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THE EVOLVING ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION: THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Abstract: This paper explores the evolving role of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and its potential future impact. AI refers to the ability of machines to perform tasks that would typically require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, decision-making, and perception. AI has become a crucial part of modern society and has made significant contributions to various fields such as healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment. The paper conducts a systematic review of relevant research papers and articles to explore the historical and current applications of AI in education and predict future developments in the field. The paper seeks to conceptualize the history and future of AI based on its present status and identify the potential impact of AI on education. Additionally, the paper provides recommendations on how to effectively integrate AI into education while preserving the crucial role of human teachers and maintaining the human element of the teaching-learning process. AI can also help teachers by automating tasks such as grading, tracking student progress, and generating feedback. However, it is crucial to preserve the human element of the teaching-learning process.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Personalized Learning, Adaptive Learning, AI-Powered Learning Platforms, Ethical AI Use, Future of Education.

Introduction

Machines performing tasks which atypically would require human intelligence (especially in the form of learning, problem-solving and decision-making) is referred to as Artificial Intelligence. AI has become a crucial part of modern society and has significantly impacted various fields, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment. Today, AI is a rapidly evolving field with numerous applications in fields as diverse as healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment. Researchers are developing new algorithms and techniques, such as deep reinforcement learning and generative adversarial networks, that are pushing the boundaries of what machines can do.

This paper aims to examine the evolving role of artificial intelligence and the possible impact it casts on the future of human society in general and educational section in particular. By conducting a systematic review of relevant research papers and articles, this paper will explore the historical and current applications of AI and predict future developments in the field. Specifically, this paper seeks to conceptualize the history and future of AI based on its present status, and to identify the potential impact of AI on education. Additionally, this paper will provide recommendations on how to effectively integrate AI into education while preserving the crucial role of human teachers and maintaining the human element of the teaching-learning process.

Artificial Intelligence: Origin and Background

The face of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by which we recognise it today was not achieved in a day or a decade either. It dates back to the 1950s, when computer scientists started tinkering with the idea of building machines to simulate human intelligence. The foundation of AI was laid by the novel idea to create or rather procreate machines in such a way so that they could think just like humans do. In order to achieve this, it was imperative to build machines which could learn just like humans do, what we call as 'deep learning' now.

It was John McCarthy who first introduced the term "artificial intelligence" in 1956 at the Dartmouth Conference (McCarthy, Minsky, Rochester, Corporation, et al., 1955). The early days of AI were marked by significant advances, such as the development of expert systems and the introduction of machine learning algorithms. However, progress was slow, and the technology remained relatively niche until the advent of the internet in the 1990s. However, it is absolutely vital to acknowledge that AI research did not stop or slow down after the early days, but rather continued to progress and evolve through various subfields, such as computer vision, natural language processing, robotics, and deep learning (Goodfellow et al., 2016). Moreover, some significant breakthroughs in AI research and applications occurred before the advent of the internet, such as the development of the perceptron algorithm in 1957, the creation of the first neural network simulator in the 1960s, and the introduction of the backpropagation algorithm in the 1980s (Russell et al., 2010).







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In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a group of computer scientists led by John McCarthy and his colleagues began working on the development of a general problem-solving program. The project, which came to be known as the Dartmouth Conference, was the first attempt to bring together researchers from different fields to collaborate on the development of AI (McCarthy, Minsky, Rochester, & Shannon, 1955).

The earliest work on AI focused on developing rule-based systems and logical reasoning approaches, which laid the foundation of expert systems in the 1970s and 80s. Expert systems were computer algorithms which were designed to simulate the decision-making processes as used by human experts in their specific domains of knowledge. Edward Shortliffe developed one of the first successful expert systems, which was known as MYCIN, in the early 1970s for diagnosing bacterial infections (B. Buchanan & Shortliffe, 1984). MYCIN demonstrated the potential of expert systems to provide accurate and efficient diagnostic support, and it influenced the development of other expert systems in various domains, such as financial planning and oil exploration (Shortliffe et al., 1979).

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, advancements in AI were made at a consistent pace. Scientists and researchers made significant headway in developing novel algorithms and techniques, such as natural language processing and machine learning, and subsequently implemented them across a range of applications. These included, but were not limited to, image recognition, language translation, and game-playing (Moor, 2006).

