

Artificial Intelligence in Education: Opportunities and Ethical Concerns

Nurudeen Olalekan Orunbon^{1*}, Uzoma Bismark Nwogu¹

¹Lagos State University, Department of Educational Management, Lagos, Nigeria

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Corresponding Author:

Nurudeen Olalekan Orunbon

orunbon.nurudeeno@gmail.com

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Abstract: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing education by offering transformative opportunities such as personalized learning, administrative automation, enhanced accessibility, and streamlined assessments. These advancements enable tailored instruction, reduce educator workloads, and foster inclusive learning environments. However, the integration of AI in education also raises significant ethical concerns, including data privacy risks, algorithmic bias, depersonalization of learning, accountability gaps, job displacement, and regulatory challenges. This paper examines the dual impact of AI in education, highlighting its potential to improve educational outcomes while addressing the ethical and practical challenges it poses. By analyzing current research, the study underscores the need for balanced implementation that prioritizes human-centric values, equity, and robust governance. Key recommendations include professional development for educators, ethical AI design, equitable access, and the establishment of comprehensive regulatory frameworks. The findings emphasize that responsible AI adoption, coupled with continuous monitoring and stakeholder collaboration, is essential to harness its benefits while mitigating risks, ensuring a fair and effective future for education.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Education; Personalized Learning; Ethical Concerns; Data Privacy; Algorithmic Bias; Regulation

Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving world, artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming nearly every sector. In healthcare, AI supports tasks such as diagnostic imaging and battlefield triage. In medicine, it contributes to efforts like cancer detection and treatment. In education, tools like Khamigo enable personalized learning. In transportation, companies such as Tesla and Waymo are advancing self-driving vehicle technology. In finance, AI is used for fraud detection and investment advising through robo-advisors. In public services, it aids traffic management and crime prediction. In agriculture, AI applications support crop health monitoring and pest control. The list of AI applications continues to grow, with new discoveries emerging daily on how AI can help humans complete tasks more efficiently and accurately. These advancements show that AI presents numerous opportunities across various sectors.

Recent studies emphasize the expanding role of artificial intelligence (AI) in transforming education

through personalized learning, automation, and skill development. Across diverse educational settings, researchers consistently highlight the value AI brings to teaching and learning processes. A central theme emerging from the literature is personalized learning. Aguilar-Cruz & Salas-Pilco (2025), drawing on Sidiropoulos & Anagnostopoulos (2024), found that AI enables individualized learning experiences and improves student outcomes to a moderate degree. Similarly, Saxena & Bajotra, (2024) and Abulibdeh et al. (2024) stress AI's ability to adapt instruction to learners' needs, with the latter also noting its role in aligning learning with industry-relevant skills. Assessment and feedback automation is another commonly cited benefit. Sidiropoulos and Anagnostopoulos (2024), Correia et al. (2024), and Cotton et al., (2024) all discuss how AI, especially tools like ChatGPT, can streamline grading, generate assignments, and create interactive assessments. Nikolic et al. (2024) further compare ChatGPT versions, concluding that ChatGPT-4 offers stronger assessment capabilities across formats

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including quizzes, programming tasks, and reflective writing, though it still struggles with complex mathematics and technical writing.

Several researchers identified administrative and pedagogical enhancements. Crompton et al. (2024) categorize AI's affordances into pedagogy, administration, and content support, while Eden et al. (2024) and Aguilar-Cruz and Salas-Pilco (2025) highlight AI's role in monitoring student engagement, tracking progress, and simplifying teacher workflows. AI's disciplinary reach and flexibility also appear in the literature. Cheng (2025) explores its application in music education, while Başaran & Duman (2024) report its value in health-related fields. Córdova et al., (2024) and Mahmudulhassan et al. (2024) discuss AI's contributions in finance and Islamic education respectively, showing its adaptability across content areas. Library and research support is another emerging area. Tarisayi (2024), Nehra & Bansode (2024), and Capano et al., (2025) suggest that AI tools enhance academic research through improved access to information, structured writing support, and interdisciplinary collaboration. These findings are complemented by Capano et al.'s view that GenAI enhances research quality and student engagement.

