

## ESSAY TITLE:

"Unethical Use of AI tools in education and its consequences."

### Outline:

#### 1. Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** Artificial Intelligence has taken over the world like a fire spreading in a forest and individuals of all ages are impacted by it. AI has numerous benefits but when it comes to the field of education, the unethical use of AI tools leads to adverse consequences for the youth and nation as a whole. Steps taken at governmental and societal level can reduce the unethical use of AI tools.

#### 2. How AI tools are used unethically in education.

#### 3. Various methods of usage of AI tools in education which can be deemed unethical.

3.1) Using AI tools such as ChatGpt to plagiarize assignments.

3.2) Utilizing AI tools to make notes.

3.3) Through winning essay competitions by AI written essays.

3.4) Cheating in tests by getting answer of entire question in a second.

3.5) Invalidity of online quizzes or exams due to use of AI tools by students.

3.6) Masking lack of creativity by using AI generated presentations.

#### 4. Consequences of unethical use of AI in education.

4.1) Decrease in creativity of students.

4.2) Increase in plagiarism.

4.3) Drop in value of university/college degrees.

4.4) Youth with no practical skills to showcase in the market.

4.5) Setback to the nation in terms of economic, social and political resource.

4.6) Humiliation at international level as well as national level due to lack of originality.

#### 5. Ways to combat the negative consequences of unethical use of AI tools in education:

5.1) Banning of AI tools in the country.

5.2) Strict repercussions for students caught plagiarizing assignments from AI tools at educational institution's level.

5.3) Awareness raising campaigns about the drawbacks of using AI tools in education.



5.4) legal policies made to minimize use of AI tools in education.

5.5) Capacity building of teachers and faculty to properly check for AI plagiarized content and take appropriate measures against it.

6. Conclusion.

## "ESSAY"

The night was young and two friends sat in the park discussing the future and what it held for them. An unknown man walking his dog, overheard their conversation and walked up to them introducing himself as the CEO of a tech company. He explained that he is looking for young talent and would be happy to recruit them if they could answer just three simple questions about their field which reflects their knowledge of the subject. Despite being excited at this seemingly easy opportunity to be employed at first, both the friends were put to shame when they could not answer as they had spent their entire degree doing assignments through the use of AI tools and possessed no concrete knowledge. Such is the case of with majority of students who grew up with this magical tool easily accessible to them. The use of AI tools in education is deemed unethical due to use of such softwares to make assignments, notes, presentations etc. Even attempting quizzes and online examinations in the age of virtual education is subject to use of AI tools which is highly immoral. It results in students lacking creativity and practical



skills. Plagiarism becomes the norm leading to decrease in value of university as well as college degrees. This eventually causes a great setback to the nation in terms of economic, social and political resource which is credible and reliable. The humiliation faced at national as well as international level calls for immediate steps to combat the negative consequences of unethical use of AI tools in education such as legal penalties and banning of such tools in countries as well as strict repercussions for students who choose to engage in it despite the consequences. Moreover, capacity building of teachers and faculty to properly check for plagiarized content by AI and awareness raising sessions at community level to enlighten citizens and relevant authorities about the drawbacks of using AI tools in education. AI has taken over the world like a fire spreading in a forest and individuals of all ages are impacted by it. AI has numerous benefits but when it comes to the use of AI tools in the field of education, this unethical act leads to the adverse consequences for youth and nation as a whole. Steps taken at governmental and societal level

can reduce the unethical use of AI tools in education.

The word "unethical" refers to anything that is immoral and against the proper norms and values of any organization or institution.

There are a number of AI tools available to the public at large but it is their usage in an educational setting by students that makes it unethical. This is because education is meant to transfer particular knowledge to an individual and to test whether the student was capable enough to grasp the concepts and apply them or not. Unfortunately, using AI tools has become increasingly common among students who prefer this easy way out at the risk of hampering their personal growth and academic development.

Copy pasting answers structured and written by AI has led to ever increasing plagiarism in educational institutions. There are many tools used for this purpose such as Chat Gpt which is an AI powered software designed to form answers of any question asked to it; be it academic or general



within seconds. This is the most common AI tool used by students as the registration only requires an email and is completely free of cost. So many students rely on this unethical means of gathering information to prepare their assignments.

Notes making is a very significant part of any student's educational journey. It helps to retain information during a lecture and later used for preparation for the examination.

However, multiple AI tools have emerged which are designed with various features including making notes from video or audio lectures. Jot bot is such an example which offers the notes making feature.

Even though its not as popular as ChatGpt since it only allows you to use certain amount of credits free of cost in a day before requesting payment for registration and further use, it is still an unethical way to gather notes during a lecture.

There are many essay writing competitions which are held in Pakistan to encourage extra-curricular participation by students.

Most of them require typed out essays to be mailed before a certain deadline. However, many students use AI tools to formulate comprehensive essays which is a great disadvantage to those who actually put their creative abilities to test and spend hours in finishing up the perfect essay. Population Association of Pakistan in collaboration with another institute set up one such essay writing competition in November 2023 on the topic of "Population explosion in Pakistan and its impact on the development of the country". Many students couldn't secure the winning positions because of pre-typed submission of essays.

In universities across the globe, there are strict measures in place to stop cheating during tests and quizzes. However, in Pakistan many universities do not put that much emphasis on such measures and students are easily able to use their mobile phones while hiding from the professor during a routine class test or quiz. When in the past it was difficult for them to creatively do so as google does not always give the most relevant



answer, the emergence and spread of AI tools has made this extremely easy by obtaining the entire answer within a few seconds.