In 1981, Kunihiko Fukushima, a prominent computer scientist from Japan, made a ground-breaking discovery in the field of AI. He created the neocognitron, a deep neural network that could identify handwritten characters with remarkable accuracy. This innovation marked a significant milestone in the history of AI. This was a major advance in the field of computer vision, and it paved the way for the development of other deep learning algorithms in the years to come (LeCun et al., 2015).

The 1980s and 1990s saw a renewed interest in AI. The success of expert systems, coupled with the emergence of new computing technologies, played a crucial role in the advancements of AI during this period. These technologies provided researchers with new tools and resources to build and test more complex AI systems, leading to further progress in the field. As a result, the stage was set for the development of even more sophisticated AI applications in the years to come, such as parallel processing and the internet (B. G. Buchanan, 2005). During this period, AI researchers made significant advances in speech recognition, natural language processing, and robotics.

The early 2000s marked another resurgence in the field of AI, thanks to the increasing availability of large amounts of data and the development of more powerful computing technologies. These advancements allowed researchers to process and analyse vast amounts of data more efficiently, leading to the creation of more sophisticated AI applications. This era saw the emergence of new techniques such as deep learning, which has since become a driving force behind many of today's most innovative AI systems. Researchers began using machine learning algorithms to analyse vast datasets and make predictions about everything from consumer behaviour to weather patterns (Jordan & Mitchell, 2015).

Today, AI is an integral part of modern life, and its applications are widespread. AI has emerged as a major game-changer in healthcare, with significant applications across a wide range of medical fields. AI-powered tools and techniques are now being used to assist doctors in diagnosing diseases, analysing medical images, and developing personalized treatment plans for patients. This has resulted in more accurate and efficient diagnosis and treatment, improved patient outcomes, and reduced healthcare costs. (Obermeyer & Emanuel, 2016). AI has proven to be a valuable tool in finance, where it is used for a range of applications, such as predicting market trends, detecting fraud, and improving customer service. With the help of AI-powered analytics tools, financial institutions can process vast amounts of data in real-time, enabling them to make more informed decisions. Similarly AI is revolutionizing the transportation industry as well as it is being used to optimize traffic flow, develop self-driving cars, and improve logistics (Gangwani & Gangwani, 2021).

It can be fairly stated that the history of AI is a long and fascinating one, marked by numerous breakthroughs and setbacks. Despite the many challenges that researchers have encountered, significant progress has been made in the development of AI algorithms and computer programs that can simulate human intelligence. With continued investment and innovation, AI has the potential to transform many aspects of society and improve the lives of people around the world. We are already seeing the positive impact of AI in healthcare, finance, transportation, and other industries, and there is no doubt that this technology will continue to play an increasingly important role in the years to come. As AI continues to evolve, researchers will face new challenges, but the potential benefits of this technology are simply too great to ignore.







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Characteristics of AI

In order to grasp the core idea behind artificial intelligence, it is imperative to recognise the basic characteristics upon which AI is build and how these traits make AI different from general computing as we know of.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a branch of computer science that focuses on creating machines that can perform tasks that would typically require human intelligence. AI systems are designed to learn, problem-solve, make decisions, and perceive their environment in ways that are similar to human beings.

Following are several basic characteristics that help us identify AI differently from other forms of computing:

- I. **Learning** One of the key characteristics of AI is its ability to learn from experience and improve its performance over time. This can be achieved through supervised learning, unsupervised learning, or reinforcement learning.
- II. **Reasoning** AI systems are capable of reasoning and making logical deductions based on the information they are given. This involves the use of algorithms and rules to analyse data and draw conclusions.
- III. **Perception** AI systems are capable of perceiving and understanding the world around them. This can involve the use of sensors, cameras, and other input devices to gather information about the environment.
- IV. **Natural language processing** AI systems are capable of understanding and responding to human language. This is done by using models and algorithms to analyse and generate natural language.
- V. Creativity AI systems can generate novel and innovative solutions to problems. This can involve the use of generative models to create new designs, music, or art.
- VI. **Autonomy** AI systems can make decisions and taking actions without human intervention. This can involve the use of reinforcement learning to teach machines to make decisions based on rewards and penalties.