Finally, special education and inclusive learning also benefit from AI applications. Rakap, (2024) notes that AI can tailor instruction for learners with special needs, aid in lesson planning, and offer on-demand teacher support. Collectively, research indicates that AI is reshaping education by fostering personalization, streamlining assessments, supporting content delivery, and enhancing both teaching and administrative tasks. Although challenges remain—especially in advanced domains—AI's educational potential is widely recognized and increasingly supported by empirical evidence.

Although AI holds promise for transforming education, researchers have identified several interrelated challenges that complicate its integration into teaching and learning. A recurring concern across the literature is the lack of adequate training and resources for both teachers and students. Studies by Aguilar-Cruz and Salas-Pilco (2025) and Yang, (2024) reveal that many educators feel unprepared to use AI tools effectively, largely due to limited professional development opportunities and low confidence in their technical abilities.

A second major concern relates to the impact of AI on pedagogical relationships and learning outcomes. Several studies (Aguilar-Cruz & Salas-Pilco, 2025; Tarisayi, 2024; Cheng, 2025) caution that AI tools may hinder the development of students' critical thinking skills and weaken meaningful teacher-student

interactions, especially when overused or poorly integrated.

Ethical issues also feature prominently. These include worries about job displacement, data privacy, algorithmic bias, and fairness in decision-making processes (Sidiropoulos & Anagnostopoulos, 2024; Mahmudulhassan et al., 2024; Remian, 2019). Adams et al. (2023) go further by proposing education-specific ethical principles such as pedagogical appropriateness and AI literacy, while other scholars ((Nguyen et al., 2023; Matei et al., 2025) emphasize the need for transparency, accountability, and trust in AI design.

The issue of access and equity is another central theme. Dieterle et al. (2024) and (Nehra & Bansode, 2024) argue that disparities in digital infrastructure, skills, and connectivity limit participation, especially in underserved communities. Language barriers, cultural insensitivity, and infrastructure gaps compound these inequities, leading to what some researchers call a representation divide.

Concerns about academic integrity and originality also emerge, particularly with generative AI tools like ChatGPT. Tarisayi (2024) and Cotton et al. (2024) warn that while these tools can produce human-like responses, they often lack contextual awareness and may compromise students' independent thinking. Correia et al. (2024) and Başaran & Duman (2024) highlight the risks of hallucinations, bias, and the dominance of English in AI models.

Across multiple studies, there is agreement on the need for stronger regulatory frameworks, ethical design principles, and continuous monitoring. Researchers call for inclusive AI practices that prioritize human oversight, empathy, and context-specific applications (Chaparro-Banegas et al., 2024; Poornesh, 2024; Gouseti et al., 2025). To this end, integrating AI in education should not only focus on technical capability but also center on values such as fairness, autonomy, safety, and cultural responsiveness.

Methods

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach using a literature review design to examine the opportunities and ethical concerns of artificial intelligence (AI) in education. The purpose of this method was to systematically analyze, synthesize, and interpret findings from previous studies related to AI integration in educational contexts.

Research Design

The study adopted a narrative literature review approach, focusing on identifying key themes, trends, and issues surrounding the implementation of AI in education. This design was chosen because the research

aimed to explore conceptual insights rather than test hypotheses or measure variables quantitatively.

Data Sources

The data used in this study were obtained from peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, and credible academic publications related to artificial intelligence in education. The sources were accessed through major academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus-indexed journals, and other reputable digital libraries.

Data Collection Procedure

The data collection process involved several stages:

1. **Keyword Identification:** Relevant keywords such as “*Artificial Intelligence in Education*,” “*AI opportunities*,” “*ethical concerns in AI*,” “*personalized learning*,” and “*algorithmic bias*” were used.
2. **Literature Search:** Articles published between 2019 and 2025 were prioritized to ensure up-to-date insights.
3. **Screening and Selection:** Articles were selected based on relevance, credibility, and alignment with the research focus. Studies that directly discussed AI applications, benefits, and ethical implications in education were included.
4. **Eligibility Criteria:** Only articles written in English, published in reputable journals, and providing empirical or theoretical discussions on AI in education were considered.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. The analysis process included:

1. **Data Reduction:** Identifying and extracting key information from selected articles.
2. **Coding:** Grouping similar concepts and findings into categories.
3. **Theme Development:** Organizing the data into major themes, namely:
 - Opportunities of AI in education (e.g., personalized learning, administrative automation, accessibility, assessment)
 - Ethical concerns (e.g., data privacy, algorithmic bias, depersonalization, accountability, job displacement, and lack of regulation)
4. **Interpretation:** Synthesizing findings to provide a comprehensive understanding of both the benefits and challenges of AI integration in education.

