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Abstract:

This paper explores the transformative potential of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) in financial education. It delves into various case studies and examples, showcasing how VR and AR technologies are revolutionizing financial learning. These include VR-based trading simulations in universities and AR apps for financial literacy. The paper discusses the advantages and challenges of implementing VR and AR, emphasizing improved engagement, personalized learning, and real-world application of financial concepts. Recommendations are provided for educators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to leverage these technologies effectively. The conclusion underscores the need for greater investment and collaboration to advance innovative financial education initiatives using VR and AR.

Keywords: virtual reality; augmented reality; financial education; financial literacy; technologies.

Jel Classification Codes: G19, G39.

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1. Introduction:

Financial literacy is increasingly recognized as a critical life skill essential for navigating the complexities of modern economic landscapes. Studies consistently demonstrate the correlation between financial literacy and improved financial decision-making, wealth accumulation, and overall economic well-being (Annamaria Lusardi, 2014, pp. 5-44). However, traditional approaches to financial education often fall short in engaging learners effectively and addressing the diverse learning needs of individuals.

1.1. Brief Overview of the Importance of Financial Education

Financial education empowers individuals to make informed decisions about budgeting, saving, investing, and managing debt. It equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve financial goals, plan for the future, and mitigate financial risks. Moreover, it fosters resilience against financial shocks and promotes economic stability at both individual and societal levels (OECD/INFE, 2018).

Despite its significance, numerous studies highlight the pervasive lack of financial literacy worldwide. For example, the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) consistently reveals concerning levels of financial literacy among young people globally (OECD, 2017). Furthermore, the increasing complexity of financial products and services, coupled with rapid technological advancements, underscores the urgent need for innovative approaches to financial education.

1.2. Introduction to Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) Technologies

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) represent groundbreaking technologies that offer immersive, interactive, and experiential learning experiences. VR immerses users in computer-generated environments, while AR overlays digital content onto the real world, enhancing perception and interaction. These technologies have gained significant traction across various industries, from gaming and entertainment to healthcare and education.

In recent years, VR and AR have emerged as promising tools for transforming traditional educational paradigms. By leveraging the immersive capabilities of VR and the contextual augmentation of AR, educators can create engaging and dynamic learning environments that cater to diverse learning styles and preferences (Chang et al H. Y., 2021, p. 166)

1.3. Thesis Statement Outlining the Paper's Focus on How VR and AR are Transforming Financial Education

This paper aims to explore the transformative potential of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies in revolutionizing financial education. By examining the applications, advantages, and challenges of VR and AR in the context of financial literacy, it seeks to provide insights into how these technologies can

enhance learning outcomes, promote financial inclusion, and empower individuals to make informed financial decisions.

Through an in-depth analysis of existing literature, case studies, and practical examples, this paper will elucidate the unique affordances of VR and AR in facilitating immersive, interactive, and personalized financial education experiences. Additionally, it will address key considerations for educators, policymakers, and industry stakeholders seeking to integrate VR and AR into financial education initiatives, thereby contributing to the advancement of innovative pedagogical approaches in the field of financial literacy. (Udaya Shankar, 2023, pp. 1310-1318)

2. Understanding the Need for Innovative Financial Educations:

Financial education is indispensable in today's complex economic environment, yet traditional methods often struggle to effectively address the diverse needs of learners and engage them sufficiently. This section delves into the challenges faced by traditional financial education methods, the necessity of accessibility and engagement, and the potential benefits of integrating virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) into financial education. (Menberu, 2014, pp. 1-38)

2.1. Discussion on the Complexity of Financial Concepts and Challenges Faced in Traditional Financial Education Methods

Financial literacy encompasses a wide array of concepts, including budgeting, saving, investing, insurance, taxes, and retirement planning. However, many individuals find these concepts daunting and struggle to grasp them through conventional educational approaches. Traditional financial education methods often rely on passive learning techniques such as lectures and textbooks, which may fail to capture learners' attention or facilitate deep understanding.

Moreover, financial concepts are inherently abstract and can be challenging to comprehend without practical application. The disconnect between theory and real-world application further complicates the learning process, leading to low retention rates and limited practical application of financial knowledge.

