



Pädagogische Hochschule
Weingarten
University of Education

Who Creates Digital Learning Opportunities? The Role of Adult Educators' Digital Habitus

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Why do digital learning opportunities matter?



Because they enable
digital inclusion.

Meaningful participation in a digital society



Everyday life



Communication



Work



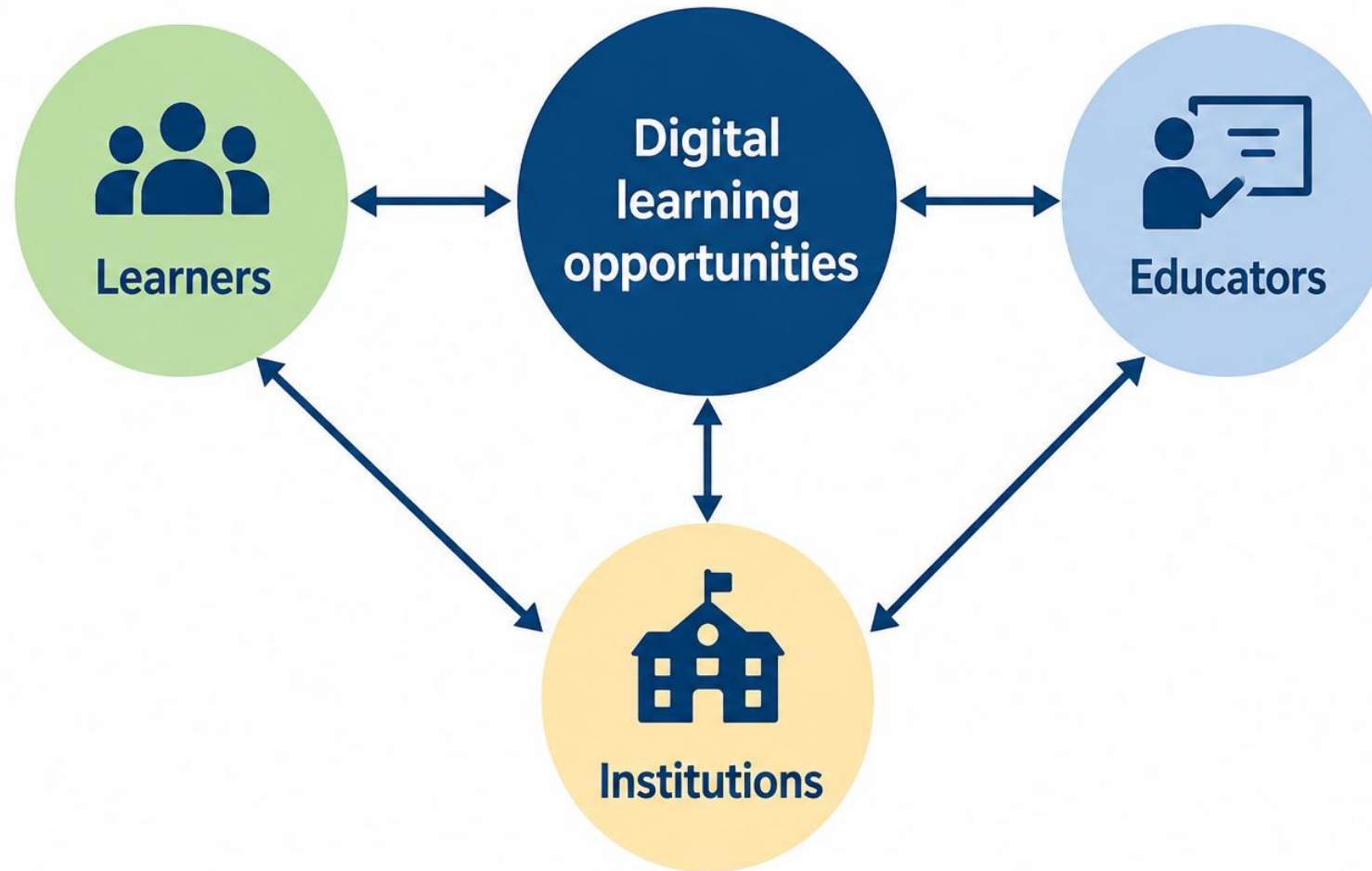
Lifelong learning



Participation

Digital learning opportunities are the **bridge** between education and meaningful digital participation.

Digital inclusion does not happen by itself



Digital Inclusion as a Process



Who shapes these trajectories?

Across our data one observation became increasingly clear.



Similar learners sometimes experienced **completely different** learning opportunities.

