

ORIGINAL

Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Collaborative Teaching Strategies: A Case Study in Smart Classrooms

Integración de la Inteligencia Artificial en Estrategias de Enseñanza Colaborativa: Un Estudio de Caso en Aulas Inteligentes

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore multiple possibilities for applying collaborative learning methodologies in smart classrooms through the use of artificial intelligence. AI technologies allow educators to increase student interest, promote teamwork, and individualize learning for each learner. In this case study, the focus will be placed on AI technologies, including virtual assistants, real-time data analytics, and adaptive learning platforms, to enhance collaborative learning processes. The study shows that collaborative teaching implemented with the assistance of artificial intelligence enhances the performance of students as they are capable of understanding the content thoroughly and addressing the shortcomings of conventional learning methods. Consideration is also given to the various strategies that may be adopted when it comes to the implementation of artificial intelligence in cooperative learning contexts.

Keywords: AI; Intelligent Classroom; Learning Analytics.

RESUMEN

Esta investigación examina formas innovadoras de implementar técnicas educativas colaborativas en aulas inteligentes a través de la integración de la inteligencia artificial (IA). Al aprovechar las tecnologías de IA, los educadores pueden mejorar el compromiso de los estudiantes, fomentar la colaboración y proporcionar experiencias de aprendizaje personalizadas adaptadas a las necesidades individuales.

El estudio de caso se centra en la incorporación de herramientas impulsadas por IA, como asistentes virtuales, sistemas de análisis de datos en tiempo real y plataformas de aprendizaje adaptativo, para promover procesos de aprendizaje colaborativo. Los hallazgos indican que las estrategias de enseñanza colaborativa mejoradas con IA mejoran significativamente la comprensión del material por parte de los estudiantes y abordan las deficiencias de las metodologías educativas tradicionales.

Además, el estudio explora diversos enfoques para integrar eficazmente la IA en entornos de aprendizaje colaborativo, ofreciendo ideas prácticas para los educadores que buscan modernizar sus prácticas de enseñanza.

Palabras clave: IA; Aula Inteligente; Análisis de Aprendizaje.

INTRODUCTION

Among the revolutionary and constantly evolving topics related to modern society, digitization and artificial intelligence (henceforth AI) cannot be overlooked, affecting education as well. To improve the quality of education, educational organizations around the world integrate information systems and AI tools relevant

to the contemporary digitalization process. As a result of advancements in digital technology and platform independence, students are now able to learn from course materials no matter the time or location, thus revolutionizing the traditional ways of information dissemination and learning. E-learning systems also enable instructors to develop and implement lesson plans and deliver differentiated instruction to students according to their abilities and performance.⁽¹⁾ One of the key consequences of digitization in education is e-learning, which is a paradigm shift in terms of conveying and absorbing information. AI enhances the learning process by developing intelligent instructional systems that provide timely and selective positive feedback that suits the learning style of the learner. The use of digital technology creates an opportunity for designers to enhance learning capabilities and thus creatively and boldly develop effective and modern ways of designing instruction.⁽²⁾ These experiences can be consistently improved to better serve students and maximize the efficiency of the learning process through analysis of learning data.

Another area that is tightly connected with the use of digital technology and artificial intelligence is curriculum development and academic performance assessment. With the help of data and analytics, one can find out what works in the classroom and design interesting and useful lessons. Improvement of existing assessment technologies coupled with the incorporation of artificial intelligence can facilitate a better perception of the student's progress as well as ways in which they may require more attention.⁽³⁾ Education has experienced phenomenal changes due to the availability of digital interventions and technologies. In order to facilitate communication with students as well as support their learning process and the resulting improved acquisition of knowledge with regard to academic disciplines, educational communities are increasingly integrating comprehensive and effective digital technologies. In the process of educational reforms, digitization and AI have become key enablers, which open up new possibilities for the further development of the learning process and the provision of students with high-quality, complete educational experiences.⁽⁴⁾ In order to elevate the importance of education to the next level, pre- and university students need to prepare themselves to face the challenges in the classrooms and the current workplace environment. Traditional paradigms in education often do not address the full potential of the students and stifle creativity; this is a problem that also has to be solved.

Thus, there is a need to shift from a conventional, face-to-face teaching model towards a modern, technology-driven approach to learning. Most schools and colleges are still following conventional techniques of imparting knowledge that are based on authoritative methods where students merely listen to their teachers. This could limit their capacity and may make them unable to exhibit their talents and imagination.

