

THE BOONS AND BANES OF AI IN THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

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AI in the classroom is both a blessing and a challenge for education in the Philippines.

Technology has changed the way education works, and artificial intelligence (AI) is one of the most exciting tools making waves in classrooms. In the Philippines, where resources are often limited, AI can provide creative solutions to old problems. It helps teachers manage their workload, supports students to learn at their own pace, and opens the doors to more personalized education. However, while AI can be a game-changer, it also come with drawbacks, such as the risk of over-reliance on technology and accessibility challenges. By understanding the pros and cons of using AI in the classroom, we can use this tool wisely to improve education in our country.

A major advantage of AI is its ability to reduce teachers' workload (Celik et al., 2022). Teachers in the Philippines often have to deal with large classes and a lot of paperwork, leaving little time for personal interaction with students. AI tools such as automated grading systems and learning management platforms can save time and energy by taking over repetitive tasks. This allows teachers to focus on teaching and building relationships with their students. However, the use of AI in grading also has its limitations, as it cannot always capture the depth of students' work, especially in subjects such as essays or art.

Another advantage of AI is that it helps students to learn at their own pace. With AI-powered apps and platforms, students can review lessons they are struggling to

understand or move on when they are ready for more advanced topics. This is particularly helpful in large classes where it is difficult for teachers to meet the needs of all students. On the other hand, not all students have access to the internet or the devices needed to use these tools. In rural areas, where many public schools lack adequate equipment, the benefits of AI cannot reach everyone equally.

AI also enables more personalized learning experiences. Tools such as language apps or educational games can adapt to each student's strengths and weaknesses, making learning more engaging. Pupils who have difficulties in math, for example, can receive additional exercises tailored to their needs. But again, this personalized learning experience can only work if the technology is accessible and teachers are trained to use it effectively. Without the right guidance, students may use AI tools incorrectly or rely on them too much, neglecting traditional learning methods.

Another challenge of using AI in the classroom is the risk of students becoming too dependent on the technology (Kaplan-Rakowski et al., 2023). While AI can provide answers quickly, it does not always encourage deep thinking or problem solving. Students may start to take shortcuts and rely on AI for tasks that they should be doing themselves. Teachers need to find a balance between using AI as a tool and ensuring that students continue to develop critical thinking and creativity.

Finally, AI also raises questions about educational equity. Wealthier schools and students are more likely to have access to advanced AI tools, while public schools and underprivileged communities may be left behind. Government and education leaders must ensure that AI is used to close educational gaps rather than widen them.

AI has the potential to transform education in the Philippines. It offers exciting opportunities but also poses challenges that need to be carefully managed. If we use it responsibly and understand its limitations, AI can become a powerful ally in shaping a better future for Filipino students.

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