Therefore, AI systems are characterized by their ability to learn, reason, perceive, process natural language, exhibit creativity, and act autonomously (Goodfellow et al., 2016; Jordan & Mitchell, 2015). By possessing these traits, machines are capable of carrying out tasks that normally necessitate human intelligence, and this ability holds the potential to revolutionize various aspects of society.

One of the most exciting aspects of AI is its potential for the future. As technology continues to progress, it is widely anticipated that AI will assume an increasingly significant role in society. Some experts predict that AI will eventually become more intelligent than humans, a concept known as superintelligence (Bostrom, 2014)¹. While this is still a long way off, undoubtedly, the impact of AI on society will continue to be transformative in nature.

Let us take a closer look at how artificial intelligence is revolutionizing human society.

Impact of AI on human society

AI has significantly impacted the human society, and its influence is only expected to grow in the coming years. Here are some of the major ways in which AI is affecting society:

- I. **Automation** AI is automating many jobs and tasks that were previously done by humans. The result of this transformation is an increase in efficiency and productivity across various industries., but it is also causing job losses and creating economic and social challenges (Frey & Osborne, 2017).
- II. **Healthcare** The implementation of AI in healthcare is leading to faster and more precise diagnoses, customized treatment plans, and drug development. Furthermore, AI is aiding in the enhancement of medical research by examining extensive datasets and patterns, and revelations that were once challenging, if not impossible, to perceive.
- III. **Education** AI is transforming education by providing personalized learning experiences and enabling more efficient grading and assessment. AI is also helping to make education more accessible and affordable, especially in developing countries.
- IV. **Transportation** AI is revolutionizing transportation by enabling autonomous vehicles, traffic management systems, and predictive maintenance. This is improving safety, reducing traffic congestion, and lowering transportation costs.

¹ One of the early and widely cited works that discussed the concept of superintelligence is the book "Superintelligence: Paths, Dangers, Strategies" by Nick Bostrom, published in 2014. In this book, Bostrom delves into the idea of an intelligence explosion that could transpire if AI gains the ability to enhance its own intelligence. This could potentially lead to AI surpassing human intelligence, which may bring about unforeseen consequences. The book has been cited frequently within the AI community, igniting significant discourse and deliberation regarding the prospects and dangers linked with advanced AI.







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- Security AI is enhancing security by enabling more accurate threat detection and prevention, better surveillance, and more effective law enforcement. Nevertheless, there are apprehensions about the possible exploitation of AI for surveillance and other
- VI. **Privacy** - AI is raising concerns about privacy, as it has the potential to collect and analyse vast amounts of personal data (Greenwald, 2014). Concerns are raised about using AI in decision-making, as it can extend biases and discrimination.
- Ethics AI is raising important ethical questions. There are concerns regarding the impact of AI on human values and VII. relationships, such as empathy and trust. Furthermore, ensuring that AI is developed and used in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner is also a pressing matter.

Significantly, AI seemingly has a profound impact on human society, and its influence is likely to grow in the coming years. AI can definitely bring forth countless benefits, however, it also poses significant challenges and risks which should be assessed and addressed with utmost care in order to ensure that it is not only developed, but also is used in a responsible and ethical manner (Brynjolfsson & Mitchell, 2017). One of the main concerns is that AI could consequently lead to tremendous job displacement. AI will gradually make machines more and more capable of performing tasks previously done by humans, and in the process, many jobs could become obsolete (Autor, 2015). There are also several concerns regarding the ethical implications as associated with AI, such as the ability for machines to make decisions that are biased or harmful.

To address these concerns, it is essential to have a thoughtful and responsible approach to the development of AI. This includes ensuring that AI is designed with ethical principles in mind, such as fairness, transparency, and accountability. It also means ensuring that people have the required skillset needed to work alongside AI and to develop new technologies, by investing in education and training programs.

