

Editorial

In the era of digital transformation, organizations and institutions across sectors are re-evaluating their strategies to enhance efficiency, adaptability, and sustainability. The integration of advanced technologies has redefined operational models and shaped decision-making processes in both business and education. The following research contributions offer critical insights into two distinct yet interconnected areas, highlighting the role of digital solutions in fostering growth, competitiveness, and responsible practices.

For mid-sized manufacturing firms, Enterprise Resource Planning systems remain central to improving operations and supporting long-term strategic objectives. A comparative study of cloud-based and On-Premise QAD solutions reveals important considerations related to cost, scalability, customization, and return on investment. Findings show that while On-Premise systems provide higher control and customization, cloud ERP offers lower upfront costs, greater agility, and faster integration, proving more effective for digitally mature and rapidly growing firms. The analysis emphasizes the importance of aligning ERP adoption with organizational needs and growth trajectories, offering a practical framework for firms to navigate investment decisions in a competitive environment [1].

Portuguese students' perceptions of technology in education and sustainability provide another perspective on the lasting impact of digital adoption. Through a follow-up study spanning 2021 to 2024, results indicate that students continue to view online resources as effective tools for academic productivity, while their awareness and commitment to sustainability have strengthened significantly. Patterns of sustainable food consumption and responsible resource management are now more firmly embedded in daily practices, reflecting broader societal trends. Although perceptions of online productivity remain stable, the evolution of sustainability habits suggests a generational shift toward integrating environmental responsibility into educational life [2].

Taken together, these research studies highlight the profound influence of technology on shaping both industrial and educational landscapes. While businesses are redefining operational strategies through ERP systems, students are aligning digital learning with sustainable living. The combined insights point to a future where technological adaptability and sustainable practices serve as complementary forces driving resilience, growth, and progress.

References:

- [1] R. Jaiswal, "Cloud ERP vs. On-Premise QAD ERP: A Cost-Benefit Analysis for Mid-Sized Manufacturers," *Journal of Engineering Research and Sciences*, vol. 4, no. 7, pp. 1–14, 2025, doi:10.55708/js0407001.
- [2] N. Lima, C. Viegas, A. R. Costa, C. Orozco-Rodríguez, G. R. Alves, A. Vaz Fidalgo, "Education and Sustainability Habits – Portuguese Students' Perspectives," *Journal of Engineering Research and Sciences*, vol. 4, no. 7, pp. 15–25, 2025, doi:10.55708/js0407002.

Editor-in-chief

Dr. Jinhua Xiao