

The Impact of a Digital Literacy Intervention on Internet Addiction and Social Skills in Undergraduate Students


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “University students, often considered digital natives, are paradoxically among the most vulnerable...” would benefit from a cited source that supports this paradox. Please include an empirical reference to ground this assertion.

The SSI’s structure and reliability are well described, but it is unclear how the large number of items (90) impacted participant fatigue or response quality. Please discuss this as a potential methodological concern.

The phrase “recognizing digital manipulation techniques” is somewhat vague. Please specify the types of manipulation covered (e.g., deepfakes, misleading headlines, fake profiles) and how these were taught.

The demographic breakdown is helpful, but you may want to discuss how gender or academic major may have influenced the outcomes. Were any exploratory subgroup analyses conducted?

The phrase “Participants in this study reported feeling more capable...” implies qualitative feedback, yet no qualitative data were collected or reported. Please revise this sentence to reflect actual measured outcomes.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion of the multidimensional nature of digital literacy is compelling but lacks detail on how each dimension is operationalized in the study. Clarifying how these components are reflected in the intervention design would strengthen the theoretical framing.

In the sentence “Several studies have highlighted the detrimental impact of digital dependency...”, please specify which studies link digital dependency with reduced social skills, and ensure these are the most recent and relevant.

While psychometric properties are provided, the cultural adaptation or validation status of the IAT for Romanian students is not addressed. Was any localization or validation work done in this context?

The reported descriptive statistics show a decrease in internet addiction at follow-up. However, you should address whether this change remained statistically significant over time through additional post-hoc comparisons.

The Bonferroni comparisons are informative, but confidence intervals for mean differences would provide a clearer sense of the precision and practical significance of these effects.

The sentence “These improvements were sustained at the five-month follow-up...” would benefit from explicitly referencing the statistical results from Table 3 to reinforce this claim with data.

Authors uploaded the revised manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.