SDG1-SKILLCONNECT

Literature Review:

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The "SKILLCONNECT" Framework: A Literature Survey

Overview

The "SKILLCONNECT" framework is a synthesis of two core concepts: acquiring a **new skill** and fostering professional and social **connections** . This literature survey examines how online platforms and communities facilitate this holistic approach to learning.

- **Pillars of the Framework**: The framework is built upon three interdependent pillars: Digital Skill Acquisition, Community and Professional Networking, and the Enabling Technological Infrastructure.
- **Methodology**: This report synthesizes findings from a curated body of research to identify trends and key relationships, mirroring a structured, two-component literature review process of retrieval and generation.[1]
- **Purpose**: To provide a clear, concise, and comprehensive analysis of the empirical evidence and practical applications that define the "SKILLCONNECT" paradigm.

Key Research Findings: A Comparative Analysis

The following table summarizes and compares key findings from the literature, highlighting their contribution to the "SKILLCONNECT" framework.

Source / Publication	Focus	Key Findings & Relevance to "SKILLCONNECT"
"Impact of Online Learning Platforms in Enhancing Employees' Skills and	User experience and effectiveness of online learning platforms for	**Motivation vs. Satisfaction Paradox**: 89% of users are motivated

Knowledge in Academia" Lakshmi G V & Rajeshwari R R (2024) 3	professional upskilling.	by career advancement, yet 56% report dissatisfaction with platform effectiveness. This highlights a critical gap between the promise of skill acquisition and the delivery of the learning experience.[3]
"Professional Skills Development Through the Network Learning Community" Waras Kamdi, Muhammad Ashar, Dediek Tri Kurniawan (2021) 5	The role of a Networked Learning Community (NLC) in improving professional skills and confidence in a multimedia industry context.	**Community as a Catalyst**: A well-designed NLC and a "Smart Learning Management System" were found to improve professional learning and skill enhancement. This demonstrates how a supportive community directly links to measurable skill improvement.[5]
"Digital professional development and professional learning community effect..." Study on STEM teachers (2025) 9	Relationship between technology infrastructure, professional communities, and digital instructional integration.	**The Mediating Role of Community**: Professional learning communities and development programs play a significant positive mediating role between a school's digital preparedness and the effective use of technology in the classroom. This shows that technology is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for learning without the human element of collaboration and community.[9]
Strategies for Professional Networking in Online Learning	Practical and actionable strategies for learners to build professional networks	**Activating the "Connect" Pillar**: Provides a practical roadmap for networking,

Newlane University Article (2025) 12	in online environments.	including active participation in discussions, effective collaboration on projects, and building a strong online presence on professional platforms. This outlines the specific actions learners can take to fully leverage their networks for career advancement.[12]
Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Model [14]	Real-world, project-based learning model for college and career readiness.	**Blending Skills and Connections**: This model emphasizes hands-on learning to build both technical and professional skills. It also highlights the importance of collaborative professional development, creating a strong community of practice for teachers.[14]
NDLC Knimbus Platform	The technological infrastructure of a central knowledge hub for institutions.	**Enabling Technology**: A cloud-based platform with features like a universal search across multiple content sources, off-campus access, and a dashboard with user analytics. It provides the essential digital foundation that democratizes knowledge and enables a seamless learning experience, supporting both the "newskill" and "connect" pillars .

Conclusion and Recommendations

The research consistently demonstrates that for online learning to be truly effective, it must integrate technological delivery with human-centric community building.

- **For Platforms**: Go beyond just providing content. Design systems that actively facilitate and reward social networking, peer-to-peer collaboration, and interactive features to address user dissatisfaction.[3]
- **For Institutions**: A holistic approach to digital integration is essential. Investment should be made not only in technology but also in continuous professional development and the establishment of collaborative learning communities.[9]
- **For Learners**: Actively engage in professional learning communities and networking opportunities. The research shows this is a key strategy for maximizing the personal and professional benefits of online skill acquisition.[12]

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