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Summary

The present paper aimed to identify the opportunities and challenges faced by the education system following the COVID-19 pandemic. Using advanced statistical and econometric research methods, such as spatial modeling for panel data and the PLS-SEM technique, original and relevant results for the specialized literature were obtained.

The main result is that the increased digitalization represents a significant change in the education system, both globally and in Romania. Although it does not yet have the expected effect, the use of technological support has a positive and significant contribution in the case of special learning conditions, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Both the pandemic context and the existence of computers in educational units had an increasing effect on the variable that measures the performance of the education system. Moreover, students recognize the usefulness of the digitalization of the education system and use it to increase their academic performance.

However, it should be noted that openness to technology can also lead to its use for cheating in academic assessments. Perceived control over the use of technological means plays an important role in behavioral intention. The higher the perceived control, the greater the likelihood of using technology to cheat on an assessment.

Thus, the digitalization of education represents a major opportunity for the development of a modern educational system, adapted to the demands of today's society, but its success depends largely on the appropriate training of teaching staff and the implementation of educational policies that support the integration of digital technologies in an efficient and equitable manner.