Result and Discussion

Opportunities of AI in Education

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents numerous opportunities for transforming education, enhancing

accessibility, personalizing learning experiences, automate administrative tasks, assessment and feedback and preparing future leaders for a complex, interconnected world.

Personalised Learning

AI-powered tools are reshaping personalised learning by adapting content and pace to each student’s needs. Schitteck Janda et al. (2001), as cited in Pedro et al. (2019) highlight that the field of Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) has long focused on creating alternative strategies to support individual learners using digital and AI technologies. Building on this, Pedro et al. (2019) emphasize that AI can map out a student’s learning journey by identifying strengths, weaknesses, preferences, and tailoring content accordingly through algorithmic support.

Multiple sources agree on the adaptive potential of AI. Kasneci et al. (2023), as cited in Chaparro-Banegas et al., (2024) argue that AI tools help design inclusive class plans that consider the diversity of learners. Similarly, An article on *AI in Education: How Teachers Can Use AI in the Classroom – Schools That Lead*, n.d.) explains that adaptive software adjusts the sequencing, difficulty, and pacing of instruction based on students’ needs and learning profiles. As schools gather annual reports and performance data, AI tools use this information to calibrate lessons, promote independent learning, and guide developmental progress.

Stefanic (2025) introduces adaptive learning as a specific technique that personalises content delivery and provides targeted feedback. According to him, this not only boosts engagement but also improves the allocation of resources and addresses learner variability more effectively. Examples like DreamBox and Khan Academy show how adaptive learning systems support students to master concepts at their own pace (Walter, 2024).

Personalised learning technologies also influence classroom dynamics. Rather than replace teachers, they redefine their role as facilitators and coaches, helping students collaborate, reflect, and take ownership of their progress (Eden et al., 2024).

Automatic of Administrative Tasks

AI is reshaping how schools manage administrative tasks by taking over routine duties and enabling data-informed decisions. Across multiple studies, there is agreement that automation reduces teachers' workload, giving them more time to focus on instruction and student support (Eden et al., 2024; Arar et al., 2025). Common uses include grading, lesson planning, scheduling, and monitoring student progress. These systems also support school operations—such as attendance tracking, security, and curriculum

planning – by processing large volumes of data quickly and accurately.

Several researchers note AI's capacity to identify learning gaps, track at-risk students, and support interventions (Arar et al., 2025; Capano et al., 2025). Tools powered by machine learning help leadership teams make decisions about staffing, resource allocation, and student services. Generative AI (GenAI) is emerging as a strategic tool in higher education. It powers virtual campus tours, personalizes student recruitment, and supports dropout prevention through predictive analytics (Saxena & Bajotra, 2024; UNESCO, 2023; Nagy et al., 2024).

Across all levels, AI shifts education administration from reactive to proactive – helping educators anticipate needs, improve outcomes, and use their time more effectively.

Enhanced Accessibility

Artificial intelligence (AI) is expanding access to education by meeting the needs of diverse learners, particularly students with disabilities. Saxena & Bajotra, (2024) emphasize that AI tools such as text-to-speech, speech recognition, and real-time transcription help remove communication barriers in classrooms. These features support students who are hard of hearing, visually impaired, or have motor challenges by providing flexible ways to engage with content (Rajawat, 2023, as cited in Saxena & Bajotra). McAlister et al. (2024) add that platforms like ChatGPT improve accessibility by catering to individual learning preferences and language-related challenges. Its intuitive interface and writing assistance functions support students in developing grammar and sentence construction skills, boosting academic confidence.