For example, many public sector colleges and universities in Pakistan lack proper measures to catch cheating and bring the culprit to justice by making an example out of him/her. One such case was seen in Bahria University Islamabad in Fall 2022 when a student was caught cheating through use of ChatGPT.

In the growing virtual education realm, the assignments and exams submitted by students can be labelled as invalid due to no supervision while conduct of exams and the increasing likelihood of use of AI tools. Even though online education provided us with a great relief during challenging times, the spread of unmonitored use of AI has even questioned the validity of the degrees obtained through such virtual institutions. For example, during COVID-19, educational institutions had to shift to online mode of learning but the online exams results proved to be highly

unfair. Research shows that due to use of AI tools in the contemplation of examination, many educational institutes could not keep up with this method and reverted to conducting exams on campus again to avoid such discrepancies in results. One such example is Bahria University Islamabad.

All these unethical use of AI tools in education has countless negative consequences, one of which is the decrease in creativity of the students. Resorting to notes making AI apps and softwares makes students dependent upon a bot to do the thinking for them. This has extremely adverse impacts on the ability to hearing and writing at the same time which is an extremely important skill to develop your listening and writing abilities as well as communication skills in the longer run.

AI tools hence erode the creativity and problem solving skills in students which are actually meant to be polished through the education system. This shows what the unethical use of AI tools does to the cognitive development of students.



Even though plagiarism was common before the spread of AI tools in education, it has increased twice as much in the current era. Students make use of AI tools to plagiarize assignments and presentations which is seen as against the ethics and morality. Even the students who used to stay away from such softwares are impressed or motivated by their peers to engage in such acts. The Social Learning Theory in sociology proves how individuals learn from their peers and friends through societal interactions and then apply the same thing in their lives as well.

This also leads to a drop in the value of university/college degrees. In the past you only had to be a graduate of a redeemed institute with an outstanding GPA in order to be selected for jobs.

However, the increase in unethical use of AI in education questions the skill set of these individuals as well as there is no knowing of who graduated based on his/her own efforts or who graduated with the aid of AI tools.

Ultimately, a bulge of youth who with no practical skills emerge in the market and then blame the government or economy for the lack of jobs. They fail to realize that it is their lack of skill set that deems them invaluable for any sort of employment opportunity in their relative fields.

Shariq Shah, CEO and founder of "Tutorly.ai" which is an AI tool designed to cater the educational requirements of students as well as faculty admitted in an interview that he is aware of the potential risks and questions about ethics raised by many institutions when he tries to get them onboard with his product. But still he chooses to look at the benefits at the expense of other costs.

Any nation would be undoubtedly unlucky to have unskillful youth who possess no talent that is required to take the country to new heights or out of challenging situations. One consequence of the unethical use of AI tools in education is the development of useless economic, social and political resource which is fruitless for the progress of the country. This means that



eventually, the economic, social and political development of a that country will be halted due to no credible and experienced resource pool to select future leaders, businessmen and civil society organizers from. Pakistan is one such example where these are corrupt leaders and elites occupying powerful business positions and control in the country. But unfortunately our education system for the last few decades has not been able to produce skillful, well-educated graduates who could take over the reigns of the country and move it towards progress and development.

If a nation does not have creative, and skillful youth, it faces humiliation not only at national level but also at international level when Pakistan gets a chance to be represented at global academic competitions but ends up losing. Many Pakistani students face extreme difficulty in acquiring scholarships like the full-bright scholarship as they have not taken their educational process seriously and relied on AI tools to help them graduate.

The first step to combat the negative consequences of AI tools in education is the banning of such tools. If the students don't have access to the tools they will have no other option but to use their brain and work on their assignments themselves with no aid whatsoever from AI tools. There are many countries like North Korea, Italy, China, Russia as well as Iran who have banned the AI-generative chatbot "ChatGPT" over ethical and various other concerns.

It is also the responsibility of educational institutions to ensure checking of the plagiarized content. Strict repercussions should be allocated to students to indulge in the unethical use of AI tools so that an example can be set for other students to not even think about it in the future. This can be done through punishments like not allowing to sit in the next exam or a fine for the student.

Awareness raising campaigns about the drawbacks of unethical use of AI tools



in education can lead to parents keeping a check on their children and discouraging the use of AI tools. Parents can also play a role in instilling a sense of responsibility and moral values in the children so that they don't use AI tools in education for any purpose to uphold their ethical & moral compass.

It is also the responsibility of the state to recognize the harmful impact such use of AI tools in education is having on the development of the country. They should, therefore, put in place legal policies and also ensure their implementation to give a legal cover to anti-AI tools usage programmes that are being propagated by academic officials worldwide. This is a necessary step to protect the sanctity of our educational institutions.

Even if these policies are made at the state level, they cannot be implemented without capacity building of teachers and faculty at the educational

institutions for proper enforcement of these policies at the classroom level and in normal routine tests and assignments as well as just the final examination. This will help decrease the unethical use of AI tools in education to combat its consequences properly.

In conclusion, the spread of Artificial Intelligence has indeed gripped us with many challenges such as the unethical use of AI tools in education. Whether it is the use of ChatGPT or note making AI softwares, a number of methods of this unethical use poses a variety of grave consequences for the human society. With the help of effective strategies we can combat this evil that has spread and corrupted our education system. It is the need of the hour to address all these challenges if we want our society to progress and reach new heights.

"By far, the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude they understand it" — Eliezer Yudovsky.

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