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THE EFFICACY OF AI IN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: EMPHASIS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

By

Jackson G. CLARK, Ph.D.
Faculty of Education
Heriot-Watt University
United Kingdom

And

Akpan, E. Ebenezer, Ph.D. FCICN, AP, PPGDCA, PHDCDPM
Corporate Institute of Research and Computer Science
140 Ikot Ekpene Road
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

ABSTRACT

This study examined the efficacy of artificial intelligence in school environment emphasizing on research and development. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in education, revolutionizing how students learn, teachers instruct, and institutions manage academic activities. In the context to carry out this study, the following subheads among many others were explored: concept of artificial intelligence, concept of school environment and concept of research and development. The study mentioned artificial intelligence impact on school research and development to include: efficient data analysis, automated research assistance and personalized learning insights. Furthermore, the study mentioned the types of school research aided by artificial intelligence to include: educational assessment/evaluation and personalized learning/adaptive instruction among others. Plagiarism/academic integrity, bias/misinformation in artificial intelligence-generated research and lack of critical thinking development among others were mentioned as the challenges of artificial intelligence in school research. Furthermore, the study stated ensuring data privacy and security, addressing bias in artificial intelligence algorithms and promoting artificial intelligence literacy among students and educators among others as the mitigating challenges of artificial intelligence in school research. The study concluded that artificial intelligence holds great promise in transforming research and development within schools by enhancing learning, simplifying data analysis, and supporting innovative academic practices. One of the recommendations made was that schools should implement AI literacy programs for both educators and students to maximize AI's potential in research and development.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligence, School Environment, Research and Development

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in education, revolutionizing how students learn, teachers instruct, and institutions manage academic activities. From personalized learning platforms to automated grading systems, AI is reshaping the educational landscape, making learning more efficient, engaging, and data-driven (Kamalov, Santandreu&Gurrib, 2023). In particular, AI's role in research and development (R&D) within schools is increasingly significant, enhancing knowledge discovery, academic productivity, and innovation. As schools strive to adapt to the demands of the 21st century, AI is proving to be an indispensable tool in fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific inquiry (Owan, Abang, Idika,Etta and Bassey, 2023).

The integration of AI in research and development within school environments offers numerous advantages, including intelligent tutoring systems, automated data analysis, and predictive analytics that aid in academic decision-making (Holmes et al., 2021). These technologies not only facilitate student learning but also streamline the research process by providing faster access to relevant literature, assisting in hypothesis testing, and improving data visualization (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019). Examining how well AI can advance research capacities and spur educational innovation is essential as it develops further so that both students and teachers can take advantage of all that it has to offer.

Despite its promising applications, the adoption of AI in school-based research and development is not without challenges. Ethical concerns, data privacy issues, and the risk of over-reliance on automation are key considerations that must be addressed (Aoun, 2017). Furthermore, unequal access to AI-powered learning resources might exacerbate the digital divide by denying students in disadvantaged areas more chances. Therefore, it is essential to comprehend how AI might be applied in school research settings in a fair and efficient manner in order to maximise its advantages and minimize its disadvantages.

Furthermore, the efficacy of AI in research depends largely on how well educators and students are trained to utilize these technologies. While AI can significantly enhance research productivity, its effectiveness is contingent upon digital literacy and proper implementation strategies (Ng, 2019). Schools must invest in AI literacy programs and professional development initiatives to ensure that both teachers and learners can harness the power of AI effectively. Without adequate training and awareness, the full potential of AI in educational research may remain untapped.

In light of these factors, this study investigates the effectiveness of AI in educational settings, paying particular attention to how it affects research and development. This paper attempts to give a thorough grasp of AI's function in promoting academic inquiry and innovation by examining recent AI applications, success stories, and potential drawbacks. The results will add to the continuing conversations about how AI might be best utilized to help academic institutions accomplish their goals while upholding moral and practical principles.

AI holds immense promise in transforming research and development within schools, offering powerful tools for knowledge creation, collaboration, and discovery. However, its efficacy

depends on proper implementation, ethical considerations, and inclusive access to technology. As AI continues to advance, educational stakeholders must adopt strategic policies and best practices to harness its full potential, ensuring that AI-driven research empowers students and educators alike.