Polat et al. (2025) extend this view by showing how AI can personalize content formats – such as converting text to audio or adapting content to different learning styles. These capabilities enable inclusive education by making materials more accessible to students with special needs. They also point to AI's role in translating content and incorporating culturally relevant materials, which benefits multilingual learners.

By integrating large language models (LLMs) like ChatGPT and Gemini, schools can form partnerships that broaden access and enrich educational experiences across learner profiles.

Assessment and feedback automation

AI significantly improves the efficiency of assessment and feedback in education. Automated systems handle routine grading tasks, offering quick and impartial evaluations of student work (Johnson, 2019, as cited by Polat et al., 2025). These systems assess everything from short-answer responses to complex

projects and essays. Tools like automated essay scoring analyze grammar, structure, and content, then provide direct suggestions for improvement (Shermis & Burstein, 2013; Page, 2003, as cited by Polat, Karataş, & Varol, 2025). Students receive structured, actionable feedback, supporting their learning beyond a simple correct-or-incorrect judgment. Burrows et al. (2015, as cited by Polat, Karataş, & Varol, 2025) note that this process promotes formative assessment, helping students reflect and grow while saving teachers' valuable time.

Generative AI tools like ChatGPT extend this support further. Nikolic et al. (2023) emphasize ChatGPT's role in offering instant, personalized feedback that helps students quickly identify and address learning gaps. It also assists teachers by automating feedback and grading, allowing them to spend more time guiding student learning. Together, these tools streamline evaluation, support differentiated instruction and improve learning outcomes.

Ethical Concerns of AI in Education

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into education introduces important ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure responsible use. These include data privacy and security, algorithmic bias, transparency, and the implications of using AI to assess student performance (Eden, Chisom & Adeniyi, 2023).

Data Privacy and security

As AI becomes more embedded in education, concerns about data privacy and security grow. These systems depend on vast amounts of student data, including personal information, learning habits, and academic performance. While this data enables personalized learning, it also poses serious privacy risks if not properly managed (Saxena & Bajotra, 2024).

Several scholars emphasize the need for strict safeguards. Secure encryption, ethical data handling, and transparent policies are essential to prevent data breaches and unauthorized access (Illia et al., 2022, as cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2023). Schools must ensure that AI usage aligns with legal frameworks, especially when handling data from minors who cannot provide informed consent (Pedro et al., 2019).

The global picture is uneven. UNCTAD (2016) notes that fewer than 30% of countries outside Europe have adequate data protection laws, leaving many educational systems vulnerable. This legal gap is often due to limited awareness among policymakers and enforcement agencies.

Protecting student information requires a combination of legal compliance and technical safeguards. Institutions must implement secure data storage, limit access, and establish clear governance policies. These policies help users understand how their

data is collected, used, and shared, reinforcing the principle of informed consent (Slade & Prinsloo, 2013; Mandinach & Gummer, 2021, as cited by Eden et al., 2024). Ongoing monitoring is critical. As threats like malware, phishing, and data leaks evolve, educational institutions must regularly update their systems to maintain trust and integrity.

Algorithmic Bias and Fairness

AI systems in education can unintentionally reinforce bias and inequality. Since these systems learn from historical data, they may carry forward patterns of discrimination, affecting how students are assessed or supported. This can result in unfair treatment based on race, gender, or socioeconomic status (George, 2023, as cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2025). Biased algorithms can undermine efforts toward inclusion by amplifying existing disparities. A lack of diversity in training datasets increases the risk of marginalizing underrepresented groups, ultimately limiting access to fair educational opportunities. Addressing this challenge requires intentional efforts to build fairness into AI design and implementation.

Researchers stress the importance of using transparent and bias-aware algorithms. Systems must be trained on diverse, representative data and regularly audited to detect and correct discrimination (Saxena & Bajotra, 2025; Agarwal et al., 2023; Zajko, 2021, as cited by Eden et al., 2024). Fairness metrics and critical reviews of algorithmic outputs are essential tools in this process. To promote equity, developers and educators must work together. This includes diversifying datasets, applying fairness checks, and ensuring that AI tools reflect the varied backgrounds and learning needs of all students (Kordzadeh & Ghasemaghaei, 2022; Michael et al., 2023, as cited by Eden et al., 2024).