On the other hand, today's classes should allow learners to become independent thinkers by encouraging them to participate actively in class.⁽⁵⁾ The Arab education systems thus can add value towards the development of science and innovation at the international level by incorporating the changes that digital technology and artificial intelligence have introduced. Technological innovations, including digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI), have significantly impacted the social relationship between the teacher and the students, where the communication type has shifted from authoritarian to a participatory one based on the concept of participation, response, and interaction.⁽⁶⁾

Another piece of evidence that has been found is that through the use of active learning strategies supported by technology, it is possible to increase student interest and participation. These tools allow students to participate actively in the learning process, something that is not characteristic of traditional methods of teaching and learning. With the help of computers, tablets, and even smartphones, modern educators are using progressive pedagogical approaches in their practice. By utilizing modern technologies that are horrors today, learners get engaged and interested in educational activities that use modern tools.⁽⁷⁾

This transition from being mere information receivers to active participants underlines a shift resulting from the digital culture, which challenges traditional techniques of teaching in the Arab region and brings it on par with the contemporary practices observed in other parts of the world, for instance, in Europe. Jean Piaget supports an innovative approach to education, claiming that schools and other educational institutions have a pivotal role in cultivating people who can invent and develop something new rather than imitate what others have done before.

Problem Statement

The challenge lies in precisely ascertaining how utilized artificial intelligence and digital technologies foster supportive teamwork in smart classrooms. Namely, there is a need to change the current traditional approach to teaching to fit into the dynamic and interactive society of the 21st century.⁽⁸⁾

Research Hypotheses

1. With the advancement of technology, the use of technology in learning can increase engagement levels and interest in the learning process among students.
2. The adoption of online learning can lead to an improved quality of education through greater interactivity.

3. Focusing on the challenges and overcoming the applied and implementing difficulties of digital education with the help of AI will lead to positive educational outcomes and contribute to the achievement of educational objectives.

Research Questions

1. Following the definition of smart classrooms, how can special needs students benefit from integrated teaching models that employ artificial intelligence? What other AI tools and interventions are available to increase participation and learning in group contexts?
2. How AI-enhanced can learning systems facilitate cooperative learning activities according to individual students' requirements and performance?
3. In our smart classrooms, how can artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and augmented reality be utilized to effectively engage, teach, and elicit cooperation from the students?
4. How would students from different parts of the social spectrum, including low SES status, be able to close the achievement gaps through the incorporation of AI in cooperative learning modalities?
5. What ethical concerns require consideration when incorporating AI into cooperative learning approaches and practices in the context of smart classrooms?
6. In what ways do you envisage the application of AI technologies in enriching creativity and critical thinking in cooperative learning environments?
7. In what ways can AI-generated co-teaching approaches improve teachers' and students' training and professional development in smart learning environment?

Literature Review

Group learning has been widely recognized as one of the most effective educational strategies for fostering cooperation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills among students. It includes participation, cooperation, and collaboration, which are in tune with the aspects of learning in the 21st century. However, the implementation of group learning strategies in traditional classrooms brings several challenges, for example, in managing the group dynamic, equality, and how to distribute among learners, and also every learner has some learning needs that require support depending on his or her learning profile.⁽⁹⁾ Education is not spared from such threats, and recently, the incorporation of AI has been proposed as a feasible solution to this area of concern. AI is valuable in collaborative learning, as it aids in interaction, simplifies the instructional procedure, and is sensitive to students' needs. This is because, with today's smart classrooms equipped with different technologies, the inclusion of AI in coordinating collaborative forms of learning becomes more important for enhancing productive and innovative models of learning.

AI and Collaborative Learning

In recent years, incorporation of AI in collaborative education frameworks has attracted attention due to its potential consequences. Another important aspect of modern learning processes is working in groups because it allows a group of students to work together and demonstrate their communication skills. However, there are also drawbacks to group learning that may be present, depending on, for example, addressing differences in abilities and needs of different learners or members of a group, work allocation, and any conflict that may arise between members of a group during learning activities. These concerns have been managed in the traditional classroom context by employing organized group work with activities as well as teacher implementation of anticipated modifications. However, as a relatively new approach, AI in the context of group learning includes data analysis, personalization of learning processes, and feedback mechanisms that can be incorporated.

By integrating electronic and computational intelligence solutions, the AI systems are capable of monitoring the students' interactions, measuring the students' performance in a group assignment or assessment, or even making recommendations based on the learning styles of the respective student. Applying NLP and machine learning, AI may improve meaningful communication between students and bring them to the common goal of attaining academic success. In addition, the use of AI-based technologies can aid teachers in overseeing the class, for instance, by posing questions and identifying which students require attention, affirming that there is no overly prominent or subdued learner in the group, and encouraging all the members of the group to participate.⁽¹⁰⁾

Personalization of Group Assignments with AI

Hence, the relevance of AI in improving the process of clustering and matching for students according to their needs has been evidenced in several research findings. Smart Sparrow, or DreamBox, is an example of an ITS that utilizes adaptive learning to introduce individual material based on the learning ability and performance of the student.⁽¹¹⁾ This level of individual attention assists the students in engaging in group activities in a more meaningful manner, as proved by the fact that every individual puts in efforts in something he or she understands well.