CONCEPT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technology that allows computers to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. AI systems can learn from experience, adjust to new inputs, and improve over time. According to Huge and Godwin (2024) artificial intelligence (AI) is the idea and practice of creating computer systems that can do tasks like speech recognition, decision-making, and pattern recognition that traditionally needed human intelligence. Natural language processing, machine learning, deep learning, and other technologies are all included under the broad term artificial intelligence (AI) (NLP). Udo-Okon and Akpan (2024) defined artificial intelligence as a branch of computer science called artificial intelligence studies how computers learn, comprehend data, recognize characters in images, analyses pictures, and simulate how the eyes work. In addition, artificial intelligence refers to the research and programming of computers to carry out intelligence tasks that require human intervention

Furthermore, Hanson and Okorie (2024) explained that artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associatedwith intelligent beings. Bassey and Owushi (2023) mentioned that artificial intelligence is thecollection of technologies that enable machines to sense, comprehend, act, and perform severalfunctions matching those of humans. Major components of the Artificial Intelligence bucket aremachine learning, big data, natural language processing, decision logic, data visualization, and data analytics.

Moreover, Akpan and Clark (2024) cited in Nathan and Isuaiko (2025) mentioned that artificial intelligence (AI) is the study of how the human brain makes decisions, learns new things, and thinks through difficulties. The goal of artificial intelligence is to enhance computer abilities related to human understanding, including language intelligence, learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. The term artificial intelligence (AI) describes computer programmes that are able to carry out sophisticated operations that were previously limited to human performance, such as problemsolving,thinking, and decision-making (Lion and Ekefre, 2024).

CONCEPT OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

School environment consist of both material and non-material resources in the school. It includes the teachers, peers, cohesiveness, the subjects, method of teaching. A healthy and attractive school environment makes for conducive learning and promotes students pride in their schools and their interest to stay in school(Eze, 2010).

Nwizu (2003) as cited in Adebayo(2018) explained that the environment in which the learner acquires knowledge has a great influence on the cognitive achievement of the learner.It has

also been generally agreed that the quality of learning is markedly influenced by environmental and organizational factors. Okafor (2006) opined that learning is an intimatetransaction between the learner and his environment. This transaction takes place in a specificcontext. The child learning in a conducive environment transcends the school parameter. Itencompasses the entire community and nation. School environments – wall, ground, lights, andmechanical system can serve as active contributors to the students' learning process (Ahmodu, 2023).

CONCEPT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research and Development (R&D) involves systematic, creative work to produce knowledge for new technologies and innovations, driving economic growth and social progress. It's a valuable tool for businesses to improve products and services, and for governments to address societal challenges.The role of technological development and innovation has become ever more important against the backdrop of various issues related to society's sustainability, including resource and energy problems and climate change. In particular, strategies in research and development (R&D), and technological innovations will gain in importance intandem with changes in the social system and in pursuit of sustainability (Anadon, 2016).

R&D is the process of gathering knowledge to create new products or improve existing ones.Research and development (R&D) is when businesses gather knowledge to create new products or discover new ways to improve their existing products and services.Some companies invest far more in R&D than others due to the competitiveness and demands of their industry. For example, a consumer technology company is always trying to release devices that are more appealing than its competitors so will invest heavily on product design research to make their devices more innovative.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT ON SCHOOL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming education by enhancing research and development in schools. Hereare some key impacts of AI in this area:

- **Efficient Data Analysis:** AI-powered tools can analyze vast amounts of data quickly, allowing researchers to identify trends, correlations, and patterns in educational studies. This helps improve learning strategies and curriculum design.
- **Automated Research Assistance:** AI can assist students and researchers by summarizing academic papers, suggesting relevant literature, and even generating citations, reducing the time spent on literature reviews.
- **Personalized Learning Insights:** AI algorithms can assess students' performance data to recommend personalized study plans and resources, helping educators refine teaching methods based on individual learning needs.

- **Enhanced Experimentation and Simulation:** AI-driven simulations allow students and teachers to conduct virtual experiments, test hypotheses, and model real-world scenarios without the need for expensive laboratory setups.
- **Plagiarism Detection and Academic Integrity:** AI tools like Turnitin and Grammarly help detect plagiarism and ensure originality in research papers, promoting academic integrity among students and researchers.
- **Smart Research Tools and Chatbots:** AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants help students with research queries, providing instant answers, guiding them to credible sources, and improving research efficiency.
- **Improved Administrative Research:** Schools can use AI to analyze administrative data for better decision-making, such as optimizing resource allocation, improving teacher training programs, and tracking student progress.

