



Case study for the 2024 EEB National competitions

THE MORAL DILEMMAS OF AI IN EDUCATION

More than any other field, Artificial Intelligence might very well have a decisive impact on education as we know it, transforming both teaching and learning experiences like never before. The Covid-19 crisis has already shown the staggering impact of AI on global education, from teaching tools to ways of learning. It seems like education is on the verge of being profoundly transformed, so much so that even teacher training could be revolutionized. AI has the potential to accelerate the process of achieving the global education goals as defined by UNESCO, “through reducing barriers to access learning, automating management processes, and optimizing methods in order to improve learning outcomes”.

On the one hand, AI could accelerate and reduce the cost of learning on a global scale. It also has the capacity to provide more interactive content through new technologies that will enhance teaching practices, thus offering students more stimulating learning environments. For example, the Metaverse now offers students the opportunity to learn about History through immersive experiences. AI tools like ChatGPT also give students easier, quicker access to information, and enable them a significant gain of time.

On the other hand, those are the very same tools that make it possible for students to cheat, thus forcing teachers to find new ways of grading their students. Not to mention the fact that bots could very well perform education-related tasks that were so far performed by humans, such as recruiting students or assessing their work, hence threatening the jobs of human educators.

Among the potential challenges that AI could address are the current inequalities regarding access to knowledge. One must make sure that AI will not widen the technological divides within and between countries, and that it will, on the contrary, provide inclusive learning that will prepare young people to thrive and shape a better future.

Please, address this dilemma:

Despite the undeniable benefits that AI can bring in education, it also presents multiple risks and challenges that have so far outpaced policy debates and regulatory frameworks. How far can we go in the use of AI in education? What solutions can you think of to solve the various moral conundrums raised by AI tools in education? As children grow up with AI, how can we make sure that, while improving students’ holistic development and making teaching more innovative and fulfilling, AI will not endanger the purpose of education?