



Digital Leadership: Transforming Educational Management through ICT

*Lanie P. Plecerda, MED, MCS
Biliran Province State University, Philippines
Corresponding email: laniepp73@gmail.com*

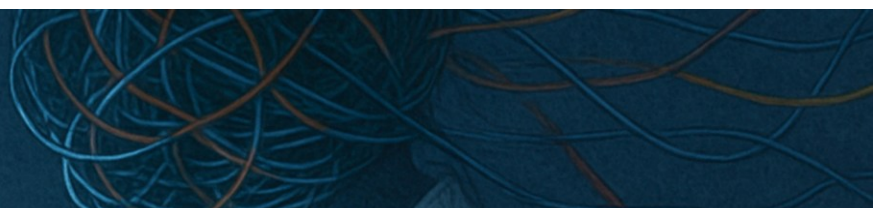
In the digital age, school leadership has moved far beyond paper-based reports, manual attendance sheets, and verbal directives. The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools in school management is no longer optional, it is an essential aspect of effective and data-driven leadership. In the Philippine education system, where public and private institutions alike face challenges in efficiency, transparency, and resource allocation, digital leadership powered by ICT offers transformative potential.

School leaders today must navigate a complex environment that involves academic planning, administrative efficiency, student welfare, and parent engagement. They bring innovative ideas, and a dynamic approach to addressing contemporary issues (Chavez et al., 2024). With ICT tools such as Learning Management Systems (LMS), Student Information Systems (SIS), and cloud-based communication platforms, administrators can now access real-time data, monitor institutional performance, and make strategic decisions grounded in evidence (Rodríguez et al., 2024). These systems serve as the backbone of digital leadership, helping schools shift from reactive to proactive management.

Learning Management Systems, like Moodle or Google Classroom, have become indispensable especially after the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digital transitions. While these platforms were originally designed to facilitate teaching and learning, they also provide school heads with valuable insights into student engagement, submission patterns, and academic progress. Analyzing this data, administrators can identify struggling learners early, adjust teacher workloads, and improve the overall academic environment.

Student Information Systems, meanwhile, centralize student records academic performance, attendance, behavioral logs, and even health information into a unified platform (Ike, 2023). For school administrators, this means having a comprehensive view of student trends, helping them make informed decisions about curriculum adjustments, guidance programs, or resource allocation. For instance, a principal may use attendance data trends to determine the effectiveness of transport services or feeding programs in remote areas..

Communication platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Viber, or DepEd Commons also enhance school operations. These tools ensure timely and transparent communication among teachers, parents, and administrators, especially in geographically dispersed communities. In some rural schools in Mindanao, principals have used Facebook groups and messaging apps not only for school-wide announcements but also for parent consultations and emergency coordination





(Parajuli, 2023). The use of ICT narrows the communication gap and promotes stronger stakeholder engagement.

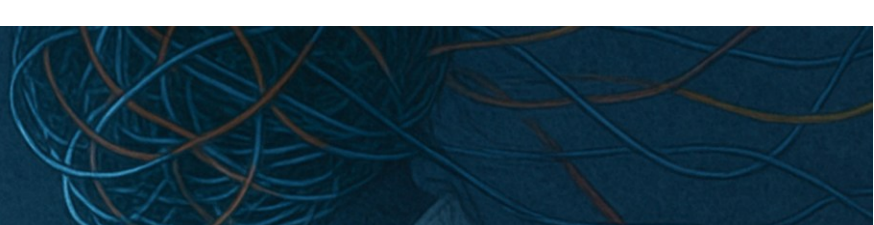
However, digital leadership is not solely about adopting new software. It requires a shift in mindset among school heads from being traditional managers to becoming digitally literate leaders who understand the value of data, embrace innovation, and lead by example. Capacity-building programs and ICT leadership training must be embedded in professional development frameworks, especially within the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) initiatives. Without proper training, even the best tools remain underutilized (Itaas, 2011).

Despite the promise of ICT, challenges remain. Many public schools, particularly in far-flung areas, lack stable internet connectivity, updated hardware, or trained personnel to operate complex systems. Budget constraints and resistance to change can further hinder the digital transformation of school management. Nonetheless, localized innovations such as offline LMS use, mobile-based tracking, and partnerships with ICT providers prove that digital leadership is feasible even under resource limitations..

The role of ICT in educational management is not just about modernizing systems, it's about empowering leaders to act with clarity, speed, and purpose. Through tools like LMS, SIS, and communication platforms, Filipino school administrators can make smarter decisions, foster inclusive environments, and ensure that no student is left behind. As digital leadership becomes the new norm, the challenge now lies in ensuring that every school regardless of location or size can harness ICT to achieve educational excellence.

References

- Chavez JV, Garil BA, Padirque CB, et al. Assessing innovative and responsive young leaders in public service: lens from community clientele. *Environment and Social Psychology* 2024; 9(9): 2876. Doi: 10.59429/esp.v9i9.2876
- Ike, Ifeanyi. (2023). Design and Implementation of Student Information System. 10.13140/RG.2.2.16736.87044.
- Itaas, Estela. (2011). Capacity-building for Philippine Public Secondary School Teachers on Information and Communications Technology Literacy Training Program. *JPAIR Multidisciplinary Research*. 2. 10.7719/jpair.v2i1.59.
- Parajuli, Babita. (2023). Exploring Students' Experiences of Using Facebook for Communication and Education. *Journal of NELTA Gandaki*. 6. 39-48. 10.3126/jong.v6i1-2.59709.
- Rodríguez, Jose & Díaz, Norberto & González, Carlos. (2024). Optimizing Education with Data Analytics: A Feature Comparison of LMS and SIS. 10.20944/preprints202405.0459.v1.





ARTICLE DETAILS

TT-0000007; Received: August 05, 2025; Accepted: August 07, 2025; Published: August 09, 2025

CITATION:

Plecerda, Lanie P. (2025). *Digital Leadership: Transforming Educational Management through ICT*. Tech Taught: Essays and Reviews. DOI: 10.64591/xx8k7g70

COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2025 by author(s). Tech Taught: Essays and Reviews is published by Harness Mind Publishing. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), allowing redistribution and reproduction in any format or medium, provided the original work is cited or recognized.

