3) Deepening digital inequality: the high cost of VR equipment creates a new social barrier that potentially leads to the emergence of a «digital elite».

4) Ethical and legal conflicts: there are no established legal norms governing virtual property protection of personal data.

Conclusion:

1. Virtual reality technologies have significant positive potential for expanding social communications, developing inclusion and transforming education and the economy.

2. To minimize the negative consequences, it is necessary to develop codes of ethics for developers of VR environments, develop digital and media literacy among users, as well as initiate a social and professional dialogue on the creation of an adaptive legal framework.

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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

Цифровые технологии: проблемы и перспективы развития

In today's increasingly competitive society, every manufacturer, seeking to improve their efficiency, employs innovative tools and modern approaches. One promising approach to addressing this issue could be the use of digital technologies. In recent years, digital technologies have become widespread, expanding opportunities for rapid access to information sources and facilitating human work in both production and everyday life. This determined the purpose of the study, which is to examine the possibilities, problems and prospects for the development of digital technologies to improve the efficiency of production processes.

The process of informatization began to emerge in the 1990s. Back then, the first programs capable of automating labor-intensive operations appeared, primarily in banking. Personal computers and mobile phones emerged a little later. Growing competition dictated the need for digitalization in resource management, procurement and sales, production and logistics operations. Digitalization subsequently affected the social sphere, and the foundations of smart home technologies emerged. And at the beginning of the 21st century, there was an upsurge of the Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, quantum computing and blockchain technologies. Digital technologies are currently being successfully applied by enterprises for forecasting, strategic decision-making, big data analysis, labor market monitoring, education, healthcare and performance management. Their role has grown so much that digital transformation has become a key mainstream aspect of societal development.

Experts consider the robotization of production processes and the changing role of humans in them to be the main trend in the development of digital technologies. In warehouses, robots are already automating core processes ranging from AGV/AMR robots, sorting robots, and unmanned drones to WMS (warehouse management systems) and optimization systems. Industrial robots increase productivity replacing humans in heavy-duty tasks such as welding, painting and assembly lines. In the energy sector, robots are used for fault diagnosis and in hazardous areas such as nuclear power plants. In medicine, robots improve the precision of surgical procedures and automate laboratory processes. In education, robots serve as interactive learning tools and enable personalized learning.

However, a number of challenges hinder the implementation of digital technologies. Firstly, the implementation of digital technologies requires significant financial investment. Secondly, they are not always compatible with legacy production processes existing at enterprises. Thirdly, there is a risk of access to personal data and privacy breaches. Often, company managers and employees are reluctant to embrace innovations in their work practices.

Nevertheless, digitalization has already touched all spheres of life and digital technologies will inevitably play a significant role in business and production, contributing to increased efficiency, competitive advantages and the country's economic growth.

The study examined the emergence and evolution of digital technologies, the experience of their application in various economic sectors and identified implementation challenges and prospects for further development to improve the efficiency of production processes.

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DIGITALIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN BELARUS: CONVENIENCE OR BARRIER?

Цифровизация государственных услуг в Беларуси: удобство или барьер?

It is difficult to imagine the modern world without digital technologies. In Belarus, as in many other countries, public services are gradually being converted into an electronic format. This should make people's lives easier and more convenient. But is this really the case? Can everyone easily access these new opportunities?

In Belarus, the government program «Digital Development of Belarus» is being actively implemented. A portal has been created through which you can make an