Depersonalization of Education

Although AI has the potential to enhance educational practices, it cannot replace the essential role of educators in guiding and mentoring students. Over-relying on automation could lead to the loss of personal engagement and critical thinking skills, which are fundamental in education (Tokayev, 2023 as cited by Abulibdeh et al., 2024). It is crucial to strike a balance between AI-driven learning and human interaction to ensure that students receive a well-rounded education that equips them to navigate the complexities of Industry 4.0 and Sustainable Development (SD).

Moreover, there is a concern that sustainability might be reduced to just a technical matter. While AI offers data-driven solutions to sustainability issues, it is important not to overlook the social, cultural, and ethical aspects of sustainability (Del Río Castro et al., 2021 as cited by Abulibdeh et al., 2024)). Focusing too narrowly

on the technical side risks missing the broader context of human values that are critical for SD. Furthermore, there is the possibility that AI-driven education could become overly standardized, limiting its flexibility and adaptability (Bibri et al., 2024 as cited by Abulibdeh et al., 2024).

Accountability and Transparency

The lack of transparency in AI systems used in education raises significant concerns about fairness and accountability. AI algorithms are often complex, and the decision-making processes they employ can be difficult for teachers, students, and even engineers to fully understand. This opacity makes it challenging for stakeholders to question or adjust algorithmic outcomes, such as student assessments, placements, or recommendations (Nguyen et al., 2022 as cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2025). The absence of transparency can erode trust in educational technologies and compromise the objectivity of decision-making. Addressing this challenge requires a commitment to enhancing the interpretability of AI systems, providing clear justifications for algorithmic decisions, and establishing transparent standards for data usage. To maintain trust within the educational community, a balance must be struck between leveraging the potential of AI and ensuring transparent and accountable processes (Nguyen et al., 2022 as cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2025).

Job Displacement

The automation of educational tasks through artificial intelligence raises concerns about potential job losses in the education sector. AI could replace routine tasks such as grading, administrative work, and even certain teaching responsibilities, which might lead to job cuts for educators and support staff. As AI technologies become more efficient and cost-effective, educational institutions may be tempted to reduce their workforce (Bankins & Formosa, 2023 as cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2025). This shift could impact both teaching roles and other vital support functions within educational institutions. To address these issues, education stakeholders must focus on retraining and upskilling teachers for new roles while highlighting the irreplaceable value of human involvement in education. Ensuring a fair transition for the education workforce requires balancing the advantages of AI with the need to preserve employment opportunities.

Lack of Regulation

The rapid advancement of AI in education has created significant regulatory and policy challenges, as the development of comprehensive frameworks has not kept pace with technological innovation. The absence of clear guidelines raises concerns about the ethical use of

AI in learning environments and the protection of students' rights. Despite the need to address issues such as data protection, algorithmic transparency, and accountability, regulations have lagged behind the complexities of AI applications in education. This situation is further complicated by the lack of uniform policies across educational institutions and legal systems, leading to an inconsistent regulatory environment (Safdar et al., 2020 cited by Saxena & Bajotra, 2025). To bridge this gap, it is essential to develop robust, adaptable policies that promote innovation while safeguarding against potential risks. Collaboration between regulators, educators, and technologists is necessary to ensure that AI in education aligns with ethical standards, protects students' interests, and fosters responsible innovation.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in education, offering significant opportunities to enhance personalized learning, automate administrative tasks, improve accessibility, and streamline assessments. These advancements enable educators to tailor instruction to individual student needs, reduce workloads, and foster inclusive learning environments. However, the integration of AI in education is not without challenges. Ethical concerns such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, depersonalization of education, accountability, job displacement, and the lack of regulatory frameworks must be addressed to ensure responsible and equitable use.

The literature underscores the dual nature of AI in education: while it holds immense potential to revolutionize teaching and learning, its implementation requires careful consideration of ethical, social, and pedagogical implications. Balancing technological innovation with human-centric values is essential to harness AI's benefits while mitigating its risks.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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