

## 251. THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON LEARNING AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TODAY: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

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This study examines the profound impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on learning processes and digital technologies in contemporary education. It highlights key opportunities such as personalized learning experiences, enhanced engagement, and greater accessibility, while addressing significant challenges including over-reliance on tools, risks to critical thinking, data privacy concerns, and widening inequalities.

Artificial intelligence has fundamentally transformed learning and digital technologies, embedding itself deeply into educational practices worldwide. Generative AI tools like ChatGPT, along with adaptive platforms, enable highly personalised learning by analyzing individual student needs, strengths, and paces, shifting education from a one-size-fits-all model to tailored experiences that improve comprehension, retention, and motivation [1]. AI enhances engagement through immediate feedback, intelligent tutoring systems, and automated support for tasks such as grading and lesson planning, freeing educators to focus on meaningful interactions. According to Microsoft's 2025 Education Report, 93% of students have used AI for academic purposes, with many viewing it as a tool for brainstorming rather than cheating [2]. Furthermore, AI speeds up the adoption of digital technologies in education, facilitating worldwide access to knowledge and helping prepare people for an AI-driven job market, with students often being more proficient with AI than their instructors, which increases pressure to integrate it into academic curricula. Despite these advantages, AI introduces notable risks. Over-reliance on tools can diminish critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning skills, as students may seek quick answers instead of deep engagement. AI use in classrooms has also been linked to feelings of disconnection from teachers and peers, potentially impacting social development and empathy [2]. Other issues include academic dishonesty, data privacy breaches, biases in AI systems, and the digital divide exacerbating inequalities in under-resourced regions. Reports from Brookings and UNESCO emphasize that unchecked AI integration can undermine cognitive and emotional development, perpetuating algorithmic biases, increasing isolation, and risking AI hallucinations that lead to misinformation in educational contexts.

As these risks become more evident, emerging trends in 2026 are shifting focus toward responsible and human-centered AI integration. Looking ahead, AI promises to further revolutionise learning through advanced personalization, immersive technologies like VR/AR, and AI agents that support inclusive education, with institutions increasingly emphasizing AI literacy, ethical guidelines, and teacher training [5]. To maximize benefits while mitigating risks, thoughtful integration is essential: developing AI competencies, ensuring equitable access, and balancing technology with human interaction [3].

AI is not a substitute for good teaching – but in the hands of good teachers, it can be a powerful ally. However, alongside these clear advantages, the integration of AI entails significant risks: diminished critical thinking, weakened social connections, increased digital inequality, and ethical concerns. In response to these challenges, current approaches to integrating AI into education are shifting toward responsible and human-centered use, which entails developing AI literacy, adhering to ethical standards, and preserving the role of the educator as a key element of the educational process.

The key condition for the successful integration of artificial intelligence into education lies not in replacing but in complementing human involvement. As the text rightly notes, AI is not a substitute for good teaching in the hands of skilled educators, it becomes a powerful ally. Only a balance between technological innovation and preserving live interaction, between automation and the development of critical thinking, will allow the potential of AI to be realised without compromising students' cognitive and socio-emotional development.

### **References:**

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