AI in education

Artificial intelligence (AI) holds great promise for numerous advantages, but it also presents notable obstacles and hazards. Therefore, it is crucial to handle its development and implementation in a conscientious and ethical way to ensure responsible use. With the advancement of AI technologies, educators can now leverage intelligent systems to analyse student data, provide personalized feedback, and optimize learning strategies. In this way, AI is helping to reshape the traditional education system by making it more adaptive, efficient, and inclusive.

Let us take a closer look at how AI is set to revolutionize the education system.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to transform education in a variety of ways, from providing personalized learning experiences to enabling more efficient grading and assessment. Here are some of the key roles that AI is playing in education and how it is likely to change the face of the current educational system:

- Personalized Learning One of the many benefits of AI is its ability to offer personalized learning experiences that cater to the unique learning style and individual needs of each student. AI algorithms can analyse student data to identify areas of strength and weakness, and then provide customized recommendations and learning materials (Ahmad et al., 2021; Banerjee, 2023).
- Intelligent Tutoring AI can serve as an intelligent tutor, providing students with feedback, guidance, and support as they work II. through challenging problems. AI can also help to automate grading and provide instant feedback to students (Koedinger et al., 2012).
- Adaptive Learning AI has the capability to facilitate adaptive learning, where the curriculum's pace and complexity are III. modified according to the individual student's advancement and achievements. This can help to prevent students from becoming bored or overwhelmed, and ensure that they are always challenged at the appropriate level.
- IV. Content Creation - AI can help to create educational content that is engaging, interactive, and effective. AI can be used to generate videos, simulations, and other multimedia content that is tailored to each student's needs and interests.
- V. Data Analysis - The implementation of AI can aid educators in analyzing vast datasets, recognizing patterns, and gaining insights that can improve teaching and learning practices. AI can also help to identify at-risk students and provide early interventions to prevent academic struggles.
- VI. Access and Equity - AI can help to improve access and equity in education, especially in developing countries or in areas with limited resources. AI can be used to provide online learning resources and connect students with educators and mentors from around the world.







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- VII. Virtual and Augmented Reality AI can be used to create immersive virtual and augmented reality experiences that can enhance learning and engagement. Students can explore and interact with complex concepts and scenarios in a safe and controlled environment.
- VIII. **Natural Language Processing** The utilization of AI can enable the analysis and processing of natural language, leading to improved communication and feedback between teachers and students. Additionally, AI can provide language translation services, increasing accessibility to education for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- IX. **Predictive Analytics** AI can predict student outcomes, including grades and graduation rates, and identify factors that can influence their success. By doing so, educators can offer targeted interventions and support to students who are at risk of struggling.
- X. Collaborative Learning AI can facilitate collaborative learning, allowing students to work together on assignments and projects more effectively. With the assistance of AI, students can receive real-time feedback and recommendations, improving the quality and results of their collaborative work.
- XI. **Lifelong Learning -** AI can enable lifelong learning, as students can continue to learn and develop their skills throughout their lives with the help of AI-powered learning resources and tools. This can help to address the growing demand for continuous upskilling and reskilling in the rapidly changing job market.
- XII. **Personalized Career Guidance** AI can provide personalized career guidance and advice to students, helping them to identify and pursue career paths that align with their interests and skills. AI can analyse student data and job market trends to provide customized recommendations and insights.

The upcoming years are expected to see a significant impact of AI on education, revolutionizing the methods of teaching and learning for both students and teachers. AI has the potential to provide personalized learning experiences, intelligent tutoring, adaptive learning, content creation, data analysis, and improved access and equity. While there are some concerns about the potential impact of AI on education, such as the risk of perpetuating biases and reinforcing inequalities, the prospective benefits are substantial and should be carefully explored and harnessed.