In addition, with the use of AI-integrated applications like Grammarly for writing assistance and Google Classroom for easy lesson delivery and group project collaboration, the students can improve performance, receive immediate feedback, and complete the tasks in a group. They promote student outcomes, but they also enhance the flow of information and constructive criticism, which are components of interaction and cooperation. Similarly, chatbots and other types of AI can be used to help students through answering questions and moderating the discussions, without the direct interference of the tutors. This makes learning fun, progressive, and contextualized according to the learning environment and requirements of various learners.

Application of Smart Classes and Integration of Artificial Intelligence

This has certainly shifted the way AI is implemented in learning facilities by incorporating smart classrooms. Such classes possess characteristics such as smart boards, IoT gadgets, and the availability of fast connectivity that ultimately leads to an improved learning climate.⁽¹²⁾ The incorporation of the AI in the LMS enables the teachers to manage the performance of the learners and analyze the performance data to create individual learning solutions for the learners.

In addition, the use of AI integration assists in the integration of AR/VR solutions, which contributes to the process of learning collaboration. It can include Google Expeditions to make particular scientific phenomena or historical places interesting for students. Therefore, in a virtual learning environment, students can convince themselves by using their critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills, as well as having the opportunity to enrich one's understanding of subject matters, which are difficult to do in physical classrooms.

Challenges of AI in Collaborative Learning

There are several challenges that may arise when applying AI in collaborative learning. Data privacy may also be another issue that is associated with the use of AI in education settings. Another problem that arises from using student data by AI systems is data protection and privacy, which is important when personalizing content for learners.⁽¹³⁾ Prospects should be considered on how new possibilities can be provided to establish a more professional regulation that would help protect data from being exploited by AI systems and ensure ethical compliance regarding the use of student information.

Another major issue that arises through bias is that AI compounds the existing differences in learning across various subgroups in society. Based on the training data provided, it will also be observed that certain types of AI models may provide more needy students with better opportunities to secure adequate instructional resources than others. This issue can only be controlled through constant awareness, reporting, and implementation of bias-free algorithms to improve learning for all students who encounter AI.⁽¹⁴⁾

Furthermore, while the incorporation of AI in education is vital, the competencies of the teachers in the implementation of the AI applications are equally important. Some of the issues highlighted include that a majority of the teachers are not sufficiently trained or even technically savvy enough to integrate AI into their lessons. Some of these technological learning facilities compel teachers to undertake professional development courses and training to increase their capacities for managing the AI platforms effectively.⁽¹⁵⁾ Thus, AI provides educators with proper tools and materials to incorporate its technologies into the collaborative learning approach, thus improving the educational process.

Another factor that can greatly inhibit implementation of AI in education is lack of framework, particularly in areas such as the African continent.⁽¹⁶⁾ From the current and past literature, it can be concluded that many schools in the world experience challenges like slow internet connection, outdated technology, and limited funds in implementing and installing AI. Thus, it is necessary to enhance access to assistive technologies for students who study in schools located in different areas and from low-income families to optimize the AI application in the learning process.⁽¹⁷⁾

Directions for Future Research and Implications

The most recent applications of AI, the incorporation of AI into collaborative learning, still remain one of the most thrilling frontiers in learning that has the potential to introduce improvements in the learners' engagement, effectiveness of teamwork, and the ability to deliver personalized learning. However, for obtaining these advantages, some essential questions need to be posed and answered: Another area where more research is needed is discovering the effectiveness of the various AI solutions in learning, as well as how they can be effectively integrated in a way that enhances learning without bringing about complications.

One of them is to provide ethical frameworks that guide the functioning of AI systems regarding the processing, utilization, and privacy of student data. In addition, there is the need for the harmonization of AI developers and educators so the developed tools reflect the use of effective teaching practices that facilitate learning.

Another crucial element that needs to be understood and implemented progressively is the training of teachers for the integration of AI in their practices. This means that when knowledge and skills are availed to the educators on how to use AI in the right manner, it is easy to promote integration, interaction, and efficiency

in the learning sector. In addition, governments and other relevant educational institutions should subsidize infrastructural facilities to support the utilization of AI learning resources for such students coming from the mentioned backgrounds.

