). Without the right training, the potential benefits of technological instructional materials might not be fully realized. Including technological instructional materials in the present curriculum can be challenging.

Making sure that these tools align with educational standards and learning objectives may not always be simple for teachers (Caldwell, 2022). This alignment is necessary to optimize the instructional value of technological instructional materials. Many Social Studies teachers lack the technical pedagogical content knowledge (TPACK) training necessary to use these tools successfully (Umbase, 2023). Without ongoing support and professional development, some teachers often struggle to use the technological tools available to them in ways that engage students or enhance learning results. Additionally, because platforms and technology are evolving so quickly, instructors have a steep learning curve. (Gregorio, 2022).

It might be challenging for social studies teachers to properly use technology and create lessons. Many instructors find it difficult to match technology with evaluations and learning objectives. For instance, educators reported challenges integrating new technology into existing courses and producing digital materials that students find interesting (Bozkaya, 2023). Making sure that students avoid distractions and maintain concentrate on digital information is another significant educational difficulty (Mabborang *et al.*, 2023). Despite its promise to increase student engagement, technology does not always have positive or consistent benefits. If they do not give clear instructions and adhere to teacher-established, structured procedures, some pupils struggle to use digital technology effectively (Viberg *et al.*, 2023). For instance, a fragmented learning experience occurs when instructors do not fully understand or actively employ technology tools, causing pupils to learn opposing information.

Students who lack computer skills or digital literacy also face additional challenges in online and blended learning environments (Gregorio, 2022). Often, neither institutions nor regulations adequately promote the use of technology in social studies education. Numerous educators expressed that they lacked comprehensive instructions, time to develop digital classrooms, and administrative assistance to facilitate the use of technology (Cayabas & Sumeg-ang, 2023). More coordinated support from lawmakers and school officials is needed, including access to high-quality technological resources and clear guidelines. The report emphasizes how many institutions struggle with technical infrastructure and technology adoption, despite the fact that ICT use can enhance educational outcomes by providing access to a wealth of digital materials. This issue is particularly relevant to Social Studies programs, where educators must not only overcome these technological barriers but also ensure that technology advances the learning goals of promoting critical thinking and civic engagement. Mahmudah and Muhammadong (2024), also explore the use of virtual reality in religious studies education, offering insights into broader problems with technology integration in the humanities. Their research indicates that virtual reality has the potential to enhance students' comprehension and interaction with abstract concepts; yet, issues such as technological difficulties and the digital divide hinder the successful application of these technologies. These problems aren't exclusive to religious education; they also arise in Social Studies, where it's





important to integrate digital resources into the curriculum without making inequalities in access to technology worse.

This study highlights how teachers commonly run with resistance to change when introducing new teaching techniques, an issue exacerbated by the rapid advancement of technology. Since traditional pedagogical practices have long been entrenched in Social Studies, the shift to technology-enhanced learning can be particularly difficult. Teachers who lack the resources or expertise to use these technologies consistently may limit the potential benefits of technological integration. In conclusion, the primary barriers to incorporating technology into social studies classrooms are technical infrastructure, accessibility, teacher preparation, and the need to align technology with learning goals. The research states that in order to overcome these challenges, both monetary investment in technology and a resolute dedication to supporting educators and ensuring that every student has equitable access to the digital tools they require are required.

### Conclusion

The importance of technological instructional materials in Social Studies education cannot be overstated. They enhance student involvement, make resources more easily accessible, support individualized instruction, encourage collaboration, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare students for new challenges. Teachers must control the negative effects of technology integration in order to maximize its positive effects. Future research should focus on the best methods to employ these resources in a range of educational environments to ensure that every student benefit from it. Technological instructional materials must be incorporated into Social Studies education in order to foster successful learning and build a resilient future. Even while problems like curriculum alignment, teacher preparation, and access need to be fixed, the potential benefits of greater involvement, diverse learning experiences, and critical thinking are valuable. By using these resources, educators can help students to grow into informed, involved citizens who are prepared to take on the issues of the future.

## Recommendations

To ensure effective learning of Social Studies through technological instructional materials, the following are recommended:

- i. To increase understanding and student participation, the government should incorporate technology-based instructional materials into the Social Studies curriculum. The government should offer teachers ongoing professional development so they can effectively use digital resources into their lesson plans, and they should receive support and training to help them gain technological pedagogical content knowledge.
- ii. Teachers should use technology-based teaching tools in accordance with curriculum standards and learning objectives. Teachers should select technology-based teaching materials that support a variety of learning styles and capacities. They should also use these tools to facilitate cooperative learning and group projects. Teachers should assess how well students are learning through the use of technology mediated instructional tools.



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