

Turning Tides in Higher Education? Exploring AI's Roles in Qualification, Self-Education and Socialization

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Abstract: This study examines the transformative potential of AI learning assistants in higher education, emphasizing how these systems reconfigure key educational processes, including qualification, self-education, and socialization. Using a mixed-methods design, combining quantitative survey data from $n = 113$ participants and qualitative focus group discussions ($n = 32$), this research investigates how AI systems such as the VISION AI Mentor affect students' educational experiences. The findings demonstrate that AI systems initiate significant shifts in the dynamics of academic interaction and peer collaboration, giving rise to new modes of engagement and communication. The integration of AI tools introduces a transformative interplay between personalized learning pathways and established academic practices, simultaneously reconfiguring the structures of academic collaboration. These shifts create new opportunities for reimagining how students engage with learning, promoting a more adaptive and responsive educational environment. This transformation enables the coexistence of efficiency and deeper intellectual engagement, encouraging students to navigate learning processes through newly formed patterns of self-regulation and inquiry. The study advocates for a strategic integration of AI that capitalizes on these emerging shifts, ensuring that AI tools serve as enhancers of human-centered educational processes. By aligning AI's capabilities in task automation with the broader objectives of fostering critical thinking and intellectual autonomy, AI can support the redefinition of traditional academic structures.

Keywords: AI in Higher Education, Qualification, Self-Education, Socialization

ahead is to balance the allure of technological advancement with the enduring mission of education, preserving the richness of academic inquiry while embracing the new opportunities AI can offer.

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