ASIA PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MARKETING & MANAGEMENT REVIEW
ISSN: 2319-2836
IMPACT FACTOR: 8.071
Vol 14, Issue 06, 2025

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ERP SOLUTIONS IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES AND ITS REGIONAL AND CROSS-SECTORAL IMPACT ON REDUCING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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Abstract. *This study examines the implementation of ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solutions in industrial enterprises of the Namangan region and its regional and cross-sectoral impact on reducing the digital divide. The study analyzes the level of digital development in the region, production efficiency and resource efficiency through the integration of ERP systems into enterprises. The problems that arise in the process of widespread use of ERP technologies, including technical, financial and organizational difficulties, are considered, and recommendations are developed based on international and local experience to overcome them. The results of the study are of practical importance for the effective implementation of digital transformation in the region and increasing economic competitiveness.*

Keywords: *ERP systems, digital divide, digital economy, industrial enterprises, regional development, cross-sectoral impact, Namangan region, digital transformation, production efficiency, resource management efficiency, economic competitiveness.*

In the current context of globalization and the digital economy, the introduction of ERP systems in the industrial sector increases the efficiency of enterprises' internal resource management, reduces operating costs, and enhances their competitiveness in the global market by improving product quality [1].

The World Bank's 2021 report notes that the use of ERP systems in developing countries is an important driver of economic development, providing an opportunity to reduce the digital divide and increase production efficiency [2]. The report "Digital Transformation and Inclusive Growth" prepared by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) scientifically substantiates that the use of ERP systems can significantly increase production efficiency, while reducing the regional and inter-sectoral digital divide [3].

The issue of introducing ERP technologies is also gaining strategic importance in the context of the Uzbek economy. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60 dated January 28, 2022 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026" sets the task of reducing the digital divide between regions and sectors through the widespread introduction of information technologies, in particular ERP systems, in the digital economy and industrial production [4]. In addition, the Resolution of

ISSN 2319-2836 (online), Published by
ASIA PACIFIC JOURNAL OF MARKETING & MANAGEMENT REVIEW.,
under Volume: 14 Issue: 06 in June-2025
https://www.gejournal.net/index.php/APJMMR

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ISSN: 2319-2836
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the Cabinet of Ministers No. 551 dated August 31, 2021 also sets out specific measures for the introduction of digital technologies in manufacturing enterprises [5].

The issue of reducing the digital divide through the introduction of ERP solutions at industrial enterprises in the Namangan region is particularly relevant. The use of these systems for the regional industry can significantly increase the efficiency of resource use, the volume and quality of product production. However, there are problems in the implementation of ERP systems in the region, such as insufficient technical infrastructure, a shortage of qualified specialists, and limited financial resources.

The analysis highlights the need for the introduction of ERP systems in the manufacturing sector and its economic efficiency. At the same time, the successful implementation of ERP technologies also indicates the need to develop government support mechanisms and address financial and technical issues.

Table 1.

The number of enterprises that have implemented ERP systems in industrial enterprises of the Namangan region and its impact on economic efficiency

Districts	Number of companies that have implemented ERP (2020)	Number of companies implementing ERP (2024)	Product volume growth (%)	Operating cost reduction (%)
Namangan city	6	19	16,5	15,1
Chortoq district	9	26	24,1	13,9
Chust district	6	27	21,7	15,1
Kosonsoy district	1	25	20,7	11,2
Mingbulaq district	1	27	22	8
Namangan district	2	28	11,4	9,3
Norin district	8	29	17,8	7,1
Pop district	7	17	23	16,7
Turakurgan district	3	19	22,4	11,2
Uchkurgan district	5	22	22,4	5,5
Uychi district	6	22	14,1	14,4
Yangikurgan district	3	24	10,9	14,9

Source: Author's work based on reports from the Namangan Regional Department of Statistics

The table above shows the indicators of the implementation of ERP systems in industrial enterprises of the districts of Namangan region and its impact on economic efficiency in specific figures. The analysis shows that the number of enterprises using ERP

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https://www.gejournal.net/index.php/APJMMR

systems has increased significantly in all districts. For example, in 2020, the number of enterprises using ERP systems in Namangan city was 6, while in 2024 this figure reached 19. The growth was also much higher in Chortoq and Chust districts, from 9 and 6 enterprises in 2020, respectively, to 26 and 27 enterprises in 2024.

With the use of ERP systems, a significant increase in product volume was observed. In particular, product volume increased by 24.1% in Chortoq district, 21.7% in Chust district, and 20.7% in Kosonsoy district. These indicators prove that ERP systems have a direct positive impact on production efficiency. In particular, as a result of optimizing production processes through ERP technologies, the effective use of production capacities and improved resource management were ensured. ERP technologies also created a great opportunity to reduce operating costs. In the city of Namangan and Chust district, the reduction in operating costs was 15.1%. In the Chartok district, the reduction in costs reached 13.9%. These indicators also show the potential of ERP systems to save costs through effective management of operational processes of enterprises.

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