FROM CHALKBOARDS TO CHATBOTS: ADAPTING TO THE RISE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION

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In the earliest days, education was an oral tradition. Knowledge was shared through stories and teachings from elders to the younger generation. From the dawn of time, it has been a marker of human progress, alongside our societal and technological advancements. Unsurprisingly, as humanity evolved, so did the methods and means of learning. As we enter a new era, artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming a dominant force, set to reshape education.

Gone are the days of chalkboards. Technology has enabled teachers to present information to an entire class simultaneously, with a few clicks and taps of their fingers. Slide projectors and computers have taken over classrooms, further enhancing instructional methods and student engagement. Today, we are amidst another transformative wave with the surge of artificial intelligence.

Artificial Intelligence, at its core, is a computer system designed to take on tasks that generally need human intelligence and intervention. It boasts flexibility, convenience, and the capability to tap into thousands of online resources in seconds. Its application and possibilities are endless—particularly in medicine and education. AI provides numerous opportunities, including personalized learning, immediate feedback, and efficiency.

However, a fundamental truth remains—everything has a cost, and AI is no different. The extensive use of AI has uncovered significant societal issues, particularly

concerning inadequate data privacy measures, work authenticity, and intellectual property theft.

Most importantly, the impact of artificial intelligence on education demands genuine concern and prompt action. Due to its intellect and swift responses, AI has become the leading tool for educators and learners alike. The convenience of having lesson plans crafted and assignments accomplished within a few minutes is a temptation that is hard to refuse. However, recent studies prove that this has led to an overdependence that impedes the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. AI enhances learning and leads to the erosion of skills traditionally nurtured through human interaction and conventional learning methods. Moreover, not all educational institutions have the resources to implement AI technologies, potentially widening the gap between well-funded and underfunded schools.

As AI continues to evolve, its influence on education continues to deepen. This should be an eye opener, and the path forward requires careful consideration. It is crucial to prioritize ensuring that AI complements rather than substitutes the human elements in education. Training programs must be created and implemented to enhance educators' skills in adapting to AI.

As a society, we must not forget that educators play an irreplaceable role in fostering creativity, empathy, and ethical reasoning—qualities that AI cannot replicate. By navigating challenges and opportunities with care, we can unlock AI's potential to enhance the educational experience for future generations.

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