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## **The Influence of Digital Leadership on Schools' Digital Transformation and Users' Technology Integration**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose** – The COVID-19 pandemic caused substantial global disruption, particularly in the education sector, affecting students, instructors, parents, and school communities. It prompted the closure of schools in 180 countries in 2020, as reported by the World Bank (2021). The pandemic accelerated digital transformation (DT), substantially impacting the school systems in many nations. The development of digital leadership (DL) maturity is crucial for effective leadership across various fields. This study explores the impact of digital leadership on digital transformation and teachers' technology integration.

**Design/methodology/approach** – An online questionnaire survey was conducted, gathering data from 379 teachers, lead teachers, heads of faculties, and vice principals from charter schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

**Findings** – Digital leadership significantly influences schools' digital transformation and users' technology integration. Additionally, teachers' technology integration impacts schools' digital transformation.

**Originality** – This study offers important insights into the influence of digital leadership practices on teachers' technology integration and schools' digital transformation and discusses both the theoretical and managerial implications of the findings.

**Practical implications** – This study explores how digital leadership drives digital transformation in charter schools. By analysing the connection with teachers' technology integration, the research provides key insights into optimizing educational outcomes that will help charter schools use technologies to better prepare students for future challenges. It emphasizes DL's significant role in strengthening the connection between teachers' technology integration (TTI), technological proficiency, and schools' digital transformation (SDT).

**Keywords: The Influence of Digital Leadership on Schools' Digital Transformation and Users' Technology Integration**