Research has consistently highlighted the shortcomings of traditional financial education methods, particularly in terms of their effectiveness in improving financial literacy and decision-making skills (Cole, 2009, pp. 9-72). Addressing these challenges requires innovative approaches that prioritize active learning, experiential engagement, and personalized instruction.

2.2. Importance of Making Financial Education More Accessible and Engaging for Diverse Learners

Financial education must be accessible and engaging to effectively reach learners across different demographics, socio-economic backgrounds, and learning styles. However, traditional approaches often struggle to accommodate diverse learner needs and preferences, leading to disparities in access and outcomes.

Accessibility entails ensuring that financial education resources are readily available and tailored to the specific needs of different learner groups. This includes addressing language barriers, cultural sensitivities, and disabilities, as well as providing equitable access to educational opportunities regardless of socio-economic status.

Engagement is equally crucial in fostering meaningful learning experiences and sustaining learners' interest and motivation. Engaging financial education initiatives leverage interactive, participatory, and immersive learning strategies that resonate with learners and encourage active participation. (Lusardi, 2019, pp. 1-20)

2.3. Exploration of the Potential Benefits of Integrating VR and AR into Financial Education

The integration of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) into financial education holds immense promise for addressing the challenges of accessibility, engagement, and comprehension. These technologies offer immersive, interactive, and experiential learning experiences that can enhance understanding, retention, and application of financial concepts.

VR simulations enable learners to immerse themselves in realistic financial scenarios, such as managing a budget, investing in stocks, or purchasing insurance. By experiencing these situations firsthand, learners can develop practical skills, test their decision-making abilities, and learn from their mistakes in a risk-free environment. (Cheah Xiaoli Zhao, 2023, pp. 1-30)

AR overlays digital information onto the real world, providing contextualized guidance and feedback during financial transactions or decision-making processes. For example, AR apps can offer real-time insights into budgeting, expense tracking, or investment opportunities, enhancing learners' awareness and understanding of their financial situation.

Moreover, VR and AR technologies have the potential to personalize learning experiences based on individual preferences, learning styles, and skill levels. By adapting content, pacing, and difficulty levels to meet learners' specific needs, these technologies can accommodate diverse learner profiles and optimize learning outcomes.

Incorporating VR and AR into financial education can also improve accessibility by transcending traditional barriers such as geographic location, physical limitations, or resource constraints. Learners can access educational content anytime, anywhere, using affordable VR headsets or mobile devices, democratizing access to high-quality financial education resources. (Abdullah M. Al-Ansi a, 2023)

Overall, the integration of VR and AR into financial education has the potential to revolutionize how financial concepts are taught, learned, and applied. By providing immersive, interactive, and accessible learning experiences, these technologies can empower individuals to develop essential financial literacy skills, make informed decisions, and achieve financial well-being.

3. Exploring the Capabilities of VR and AR in Financial Education:

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies offer unique capabilities that have the potential to revolutionize financial education. This section provides an overview of VR and AR technologies, their applications in financial education, and a comparative analysis of their respective advantages. (Abdullah M. Al-Ansi a, 2023)

3.1. Overview of Virtual Reality (VR) Technology and Its Applications in Financial Education

Virtual reality (VR) immerses users in computer-generated environments, providing a sense of presence and interaction. In financial education, VR offers several applications:

3.1.1. Immersive Simulations of Financial Scenarios:

VR allows learners to experience realistic financial scenarios, such as budgeting, investing, or retirement planning, in a simulated environment. By interacting with these scenarios, learners can develop practical skills and gain insights into the consequences of their financial decisions. (William R. Sherman, 2019, pp. 1-40)

3.1.2. Real-Time Market Simulations:

VR can simulate real-time financial markets, enabling learners to practice trading stocks, currencies, or commodities in a dynamic and immersive environment. These simulations provide valuable hands-on experience and help learners understand market dynamics and risk management strategies.

3.1.3. Interactive Portfolio Management Tools:

VR platforms can offer interactive portfolio management tools that allow users to monitor and manage their investment portfolios in a virtual space. Users can visualize portfolio performance, explore investment opportunities, and experiment with different asset allocations, enhancing their understanding of investment principles and strategies. (Yogesh K. Dwivedi a b, 2022)

3.2. Introduction to Augmented Reality (AR) Technology and Its Potential in Financial Education

Augmented reality (AR) overlays digital content onto the real world, enriching users' perception and interaction with their surroundings. In financial education, AR offers several potential applications.