Classroom A

Same learners



- Limited digital tasks
- Teacher demonstration
- Closed exercises
- Little exploration



Not because of different curricula.

Classroom B

Same learners



- Authentic digital tasks
- Collaboration
- Exploration and practice
- Meaningful feedback



But because different educators **designed different learning environments.**

This led us to ask:

What shapes these pedagogical decisions?

Digital Habitus (Bolten-Bühler, 2021)

Definition



dispositions



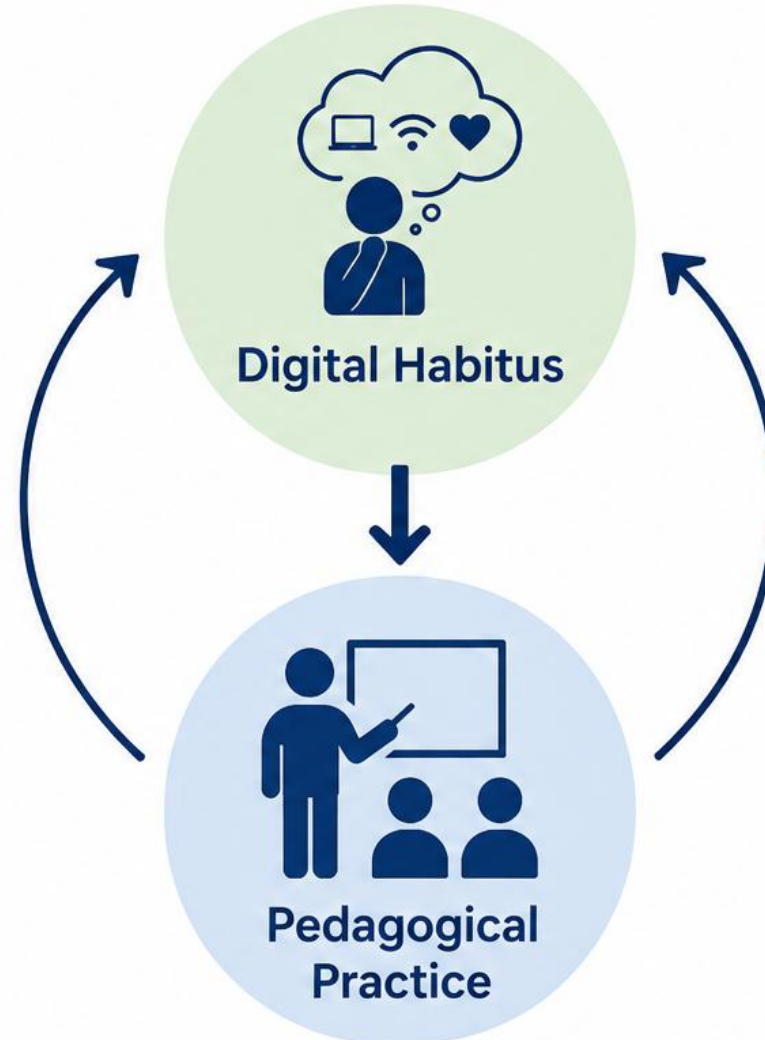
beliefs



prior experiences



attitudes towards
digital media



What did we observe?

Educators approach digital technologies in fundamentally different ways.



Teacher A

Technology as risk

“I’m always afraid something will go wrong – the internet cuts out, devices don’t work, or learners get distracted. I can’t take that risk.

“I prefer to stick to what I know works: paper, pencil, the textbook. It’s safer for everyone.

(Participant)



Teacher B

Technology as opportunity

“Digital tools open up so many new possibilities. Learners are curious and motivated when we try something new together.

“I like experimenting. Sometimes it works great, sometimes not – but that’s how we learn.

(Participant)



Teacher C

Technology as routine

“I use digital tools when they save time or help me organise things better. It’s just part of my teaching routine.

“I follow the plan, use the tools I know, and make sure everything runs smoothly.

(Participant)



Teacher D

Technology as participation

“Digital tools help learners participate in real-life situations – in society, at work, in their everyday lives.