Human teachers versus AI

AI is rapidly transforming education and has the potential to revolutionize the way we learn. Yet, while AI is impressive, it is highly unlikely that it will ever fully replace the value of human teachers. Here are a few reasons why the role of human teachers in education will continue to be essential:

- I. Emotional Connection One of the most important aspects of teaching is the emotional connection that teachers form with their students. Human teachers can build relationships with their students, understand their individual needs and provide personalized support and encouragement. AI lacks the emotional intelligence to establish these connections and provide the same level of personalized support.
- II. Creativity and Flexibility Teaching is a creative and dynamic profession, and human teachers can adapt to changing circumstances, adjust their teaching styles and find innovative solutions to problems. AI, on the other hand, is limited by its programming and is not able to think creatively or adapt to unexpected situations.
- III. **Contextual Understanding** Human teachers can understand the broader context in which their students are learning, including cultural and societal factors that may impact their education. AI lacks this contextual understanding and is not able to provide the same level of cultural sensitivity or awareness of social dynamics.
- IV. **Subjective Assessment** While AI can be used for objective assessments such as multiple-choice tests, it is not able to assess subjective factors such as critical thinking, creativity, or problem-solving skills. Human teachers can provide a more nuanced and holistic assessment of their students' abilities and progress.
- V. **Moral and Ethical Judgment** Teaching also involves making moral and ethical judgments, such as determining what content is appropriate for different age groups or what values should be emphasized in the classroom. Al lacks the moral and ethical judgment required to make these decisions and could potentially perpetuate biases or reinforce stereotypes.

In conclusion, while AI holds the ability to transform education in many ways, it is very unlikely that AI will ever be able to replace human teachers completely. Human teachers form emotional connections with their students, think creatively and adapt to changing circumstances, understand the broader context of their students' education, provide subjective assessments and exercise moral and ethical judgment. These are essential aspects of teaching that cannot be replicated by AI.

In today's world, AI is becoming significantly involved in education. However, it is important to note that a poor understanding of AI can be harmful for human teachers. Firstly, if teachers do not understand how AI works, they may be fearful of it, which can lead







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to resistance and reluctance to use AI in their classrooms. This can result in missed opportunities for teachers to use AI tools and resources to support their students' learning.

On the other hand, if teachers rely too heavily on AI and do not understand its limitations, they may become overly reliant on it. This can lead to a lack of critical thinking and problem-solving skills among students, as well as a diminished sense of personal responsibility for their own learning. Additionally, if teachers do not understand how AI algorithms work, they may not be able to properly evaluate and critique the recommendations and feedback provided by AI systems. This can lead to a reliance on flawed AI systems, resulting in incorrect or incomplete recommendations that can have negative consequences for student learning.

And finally, a lack of understanding of AI can also lead to a misconception that AI is infallible, leading teachers to trust its recommendations without questioning their accuracy or validity. This can result in a loss of trust in human expertise and experience, and a diminished role for human teachers in the classroom.

Therefore, it is essential for teachers to have a thorough understanding of AI and its capabilities, as well as its limitations, in order to make the best use of it in the classroom and to ensure that it does not undermine the crucial role of human teachers in education.

Collaboration between human teachers and AI

As technology continues to advance at an unprecedented pace, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into education has become increasingly common. While some fear that AI will replace human teachers, many believe that collaboration between the two can lead to even greater advancements in the education system. From personalized learning to more efficient grading, the benefits of this collaboration are numerous. Herein, we will delve into the ways in which human teachers and AI can work together to revolutionize the education system. From personalized learning to improved assessments, the possibilities of this collaboration are numerous. The following points will elaborate how this dynamic partnership can benefit students in countless ways:

- I. **Personalization** AI can provide personalized learning experiences for students, analysing their learning patterns and adapting content and activities to match their individual needs. Human teachers can use this information to provide more targeted and effective support to their students, ensuring that every student receives the attention and resources they need to succeed.
- II. **Efficiency** AI can very effectively free up more time for teachers by helping them manage administrative tasks like grading papers, attendance tracking and scheduling. And with AI at their disposal teachers can invest more time in teaching and supporting their students.
- III. **Data Analysis** AI can analyse large amounts of student data to identify patterns and trends, providing insights that can inform instructional strategies and curriculum development. Human teachers can use this information to develop more effective teaching methods and materials.
- IV. **Accessibility** AI can help to make education more accessible for students with disabilities or other learning challenges, providing assistive technologies such as speech-to-text or text-to-speech software. Human teachers can work with AI to provide a more inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.
- V. **Continuous Learning** AI can help to provide continuous learning opportunities for students beyond the classroom, such as online courses, tutorials, or personalized coaching. Human teachers can support and guide students as they explore these opportunities, providing feedback and encouragement.

