

FROM CHALKBOARDS TO CHATBOTS: THE RISE OF AI IN EDUCATION

by:
Florderizaliza E. Tiongson
Teacher II, Balon Elementary School

For many years, classrooms were filled with chalkboards, books, and teachers who patiently explained lessons to students. Now, things are changing quickly. Artificial Intelligence (AI), which once seemed like something from the future, is now part of the classroom. It is transforming how teachers teach, how students learn, and how schools plan for the future of education.

AI is no longer just a word people use to sound smart. It is a tool that quietly yet powerfully changes how schools operate every day. Tasks that used to take hours – such as grading quizzes, creating lesson plans, or tracking student progress – are now completed faster with AI. This doesn't just save time; it gives teachers more opportunities to support, connect with, and care for their students – something machines can never replace.

One of the greatest promises of AI is personalization. Every teacher knows that students are different. Some grasp ideas quickly, while others need more guidance. AI helps by tailoring lessons to each student's needs. It provides extra exercises for those who struggle and advanced challenges for those ready to move ahead. For example, if a student has difficulty with fractions, AI can detect this early, offer customized practice, and alert the teacher before frustration sets in. In this way, technology supports learning rather than replacing it.

AI also helps remove barriers that once made learning difficult for many students. Adaptive learning tools allow children to progress at their own pace, ensuring no one is

left behind. Students with special needs can use tools like speech-to-text or screen readers to participate more fully. Language barriers are also easier to overcome with translation tools, making classrooms more inclusive and welcoming.

Teachers benefit as well. AI provides opportunities to improve their craft, experiment with new teaching methods, and gain insights into what works best for their students. In a profession often burdened by paperwork and stress, AI allows teachers to refocus on what matters most – inspiring students, not just managing tasks.

However, AI in education also presents challenges. Teachers need proper training to use these tools effectively. Protecting student data is essential. And perhaps most importantly, AI must be accessible to all. If only wealthy schools can afford these tools, the gap between students who have access and those who do not will widen, undermining the very purpose of education: equality and opportunity for all.

AI is meant to assist teachers, not replace them. A chatbot might answer questions, but it cannot comfort a student who feels left out. An algorithm might suggest exercises, but it cannot inspire a learner with a story of perseverance. The heart of education remains human, and AI should serve as a bridge between teachers and students – not a wall that separates them.

The future of education will depend on how schools choose to use AI. Will we harness it to create more personalized, fair, and engaging classrooms? Or will we allow it to benefit only a select few? The choices we make today will shape the answer.

From chalkboards to chatbots, education is always evolving. While machines can assist in the process, it is teachers – through their wisdom, empathy, and humanity – who will always bring learning to life. The journey of education continues, and though technology may guide the way, it is teachers who will forever shape the soul of learning.

References:

<http://digitallearning.eletsonline.com/2013/04/essence-of-education/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_education

<https://www.questia.com/library/journal/1G1-19481722/the-missing-ingredient-in-character-education>