3.2.1. Enhancing Real-World Financial Experiences with Digital Overlays:

AR apps can provide users with real-time financial information and insights overlaid onto their physical environment. For example, users can point their smartphone camera at a product in a store and receive information about its price, features, and customer reviews, enhancing their purchasing decisions. (Abdullah M. Al-Ansi a, 2023)

3.2.2. Interactive Financial Literacy Tools:

AR can transform traditional financial literacy materials, such as textbooks or worksheets, into interactive and engaging learning experiences. For instance, users can scan financial documents or diagrams with an AR-

enabled device to access multimedia explanations, interactive quizzes, or step-by-step tutorials, enhancing their comprehension and retention of financial concepts. (Malik, 2023, pp. 68-84)

3.2.3. Gamification of Financial Learning:

AR gamification techniques can make financial learning more engaging and enjoyable by turning educational activities into interactive games or challenges. For example, users can participate in virtual treasure hunts or simulation-based quests that teach financial concepts and skills in a playful and immersive manner.(Georgios Lampropoulos, 2022)

3.3. Comparative Analysis of VR and AR Technologies and Their Respective Advantages in Financial Education

While both VR and AR technologies offer significant benefits for financial education, they have distinct advantages

3.3.1. VR's Advantages

VR provides a fully immersive and controlled environment, allowing learners to experience complex financial scenarios firsthand. It offers a high degree of realism and interactivity, making it particularly effective for experiential learning and skill development.

3.3.2. AR's Advantages:

AR enhances users' real-world experiences by overlaying digital information onto their physical environment. It seamlessly integrates with users' everyday activities and contexts, providing contextualized guidance and support at the point of need. AR is well-suited for on-the-go learning and practical applications in real-life financial situations.(Maria Jorge Azevedo, 2023, pp. 118-127)

Both VR and AR technologies have the potential to transform financial education by providing immersive, interactive, and personalized learning experiences. By leveraging the unique capabilities of VR and AR, educators can create engaging and effective learning environments that empower individuals to develop essential financial literacy skills and make informed financial decisions. (Muhammad Shahid Anwar, 2024, pp. 1-22)

4. Case Studies and Examples:

This section presents a more detailed examination of case studies and examples of existing virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) applications in financial education, accompanied by additional explanations and statistics.

4.1. Showcase of Existing VR-Based Financial Education Platforms and Applications

4.1.1. Analysis of VR Financial Simulations Used in Educational Institutions:

Case Study: Virtual Trading Platforms in Universities

- Overview: Many educational institutions globally integrate VR financial simulations to provide students with

practical exposure to real-world financial scenarios. For example, the University of Illinois offers a Virtual Trading Floor where students can simulate trading stocks, options, and futures.

- **Benefits:** Research conducted at universities using VR financial simulations indicates a significant improvement in students' understanding of financial concepts and investment strategies. Studies show that students who engage with VR simulations demonstrate higher retention rates and improved decision-making abilities compared to traditional classroom instruction. (Christiansen, 2020, pp. 83-105)
- **Statistics**: A study conducted by Christiansen and Miguel (2020) reported that students who participated in VR-based financial simulations scored an average of 20% higher on financial literacy assessments compared to those who received traditional instruction.

Case Study: VR Investment Training Modules for Financial Professionals

- **Overview:** Financial institutions such as investment banks and asset management firms leverage VR technology to enhance the training of financial professionals. For instance, Goldman Sachs utilizes VR-based investment training modules to simulate real-time market conditions and investment scenarios.
- **Benefits:** VR training programs enable financial professionals to practice analyzing financial data, executing trades, and managing client portfolios in a simulated environment. These programs have been shown to accelerate learning and improve decision-making skills among professionals, leading to increased job performance and client satisfaction. (PwC, 2019)
- **Statistics:** According to a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) (2019), financial professionals who participated in VR-based training programs reported a 30% increase in their ability to make informed investment decisions compared to traditional training methods.

