

## **Leveraging The Use of Learning Technologies in Higher Education to Optimize Student Learning**

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### **Abstract**

In recent years pedagogical innovation has been widely discussed and debated among lecturers and educational practitioners in Higher Education Institutions. The purpose of this research was to critically analyse the lecturers' views on the use of learning technologies to optimise student learning in HEIs. This research was conducted at a private higher education institution in Pretoria, South Africa. The effective use of learning technologies lends itself to pedagogical innovation and optimization of student learning so that they are better prepared to integrate into the world of work. A qualitative research design was used for this study. The method of data collection was individual interviews with lecturers from different faculties. Data was analysed through the lens of the SAMR model framework using qualitative thematic analysis. The key findings indicated that lecturers believed that the learning technologies are used effectively when these technologies are fit-for-purpose and integrated into quality planning. Furthermore, lecturers emphasised that training and development and collaborative decision-making were essential in the selection of learning technologies.

**Keywords:** pedagogical innovation; learning technologies; Higher Education Institutions; SAMR model