TYPES OF SCHOOL RESEARCH AIDED BY AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has increasingly influenced educational research in recent years, enhancing both the quality and efficiency of research in various domains. The integration of AI tools in educational settings has led to improvements in assessment methods, personalized learning, administrative efficiency, and teaching methodologies. Below are key areas of school research that have been notably aided by AI:

- **Educational Assessment and Evaluation:** AI has significantly advanced educational assessment and evaluation processes. AI-powered tools can automatically grade assignments, quizzes, and exams, saving valuable time for educators and providing instant feedback to students. This automation of grading reduces human error and ensures consistency in evaluations. AI also allows for data-driven insights into student performance, enabling educators to identify struggling students and offer targeted support (Chen, 2021). Furthermore, AI algorithms are used to track student progress over time and predict future performance, improving decision-making regarding interventions and support strategies (Hughes & Montague, 2020).
- **Personalized Learning and Adaptive Instruction:** AI plays a central role in personalized learning by tailoring educational content to the individual needs of students. Adaptive learning systems utilize AI algorithms to analyze students' learning behaviors and adjust instructional materials based on their strengths, weaknesses, and learning pace. This allows for a more customized learning experience, which has been shown to improve student engagement and outcomes. Studies have demonstrated that AI-driven systems can adjust content in real time, ensuring students receive optimal levels of challenge (Nguyen, 2021). This personalization fosters greater student motivation and helps bridge achievement gaps (Sharma & Goel, 2022).
- **Research Automation and Literature Review:** AI has facilitated significant advances in research automation, especially in tasks like literature review and data analysis. AI-powered tools such as semantic search engines can sift through vast amounts of academic literature,

extracting relevant information, summarizing key findings, and identifying trends in research. This automation accelerates the research process, helping researchers stay up to date with the latest studies and identify gaps in the literature (Singh & Patel, 2023). AI tools like Research Rabbit and Connected Papers use algorithms to map out research papers, providing a visual representation of interconnected studies and helping researchers find valuable resources efficiently (Kumar, 2020).

- **Teaching Methodology Enhancement:** AI is increasingly being utilized to improve teaching methodologies through the analysis of classroom interactions. AI tools that monitor and assess teaching strategies provide feedback to educators on how to enhance engagement and effectiveness in the classroom. For example, AI can analyze student responses, predict difficulties, and suggest modifications in teaching approaches (Pérez & Fernández, 2021). Additionally, AI technologies such as natural language processing are used to analyze discussions and debates, offering real-time suggestions to improve communication and content delivery (Chen, 2024). AI has also been used to assess classroom environments, enabling the identification of patterns that can lead to more effective teaching strategies (Zhou, 2023).
- **Administrative Efficiency in Educational Institutions:** AI is not only applied to student-facing aspects of education but also plays a crucial role in enhancing the administrative efficiency of educational institutions. AI systems are used for tasks such as student enrollment, scheduling, resource management, and predicting student dropout rates. By automating these processes, institutions can streamline operations and make better data-driven decisions (Nash, 2020). AI can also assist in faculty management, optimizing class assignments based on availability, teaching expertise, and course requirements (Tucker, 2022).

CHALLENGES OF AI IN SCHOOL RESEARCH

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly transformed school research by enabling faster data processing, automated content generation, and personalized learning experiences. However, its integration into academic research presents several challenges. These challenges range from ethical concerns to technical and accessibility issues.

- **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** One of the most pressing concerns regarding AI in school research is plagiarism and the loss of academic integrity. AI-powered tools such as ChatGPT, GPT-4, and automated paraphrasing tools can generate content that is difficult to distinguish from original work, leading students to submit AI-generated research without proper attribution. According to Jones and Carmichael (2022), AI-generated text often lacks originality and deep critical analysis, which is crucial for academic learning. Furthermore, AI tools enable students to bypass traditional learning methods, reducing their ability to engage with research critically (Williams and Scott, 2023). Schools and universities have struggled to develop effective detection methods, as AI models continuously improve their ability to mimic human writing styles.