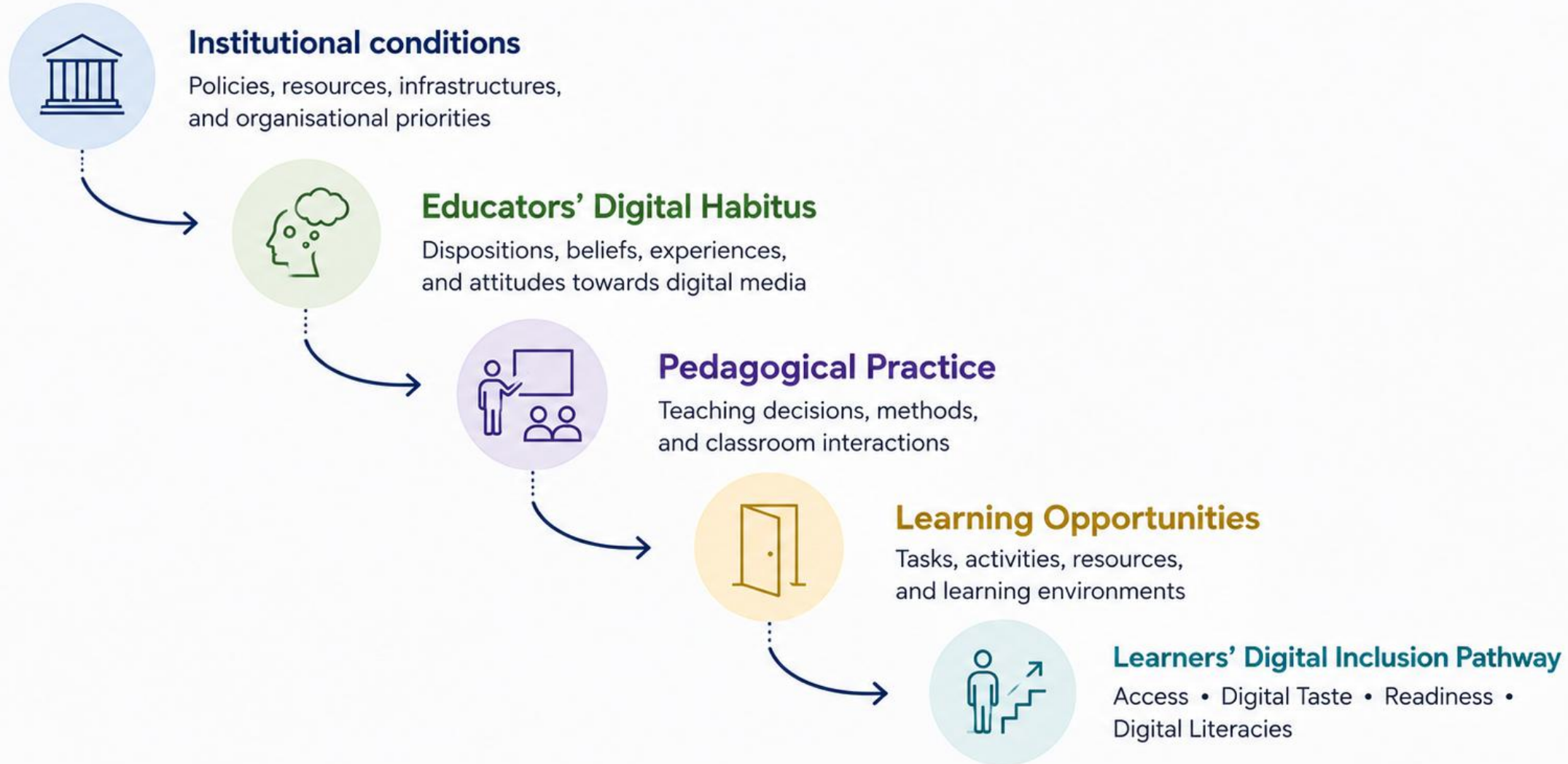
“It’s not just about learning skills; it’s about having a voice, connecting with others, and shaping our future.

(Participant)

→ Different beliefs and orientations towards technology shape how learning opportunities are designed.

From Pathway to Relationships

Digital inclusion is shaped through interrelated factors along the learning process.



Who Creates Digital Learning Opportunities?



✗ Not technology.



✗ Not curriculum.



✓ **Educators.**



More precisely:

Educators' Digital Habitus

their beliefs, experiences, dispositions and attitudes towards digital media shapes their **pedagogical practice**.

Through their pedagogical practice, **educators create** the learning opportunities that enable learners to develop along the Digital Inclusion Pathway.



“

**Digital inclusion
begins long *before*
learners use technology.**

**It begins when *educators*
decide how technology
*becomes meaningful.***

”

Continue the Conversation

If you would like to explore these ideas further, you may find the following resources helpful:

- **GediG Project** – www.gedig.online
- **Book:** Koppel, I., Langer, S. & David, L. M. (Hrsg.) (2025). *Digitale Medien in der Grundbildung. Einsatzmöglichkeiten und Gelingensbedingungen*. wbv.
<https://doi.org/10.3278/9783763978168>



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THANK YOU!

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