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Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Development: Removing Unequal Education in China

Dongxu Qin

Introduction

China has gone through several reforms and utilized compulsory education on a large scale. For decades, China's per capita education rate has improved. However, there are serious educational inequalities within China. Yang et al. (2014) argue that the main cause of educational inequality is the difference between urban and rural areas. In descending order of proportion, the other causes of educational inequality are social class, age, gap of gender and regional difference. Promoting equality in education in China is a matter of urgency for sustainable development.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a new technology which has great potential. Modern people can use AI to improve their efficiency of mechanical work like making Excel tables and searching for clear information on the internet. It is amazing that AI can be used in more complex jobs. The powerful intelligence and function of AI can effectively help students get a better education regardless of difference of urban-rural, social class and other factors. This paper will consider the feasibility of using AI to aid teaching and prove AI will remove the inequality in education in China to some extent. At present, AI has a strong educational auxiliary function, which can greatly improve the teaching efficiency and quality of teachers. In addition, teachers can use AI to better understand students' needs.

The Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development has been discussed for a long time. It seems that we can learn about it in any public campaign. Specifically, Taylor, (2021) gave clear explanation of it.

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Sustainable Development can be traced to indigenous cultures. In 1992, the definition started to gain recognition and became widespread following the Earth Summit. After that, people begin to attach importance to “Sustainable Development”. Sustainable Development predominantly means people meet their own needs without undermining future generations. It involves balancing economic, social, and environmental factors to ensure that development is both sustainable and equitable. The progress of globalization is accelerating, trade between different regions, the rapid development of technology and the extensive use of non-renewable energy all force people to attach importance to the sustainable development. It is important to people in today's world.

SDG#4: Quality Education

Equal education is an important factor in achieving sustainable development. In "Goal 4: Why It Matters" (UN, n.d.) the author mentions that education is a crucial factor. In other words, education makes for upward social and economic mobility, so it's the key to getting out of poverty. In addition, equality in education is critical to reducing inequalities such as achieving gender equality, promoting tolerance and building more peaceful societies. In addition, making all students receive the same, high-quality education is conducive to the growth of human cognition as a whole. This means that people make progress in overall morality and innovation.

Findings and Discussion

How useful is AI in education, and will it be a slick technology that can't be used in real life? In the face of such questions, it is undeniable that most people have no clear cognition on the functions of AI. Obviously, AI can be used in “Lifelong Learning” and “Employing AI Learning Technologies” (Ally & Paris, 2022). Lifelong Learning means AI can be used to set lifelong learning goals according to different people, characteristics and occupational needs. In

addition, based on the existing information and curriculum, the AI can write the corresponding topic and syllabus. For example, teachers can utilize AI application to read and scan the content of one chapter of history textbook, then AI can list correspond teaching outline. Employing AI Learning Technologies means that people use AI to practice individually. When students are worried about how to pass the weekly test, students can do certain question in test, and they can repeat it again and again to make sure they know the relevant knowledge points and are able to complete the relevant questions in the test. Furthermore, AI can always be used in translation, which is beneficial to students who only communicate effectively in a local language.

Furthermore, Dubois (2018) mentions that AI helps teachers to understand students in teaching to achieve the goal of providing the same education for every student. AI can provide teachers with more data and information of students to better understand students' learning situations and needs. It's hard for teachers to be familiar with every student, but AI can improve this relationship with the teachers and students. Furthermore, the cost of AI is inexpensive for most people. In modern society, most families hold mobile devices and students can use AI. However, in the past, it was common for parents in China to spend much money for children to have extra classes out of school. This event has created huge inequality in education because by spending money, parents can help some students learn more knowledge and thus win in the exam-oriented education system. By AI using, students can reduce the socioeconomic gap and difference of urban-rural.

In "AI-Enabled Personalized Interview Coach in Rural India," Nayak and her colleagues (2022) state that AI provides interview training and guidance for young people in rural India. People in this experiment used their own mobile phones to use AI applications. In the end, 86% of respondents thought of feedback reports useful or very useful; 96% respondents wanted more

practice on the portal. The data indicates that the portal is useful in rural and young people because of its characteristics. This example is constructive for China. If this experiment can be conducted in China and provide AI learning assistance, it will make a great contribution to the equality of education in China.

Conclusion

The problem of unequal access to education is significant in China, the focus of SDG#4. To address these issues, AI helps children access equal education, personalized feedback and support to create a more sustainable future. In addition, teachers can understand students well by AI. In fact, the low cost of AI will reduce the phenomenon of inequality. An example of India gives people inspiration that AI can be provided in rural places.

In modern society, AI technology is advancing rapidly. More and more leading technologists and scientists strive for AI technology. The education sector will benefit from it. Government spending and subsidies are also needed to promote equality in education and contribute to sustainable development. There is no doubt that AI will make an extremely important contribution to sustainability.

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