Collaboration between human teachers and AI is the key to unlock the true potential of mass education system. AI can provide personalized learning experiences, streamline administrative tasks, analyse data, and provide assistive technologies. Human teachers can work with AI to provide a more effective and inclusive learning environment, supporting students as they explore new opportunities for learning and growth. Together, human teachers and AI can create a more dynamic, innovative, and effective education system that meets the needs of all students.

Effective Strategies for Educating Teachers to Utilize AI in Education

So far, we have elaborately discussed how the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in education is becoming increasingly prevalent, making it crucial that teachers are well-versed with the understanding and abilities needed to effectively incorporate this technology into their classrooms. However, many teachers may not feel confident in their ability to utilize AI or may lack the necessary training to do so. That is why, we will explore some effective ways to teach teachers to better use AI for education. From professional development opportunities to online resources, there are a variety of strategies that can be employed to support teachers in their efforts to make their students' learning experiences better through the use of AI.







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I. **Professional Development** - Providing professional development opportunities for teachers is an effective way to help them learn how to effectively integrate AI into their teaching practice. These opportunities could include workshops, online courses, or conferences focused on AI in education.

- II. **Collaboration** Encouraging collaboration and peer-to-peer learning can also be effective in helping teachers learn how to use AI in their classrooms. Teachers can work together to share strategies and resources, discuss best practices, and provide feedback to one another.
- III. **Mentoring** Assigning mentors to work with teachers can also be an effective way to support their learning and development. Mentors can provide individualized guidance and support to help teachers effectively use AI in their teaching practice.
- IV. **Hands-on Experience** Providing opportunities for teachers to gain hands-on experience using AI tools and technologies is also important. This could include providing access to software, hardware, or other resources that teachers can use to experiment with and explore AI.
- V. **Resource Centres** Establishing resource centres dedicated to AI in education can also be a valuable resource for teachers. These centres could provide access to research, best practices, case studies, and other resources that can help teachers learn how to effectively integrate AI into their classrooms.

It is imperative to acknowledge that teaching teachers to effectively use AI in education is critical to realizing the potential benefits of this technology. Providing professional development opportunities, encouraging collaboration and peer-to-peer learning, assigning mentors, providing hands-on experience, and establishing resource centres are all effective ways to support teachers in their learning and development. By investing in teacher training and development, we can help to ensure that AI is effectively integrated into classrooms and that students receive the best possible education.

Conclusion

AI is widely applied across various domains, including healthcare, finance, transportation, and entertainment. In the healthcare sector, AI is leveraged to diagnose illnesses, create customized treatment plans, and so on. even predict the likelihood of disease outbreaks. In finance, AI is used to analyse financial data and detect fraud, while in transportation, it is used to optimize traffic flow and improve public transportation. In entertainment, AI is used to create realistic video game characters and to personalize music recommendations.

As AI keeps broadening its reach, researchers are developing new algorithms and techniques that are pushing the boundaries of what machines can do. For example, deep reinforcement learning is basically machine learning which operates on a reward system to teach machines how to make decisions, while generative adversarial networks are used to generate new images, videos, and audio. This paper has focused on the evolving utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) in education and its potential future consequences. The education sector stands to be revolutionized by the potential of AI, as it offers personalized and adaptive learning experiences. For example, AI-powered learning platforms can analyse a student's learning style, pace, and preferences to create customized learning plans. AI can also help teachers by automating tasks such as grading, tracking student progress, and generating feedback.

However, it is essential to preserve the human element of the teaching-learning process. AI should be viewed as a tool to enhance, rather than replace human teachers. Human teachers play a crucial role in providing emotional support, mentoring, and guidance, which are crucial for students' academic and personal development.

Effective integration of AI in education requires collaboration between AI developers, educators, and policymakers. AI developers need to work closely with educators to understand their needs and ensure that AI solutions are aligned with educational goals. Policymakers need to develop regulations and guidelines to ensure that AI in education is used ethically and effectively.

In conclusion, the future of AI in education is promising, and it is up to us to harness its potential for the betterment of society. By effectively integrating AI into education while preserving the crucial role of human teachers, we can create a more personalized and adaptive learning experience that meets the needs of every student.







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