4.2. Examination of AR-Enhanced Financial Education Tools and Resources:

4.2.1. Case Studies of AR Apps for Financial Literacy Targeted at Different Age Groups:

Case Study: "SmartMoney" AR App for Teenagers

- **Overview:** "SmartMoney" is an AR app designed for teenagers to learn financial literacy skills through interactive experiences. The app overlays financial scenarios onto the user's real-world environment, allowing them to learn about budgeting, saving, and investing in a gamified setting.
- Benefits: A study conducted by the University of California, Berkeley, found that teenagers who used the "SmartMoney" app demonstrated a 20% increase in financial knowledge compared to a control group. Additionally, 75% of users reported feeling more confident in managing their finances after using the AR app. (Roberts, 2018, pp. 18-28)
- **Statistics:** The study also revealed that 80% of parents noticed positive changes in their children's financial behaviors after they started using the "SmartMoney" app, including increased savings habits and a

greaterunderstanding of financial concepts. (Riva, 2014, pp. 7-22)

Case Study: "Moneyville" AR App for Children

- **Overview:** "Moneyville" is an AR app developed for children aged 8-12 to learn financial literacy skills in an interactive and engaging manner. The app overlays virtual coins, piggy banks, and financial concepts onto the real world using AR technology.
- **Benefits:** Children can explore virtual scenarios such as earning allowance, saving for goals, and making spending decisions within the app. Studies conducted with "Moneyville" users have shown a significant improvement in financial knowledge and behaviors among children, including increased savings habits and understanding of budgeting principles. (Roberts, Bringing Augmented Reality into the Classroom: Insights from Two Case Studies., 62(1),, 2018, pp. 18-28)
- **Statistics:** Research by Roberts et al. (2018) found that children who used the "Moneyville" app demonstrated a 25% increase in their understanding of financial concepts and a 30% improvement in their ability to set and achieve savings goals compared to a control group.

4.2.2. Implementation Examples of AR in Banking and Wealth Management Services:

Case Study: AR-Powered Banking Apps

- **Overview:** Banks and financial institutions are incorporating AR features into their mobile banking apps to enhance the user experience and provide personalized financial insights. For example, JP Morgan Chase's "Chase Mobile" app includes an AR feature that allows users to visualize their spending habits and receive real-time financial advice.
- **Benefits:** AR-powered banking apps enable users to view their account balances, transaction history, and financial goals in an interactive and intuitive way. These apps provide personalized recommendations for budgeting, saving, and investing based on users' financial behavior and preferences, leading to improved financial wellness and decision-making (Accenture, 2020). (Accenture, 2020)
- **Statistics:** According to a survey conducted by Accenture (2020), 75% of users reported a higher level of satisfaction with AR-powered banking apps compared to traditional mobile banking apps. Additionally, 60% of users stated that AR features helped them make more informed financial decisions.

5. Advantages and Challenges of Implementing VR and AR in Financial Education:

Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies offer unique advantages for enhancing financial literacy and decision-making skills, but they also present challenges and limitations that must be addressed for successful implementation.

5.1. Analysis of the Advantages of VR and AR in Enhancing Financial Literacy and Decision-Making Skills

5.1.1. Improved Engagement and Retention Rates:

VR and AR technologies provide immersive and interactive learning experiences that captivate learners' attention and foster active participation. By simulating real-world financial scenarios and providing hands-on practice, VR and AR engage learners more effectively than traditional instructional methods. (Chang, 2021, p. 166)

Studies have shown that VR and AR-based financial education programs lead to higher levels of engagement and knowledge retention among participants. For example, a study by Christiansen and Miguel (2020) found that students who engaged with VR financial simulations demonstrated significantly higher comprehension and recall of financial concepts compared to those who received traditional instruction (Christiansen, 2020).

5.1.2. Personalized Learning Experiences:

VR and AR technologies enable personalized learning experiences tailored to individual learner preferences, needs, and skill levels. Through adaptive content delivery, learners can receive targeted instruction and feedback based on their performance and progress. (Billinghurst, 2012, pp. 56-63)

Personalization enhances learners' motivation, confidence, and self-efficacy, leading to more effective learning outcomes. For instance, AR apps can adjust content difficulty, pacing, and learning pathways to accommodate diverse learner profiles and optimize learning effectiveness.

5.1.3. Real-World Application of Financial Concepts:

VR and AR simulations provide learners with opportunities to apply financial concepts and skills in authentic, real-world contexts. By simulating financial transactions, investment decisions, and budgeting scenarios, learners can develop practical expertise and confidence in managing their finances. (Mihai, 2019, pp. 518-528.)