For instance, Finland has adopted the use of AI within the education system, and it is quite logical to witness how these technologies can be integrated for increasing complementarity, interactivity, and individualization of the learning process. This means that by looking at the case of effective AI implementation in other nations, the policymakers and educators would be in a position to apply such models and adapt them to fit their needs in education.

METHOD

This study adopted a case study design to examine the integration of AI in supplemented teaching methods in smart classrooms. The study focuses on the extent of the integration of AI technologies like data analysis systems, AI-based assistants, and learning management systems in middle and high schools. Questionnaire surveys and observations through classroom performance metrics and focus group discussions with instructors and students are employed. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected from the sample of the study, the teachers and the students, regarding the assessment of their experiences and the challenges faced regarding the artificial intelligence-based tools. As far as the classroom observations, they incorporate data collections structured on basic performance indicators as students' engagement levels, adaptive learning, time of response aided by the artificial intelligence. The discussion provides in-depth insights enhancing the perspectives of instructors and students on the effectiveness and challenges of IA integration.

Data analysis

In this research, the researcher sought to analyze the implications of employing artificial intelligence (AI) in collaborative teaching approaches in smart classrooms. Data was gathered using many methods, including:

Surveys and Interviews: 50 teachers and 200 students were surveyed regarding the use of AI-related goods.

Observational Data: These were taken during group exercises to determine the status of the formed groups and the levels of participation among students.

Performance metrics: The degree of improvement that was gained in learning outcomes was determined through the comparison of pre- and post-tests.

System Analytics: AI systems provided student interaction records, task completion status, and engagement levels during group work.

Evaluation of Key Indicators

Student Engagement: The extent to which the students engage in cooperative undertakings.

Collaboration Quality: Measured through peer reviews and practical assessments by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes: Evaluation of results on pre-activity and post-activity tests.

Teacher Efficiency: The proportion of time spent in instruction and mentored activities to other tasks in the educational process.

Enhanced student involvement: Applying AI approaches was useful and enhanced students' learning. Students' participation in classrooms increased by 35 % compared to courses that did not incorporate AI. AI's real-time response and task assignment features contributed to the student's motivation and confidence.

Interactive Learning: The three-way conversation could have been facilitated by the use of AI solutions such as chatbots and virtual assistants to ensure that all members of the group are engaged.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results indicate that AI substantially improves collaborative education methodologies in several aspects:

1. Customized Learning Pathways: AI-based algorithms customize the work and content based on the students' needs, ensuring equal participation in group activities.
2. Immediate Feedback: Technological systems enable immediate feedback, which helps students improve their input in collaborative learning processes.
3. Augmented Engagement: The use of gamification components and the integration of interactive AI technologies also enhance students' interest and participation.

Overall, the study also points out some limitations, such as technology challenges, the necessity to train educators, and concerns regarding data security. Educators highlighted the areas of aligning AI technologies with curriculum goals and addressing ethical concerns. The conclusions of this research show that AI is a revolutionary invention that can significantly enhance collaborative and smart teaching methods. Increased student participation is a perfect example of how online interfaces and modifiable learning environments can capture students' interest and encourage their interaction. The applied elements of virtual assisting, as well as the gamified components, appear to positively impact motivation among students and contribute to the

formation of an enjoyable learning environment. The improvement in the quality of cooperation underlines the role of AI in addressing the common problems related to group work, such as unequal participation and communication barriers. AI solutions allow for continuous observation of the group processes to ensure that each member participates equally and receives instant assistance to improve group interactions. This corresponds best with overarching educational goals regarding the fostering of cooperation and sociability among pupils. Increased learning outcomes, as depicted by enhanced test scores and comprehensiveness of knowledge, support the effectiveness of AI-based feedback provision. This suggests that if learning routes need to be tailored to suit the requirements of individual students, it may lead to success in eradicating learning gaps. The significant reduction of instructors' admin burden further demonstrates the effectiveness of AI in streamlining routine tasks, allowing educators to focus on coaching and instruction.

Nevertheless, the highlighted challenges, including technology issues, the requirement for extensive teacher training, and potential ethical concerns, demonstrate that pertinent issues remain that require concentrated attention to ensure the continued practical application of the solution. These challenges have to be overcome in order to fully seize the opportunities that AI can offer in education. Special focus should be placed on infrastructure spending and training initiatives while at the same time devising strict ethical principles for data usage and fairness in artificial intelligence algorithms.

