



Honesty Beyond Screens; AI's Effects on The Integrity of Outputs

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I. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized education, enhancing student learning experiences while raising concerns about academic integrity. This study explores the impact of AI on the integrity of outputs submitted by Grade 10 students at Living Angels Christian Academy (LACA). Using a qualitative approach, the research employed semi-structured interviews with 30 students. The study examines whether AI fosters critical thinking or contributes to dishonest academic practices. Findings suggest that while AI aids learning, it also presents ethical dilemmas, necessitating guidelines for responsible use. The study further highlights how AI's influence extends to students' cognitive development, affecting their ability to analyze and synthesize information critically. The results suggest a need for balancing AI integration with ethical education.

1.1 Background of the Study

The integration of AI in education has transformed learning methodologies, offering personalized assistance to students. AI-powered tools such as chatbots, automated essay graders, and language models like ChatGPT provide students with rapid access to information and writing assistance. However, concerns arise regarding AI's role in academic dishonesty, particularly in online learning environments. The ability of AI to generate well-structured essays, answer complex questions, and assist in coding assignments has led to debates about its ethical implications. Inspired by Jennifer Peterson's (2019) study on academic dishonesty, this research delves into how AI affects students' honesty in academic outputs, emphasizing the need for structured policies to guide AI use in education.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study aims to answer the following questions:

1. How does AI impact student education?
2. In what ways is AI beneficial to students?
3. Should AI use be restricted in academic output creation?
4. Does AI enhance or hinder students' critical thinking skills?
5. What is the overall effect of AI on student integrity?
6. How do students perceive AI's influence on their learning habits and ethical decision-making?
7. What measures can be implemented to promote responsible AI usage in academic settings?

1.3 Significance of the Study

This research benefits students, educators, and policymakers by highlighting the ethical implications of AI in education. It aims to provide insights for developing policies that balance AI use with academic integrity. Understanding AI's role in education can help institutions create strategies that encourage ethical AI use while maximizing its benefits for student learning.

II. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research design, as described by Aspers and Corte (2019), to gain an in-depth understanding of students' perceptions and experiences regarding AI use. The study follows an exploratory approach, analyzing students' perspectives through interviews and content analysis. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and supplemented with observations from teachers on students' AI usage trends.

2.2 Respondents of the Study

The study was conducted at Living Angels Christian Academy in Baliwag City, Bulacan. Thirty Grade 10 students were selected using simple random sampling. The selection criteria ensured that respondents represented diverse academic performances and varying levels of AI exposure.

2.3 Research Instrument

A semi-structured interview consisting of five key questions was used. Data collection was facilitated through Google Forms and Zoom interviews, ensuring student anonymity. The questions focused on students' AI usage, perceptions of AI's influence on integrity, and their views on possible regulations.

2.4 Data Gathering Procedure

Permission was obtained from subject teachers before conducting interviews. Responses were collected, analyzed, and categorized based on recurring themes. The interviews were recorded and transcribed to ensure accuracy in analysis.

2.5 Data Processing and Analysis

Responses were coded and thematically analyzed to identify trends and patterns in student perspectives. Ethical considerations, including confidentiality and informed consent, were prioritized. The data was categorized based on themes such as AI's benefits, challenges, ethical concerns, and recommendations for policy development.

III. Results and Discussions

3.1 AI's Role in Student Learning

Findings indicate that AI tools enhance learning efficiency but may also enable academic dishonesty. While 85% of respondents acknowledged AI's benefits in research, 60% admitted to using AI-generated content without proper attribution. Additionally, 45% of students reported using AI for brainstorming and idea generation, while 30% relied on it for structuring essays.

3.2 Ethical Concerns and Academic Integrity

Students expressed mixed views on AI's impact on honesty. Some justified its use as a learning aid, while others recognized its potential to compromise integrity. The study aligns with existing literature highlighting the rise of AI-facilitated cheating. Educators reported an increase in AI-generated submissions that required additional scrutiny to ensure originality.

3.3 The Need for Ethical Guidelines

Educators and institutions must implement clear policies on AI usage in academic work. Strategies such as AI literacy programs, honor codes, and AI detection software can help balance technological advancement with ethical standards. The study suggests that teachers should incorporate AI awareness into curricula to educate students on its responsible use.

3.4 Cognitive and Critical Thinking Development

AI's role in student learning extends beyond academic integrity concerns. Some students noted that AI helps them structure arguments and improve grammar, but others warned that excessive reliance on AI hinders critical thinking. This aligns with studies indicating that passive AI dependence may weaken problem-solving skills over time.

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

4.1 Conclusion

AI significantly influences student learning and academic integrity. While it offers numerous educational benefits, its misuse poses ethical challenges. The findings suggest that AI can enhance education if used responsibly, but clear guidelines must be established to prevent academic dishonesty.

4.2 Recommendations

- Schools should establish AI usage guidelines to prevent unethical academic practices.
- AI literacy programs should be incorporated into curricula to educate students on responsible AI use.
- Institutions should implement AI detection tools to ensure academic integrity.
- Further research should explore AI's long-term impact on critical thinking and cognitive skills.
- Teachers should integrate AI-assisted assignments that encourage ethical engagement rather than passive reliance.

References

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