# Concerns rise over AI's accuracy and implications in education and society



The increasing reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) to provide answers to various queries, including educational tasks, has raised considerable concerns regarding its accuracy and potential implications. A review conducted by the Columbia Journalism Review in 2023 revealed that at least 60 per cent of AI-generated responses were either inaccurate or blatantly incorrect. This statistic is supported by other research suggesting that as many as 80 per cent of AI responses may contain errors, highlighting a critical issue in the growing dependence on this technology.

As conversations around the effectiveness of AI continue, educators have begun to adapt by learning how to identify AI-generated content. Many school and college teachers across various countries have become adept at detecting patterns in the text produced by AI, particularly due to the repetitiveness of certain algorithms. The article outlines how this has led to concerns regarding both the content quality and the educational integrity of AI use.

Moreover, the propagation of AI is being heavily supported by social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, which regularly feature advertisements promoting AI usage. These platforms have targeted older populations, offering classes designed to familiarise them with AI technology and its applications. This outreach raises questions about how those unfamiliar with AI are being integrated into a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Concerns extend beyond educational contexts; there is a fear that AI may be used by companies to assess employee performance and make hiring or firing decisions. Critics argue that AI lacks the ability to understand human subtleties, potentially leading to misjudgments about employee effectiveness. The implications for how workers are evaluated based on AI's limitations are profound, as it could undermine qualitative assessment in favour of quantitative metrics.

Jeffrey Hinton, widely regarded as a pioneer in AI development, has expressed concerns regarding the technology's future. Alongside a coalition of researchers, he has initiated a campaign to draw attention to the potential dangers of AI, warning that it could pose risks comparable to those of nuclear weapons. They argue that AI's ability to generate content derived from existing AI outputs risks stifling human creativity and innovation.

In Pakistan, researchers have identified AI's role in the proliferation of fake news, which poses a serious societal threat. The rapid generation of misleading information by AI systems can have dire consequences, including the potential for individuals to face blasphemy charges based on fabricated claims. The technology’s ability to create authentic-sounding voice replicas fuels further concerns about misinformation, especially in politically sensitive contexts.

AI has also been implicated in contentious political messages, as seen with the controversial cartoons produced by former US President Donald Trump. These images, which replicate existing liberal political cartoons, ignite discussions on plagiarism and originality in a digital age increasingly permeated by automated content generation.

Despite some perceptions of AI as a beneficial tool, the evidence suggests that it carries significant risks. Critics argue that the current trajectory could lead to an environment where learning, originality, and critical thinking are compromised. The rising trend of AI advertising that encourages the automation of writing tasks raises ethical questions about the implications for students who may depend on AI to generate their work, potentially stifling their intellectual development.

As these discussions unfold, there is a growing recognition among scientists and tech professionals that the unchecked expansion of AI technology could lead to a uniformity of thought and expression, where individual creativity becomes diminished. A coalition of researchers is calling on corporate leaders to reconsider the proliferation of AI technologies that may not serve the public interest and could jeopardise future generations.

The complexities surrounding AI require careful examination and dialogue among stakeholders to ensure that the technology serves as a tool for enhancement rather than one that undermines human ingenuity.

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