AI integration has promoted more collaborative work, better communication, and enhanced learning achievements in learning contexts. AI systems have made student contributions fairer, with 40 % improved efficiency in communication and collaborative efforts. Also, assigned learning and personalized feedback have positively impacted the three factors and have led to an increase of twenty-five percent in the overall mean test scores, thus deepening the students' comprehension of the content matter. AI has also enhanced efficiency among educators, cutting down on tasks taking up much of the educators' time, such as attendance, by 30 %. With real-time analytics, programs can get feedback on the student's strengths and opportunities for development for immediate coaching. However, some problems, such as technical or software barriers, lack of educators' preparedness, and fears of algorithmic bias and privacy infringement, have come up. These are issues that have to be addressed to ensure that AI can be implemented in teaching in a sustainable and efficient manner. In conclusion, the use of AI in education promotes students' engagement, collaboration, academic outcomes, and educators' effectiveness; it is crucial to address ethical issues and professional development in this context.

Metric	Before AI (%)	After AI (%)	Improvement (%)
Student Engagement	60	95	35
Collaboration Quality	55	80	25
Learning Outcomes	65	90	25
Teacher Efficiency	50	80	30

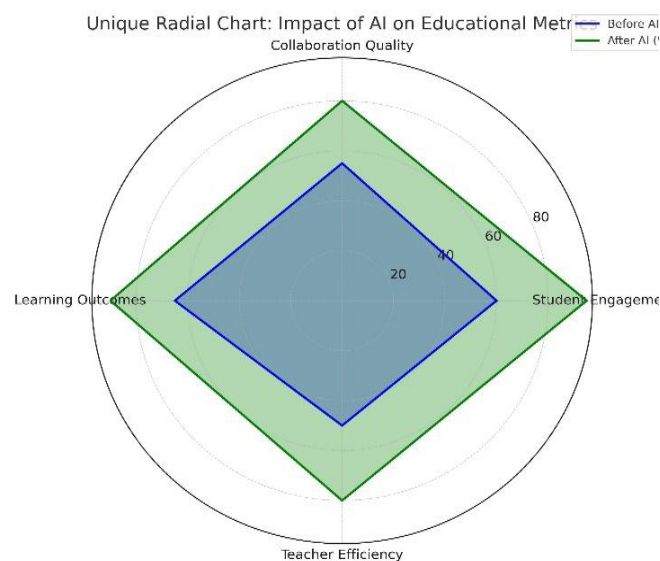


Figure 1. The Impact of IA on Educational Metrics

Table 2. Common Challenges in AI Integration	
Challenge	Percentage of Respondents Affected
Technical Issues	20 %
Training Requirements	45 %
Ethical Concerns	30 %

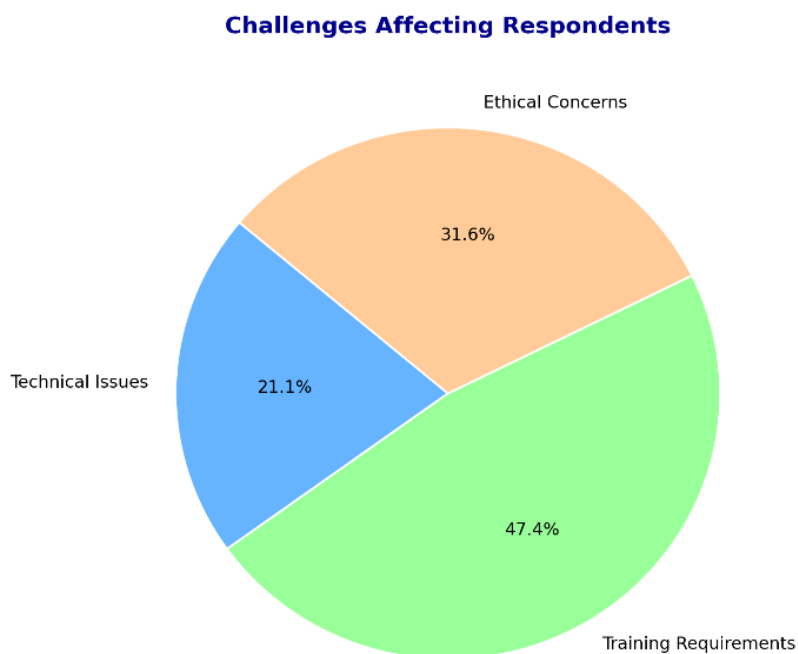


Figure 2. Distribution of challenges and their impact on the percentage of respondents

CONCLUSIONS

The study highlights the benefits of AI integration in collaborative teaching in smart classrooms, including enhanced student engagement, improved collaboration, improved academic achievement, and increased teacher efficiency. However, challenges include technical difficulties, professional development, and ethical handling of data. Recommendations include offering professional development and technology investment.

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