Hands-on experience with VR and AR-based financial simulations bridges the gap between theory and practice, preparing learners for real-life financial challenges and empowering them to make informed decisions in various financial situations.

5.2. Discussion on the Challenges and Limitations of VR and AR Adoption in Financial Education

5.2.1. Technological Barriers and Accessibility Issues:

VR and AR technologies require specialized hardware, software, and technical expertise, which may pose barriers to adoption for some learners and institutions. Access to VR headsets, AR-enabled devices, and highspeed internet connections may be limited in certain regions or demographics, leading to disparities in access to VR and AR-based educational resources.

Furthermore, the complexity of VR and AR development and implementation may deter educators and

institutions from integrating these technologies into their curricula, especially in resource-constrained environments. (Mareschal, 2020, p. 426)

5.2.2. Cost Implications and Resource Requirements:

The development and deployment of VR and AR-based educational content can be costly and resourceintensive. Creating high-quality VR simulations, AR apps, and interactive learning materials requires investment in software development, content creation, and technical support. (Mihai, 2019)

Educational institutions and organizations may face budgetary constraints and competing priorities when considering the adoption of VR and AR technologies. Additionally, ongoing maintenance, updates, and technical support for VR and AR infrastructure add to the long-term costs of implementation.

5.2.3. Ethical Considerations and Data Privacy Concerns:

VR and AR technologies raise ethical considerations and data privacy concerns related to the collection, storage, and use of user data. Educational institutions and developers must ensure compliance with relevant privacy regulations and safeguard learners' sensitive information . (Kizilcec, 2015, pp. 724-739)

Moreover, the immersive nature of VR and AR experiences may blur the boundaries between reality and simulation, raising questions about the ethical implications of manipulating users' perceptions and behaviors within virtual environments. (Billinghurst, 2012)

In conclusion, while VR and AR technologies offer significant advantages for enhancing financial education, their adoption faces challenges related to technological barriers, cost implications, and ethical considerations. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration among educators, developers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to ensure equitable access, affordability, and ethical use of VR and AR-based educational resources.

6. Conclusion:

In conclusion, this paper has explored the transformative potential of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) in revolutionizing financial education. By recapitulating key points and emphasizing the significance of VR and AR technologies, we underscore the need for greater investment and collaboration to advance innovative financial education initiatives.

Throughout this paper, we have highlighted several key points regarding the integration of VR and AR in financial education:

- We discussed the importance of addressing the complexity of financial concepts and the challenges faced by traditional educational methods.
- We explored the advantages of VR and AR, such as improved engagement, personalized learning experiences, and real-world application of financial concepts.

- We also examined the challenges and limitations of adopting VR and AR in financial education, including technological barriers, cost implications, and ethical considerations.

-Additionally, we presented case studies, examples, and future trends to illustrate the potential impact of VR and AR on financial literacy and decision-making skills.

The integration of VR and AR technologies has the potential to revolutionize financial education by providing immersive, interactive, and personalized learning experiences. These technologies offer innovative solutions to address the shortcomings of traditional educational methods and empower learners to develop essential financial literacy skills.

VR and AR simulations enable learners to engage with complex financial scenarios in a realistic and riskfree environment, fostering deeper understanding and practical application of financial concepts. By enhancing engagement, retention, and real-world relevance, VR and AR have the power to transform how individuals learn about finance and make informed financial decisions.

To realize the full potential of VR and AR in financial education, we must commit to greater investment and collaboration across sectors. Educators, policymakers, financial institutions, technology companies, and researchers must work together to develop and implement high-quality VR and AR-based educational resources. This call to action includes:

- Allocating resources for the development of VR and AR infrastructure, content, and training programs.

- Forming partnerships and collaborations to share expertise, best practices, and resources.

- Advocating for policies and initiatives that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and ethical use of VR and AR technologies in education.

By investing in innovative financial education initiatives and leveraging the transformative potential of VR and AR, we can empower individuals of all ages and backgrounds to build essential financial literacy skills, make informed decisions, and achieve financial well-being.

In conclusion, the integration of VR and AR represents a significant opportunity to revolutionize financial education and pave the way for a more financially literate and empowered society.

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