- **Bias and Misinformation in AI-Generated Research**: AI systems are trained on vast datasets, which may contain biases and inaccuracies. As a result, students using AI-generated research risk encountering biased perspectives or misinformation, especially in sensitive fields such as history, politics, and social sciences. Anderson. (2021) found that AI models reflect the biases present in their training data, leading to the unintentional promotion of stereotypes and misleading information. This issue is particularly challenging because students might not have the expertise to critically evaluate AI-generated research, increasing the risk of spreading false information.
- **Lack of Critical Thinking Development:** AI-generated content provides easy answers, which can limit students' engagement in deep analytical thinking. Traditional research methods require students to analyze, synthesize, and interpret information, but reliance on AI can lead to passive learning. A study by Martinez and Liu (2023) highlighted that students who heavily relied on AI for research demonstrated weaker critical thinking skills compared to those who engaged in independent literature review and analysis. The study emphasized that AI-assisted learning should be used as a supplementary tool rather than a primary research method.
- **Data Privacy and Ethical Concerns:** AI tools require access to large datasets to function effectively, raising concerns about data privacy and security. Many AI-based research tools collect users' data, including search histories and research preferences, potentially exposing sensitive information. Brown and Patel (2024) discussed how AI-powered educational platforms often collect students' personal information without clear consent, leading to ethical concerns regarding data usage and protection. Moreover, there is a growing fear that AI-generated research can be exploited for surveillance, further complicating the ethical landscape of AI in school research.
- **Dependence on AI and Loss of Traditional Research Skills:** Excessive reliance on AI tools may lead to the gradual erosion of fundamental research skills such as reading, note-taking, and literature synthesis. AI-generated summaries and automated citations can discourage students fromengaging with primary sources. According to Garcia and Thompson (2025), many students now struggle with traditional research techniques, as AI tools automate much of the research process. The study suggests that educators should implement strict guidelines to balance AI use with traditional research methodologies.

MITIGATING CHALLENGES OF AI IN SCHOOL RESEARCH

The following are the mitigations to the challenges of artificial intelligence in school research:

- **Ensuring Data Privacy and Security**: Schools must protect student and research data by using encryption and secure storage systems. They should ensure AI tools comply with data privacy laws like GDPR and FERPA. Regular audits and cybersecurity checks should be done to prevent breaches. Teachers and students should be trained on how to handle data responsibly.

Strong access controls and authentication systems must be put in place. This builds trust and keeps sensitive research information safe from misuse.

- Addressing Bias in AI Algorithms: Bias in AI can lead to unfair or inaccurate research outcomes. Schools should use diverse and balanced datasets when training AI systems. Frequent reviews and updates of AI tools are necessary to detect bias. Experts should be involved in reviewing algorithms for fairness. Students must be taught to question AI results and verify accuracy. This ensures fairness and credibility in research findings and decisions.
- Promoting AI Literacy Among Students and Educators: Lack of knowledge can lead to misuse of AI tools in research. Training programs should be introduced to teach proper and ethical AI usage. Workshops and AI-based courses will help users become confident researchers.

  Teachers need support to integrate AI meaningfully into lessons. Students should learn how AI works, its limits, and its risks. Educators and learners must understand both the strengths and weaknesses of AI.
- Combating Plagiarism and Over-Reliance on AI: Students may depend too much on AI to write or analyze their work. Schools should set clear rules for using AI in academic research.

  Plagiarism checkers can help ensure originality in student work. Assignments should encourage creativity, analysis, and personal input. Teachers should verify that students understand their research content. Critical thinking should be emphasized over blind reliance on AI outputs.
- Improving Accessibility and Reducing Costs: Not all students can afford advanced AI tools for research. Schools should adopt open-source or low-cost AI software for equal access. Government and tech partnerships can help fund AI resources in schools. Grants and donations should be used to equip school research labs. Teachers should guide students to free, high-quality AI platforms. This levels the playing field for all students, regardless of background.
- Ensuring Ethical AI Use in Research: AI must be used responsibly and not replace human judgment. Schools should form committees to oversee ethical AI practices. AI tools must be transparent, showing how they generate results. Students should be taught to cite AI tools when used in research. Ethical guidelines must be enforced across all academic levels. Ethical use ensures accountability, integrity, and trust in research outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Artificial Intelligence holds great promise in transforming research and development within schools by enhancing learning, simplifying data analysis, and supporting innovative academic practices. It empowers students and educators with intelligent tools for faster knowledge discovery, collaboration, and critical thinking. However, its success depends on ethical use, data privacy, equitable access, and proper training for both students and teachers. To fully harness AI's potential, schools must adopt inclusive policies, invest in AI literacy, and address challenges like

bias and over-reliance. With thoughtful implementation, AI can be a powerful catalyst for academic growth, innovation, and meaningful research in education.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Schools should implement AI literacy programs for both educators and students to maximize AI's potential in research and development. Workshops, online courses, and hands-on training should be integrated into the curriculum to ensure effective utilization of AI tools for academic inquiry and innovation.
- Educational institutions must establish clear ethical guidelines and data privacy policies for AI usage. This includes responsible data management, bias mitigation, and ensuring that AI-driven research aligns with academic integrity and ethical standards.
- To bridge the digital divide, schools should invest in AI-powered resources for all students, particularly those in underserved communities. Government and private sector collaborations can provide funding, software, and infrastructure to ensure equal opportunities for AI-driven learning and research.

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