IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TERTIARY TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

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In recent years, the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and education has emerged as a critical area of study, with profound implications for the development of tertiary technical education systems worldwide. This is particularly relevant in the context of Ukraine, a nation at the crossroads of traditional educational methodologies and the burgeoning influence of technology. This work aims to explore the transformative impact of AI and related technologies on the sustainable development of tertiary technical education in Ukraine.

The advent of AI and its auxiliary technologies presents both unique opportunities and formidable challenges for educational institutions. In Ukraine, where technical education plays a pivotal role in national development and economic resilience, the integration of these technologies is not just a matter of educational reform but also a strategic imperative for national progress.

This work begins by examining the current state of tertiary technical education in Ukraine, highlighting the existing infrastructure, pedagogical approaches, and the challenges faced by these institutions. We then delve into the various dimensions of AI and technology that are pertinent to education, such as adaptive learning systems, AI-driven curriculum development, and the use of big data for educational analytics.

Furthermore, the discussion extends to the implications of these technologies for sustainable educational practices. This includes the potential of AI to personalize learning experiences, improve resource efficiency, and foster innovative teaching methodologies that align with the evolving demands of the global job market.

The work addresses the critical issue of ensuring equitable access to these technological advancements, particularly in the context of Ukraine's diverse socio-economic landscape. The role of government policies, industry partnerships, and international collaborations in promoting a sustainable and inclusive technological transformation in tertiary technical education is also examined.

This work also sets the stage for a comprehensive analysis of how AI and related technologies can be leveraged to not only enhance the quality of tertiary technical education in Ukraine but also to ensure its sustainable development in an increasingly digital world. By exploring these themes, this work aims to contribute to the discourse on educational innovation and provide actionable insights for policymakers, educators, and technologists in Ukraine and beyond.

The tertiary technical education system in Ukraine, as it stands today, reflects a landscape of transition and transformation, shaped by historical influences, contemporary challenges, and future aspirations. Ukraine's tertiary technical education comprises a mix of universities, institutes, and vocational schools, many of which have a strong legacy in technical and engineering education dating back to the Soviet era.

While some institutions boast state-of-the-art facilities, particularly in major cities like Kyiv, Lviv, and Kharkiv, others struggle with outdated infrastructure and equipment. This discrepancy often reflects broader regional economic disparities. There has been a growing emphasis on digitalization in recent years, with some institutions integrating e-learning platforms and digital resources into their curriculum. However, this advancement is not uniformly distributed across the country.

Traditionally, the curriculum in these institutions has been heavily theoretical with a strong emphasis on fundamental sciences. There is an ongoing shift towards more practical, skills-based learning to meet contemporary industry needs. The teaching methodology often remains lecture-based, though there is a gradual adoption of more interactive and student-cantered teaching styles, including project-based and problem-solving approaches. [1]

Higher education institutions in Ukraine are increasingly focusing on research and development, particularly in areas like information technology, engineering, and renewable energy. Many technical institutions face financial challenges, impacting their ability to update infrastructure, invest in new technologies, and attract high-quality staff. Ukraine experiences a significant emigration of skilled graduates and academics, drawn to better opportunities abroad. This brain drain depletes the country's intellectual and professional resources.

Keeping the curriculum aligned with the rapidly evolving technological and industrial landscapes remains a challenge, necessitating ongoing reforms and industry-academia collaboration. The political and economic situation in Ukraine, particularly in light of recent war and the ongoing tension with Russia, has impacted the stability and development of educational institutions. Ensuring consistent quality across institutions and programs, and aligning with international standards, is an ongoing challenge.

In all, tertiary technical education in Ukraine is at a critical juncture. While it boasts a rich history and some pockets of excellence, the sector faces numerous challenges, including infrastructural disparities, financial constraints, and the need for curricular modernization. Addressing these challenges, while capitalizing on the opportunities presented by digital technologies and AI, is crucial for the future development and sustainability of this vital educational sector.

The use of Artificial Intelligence in tertiary technical education promises to bring about significant changes and improvements. Below are some of the potential results that could be observed from the integration of AI into this educational sector.

1. Enhanced personalization of learning

- a) Adaptive learning environments. AI can tailor educational content to suit the learning pace and style of each student, providing a more personalized experience that could improve engagement and understanding.
- b) Feedback and assessment. With AI-driven tools, students can receive immediate, personalized feedback on their work, enabling quicker learning adjustments and improvement.

2. Improved educational outcomes

- a) Data-driven insights. AI systems can analyse student performance data to identify areas of struggle and success, allowing for targeted interventions that can enhance overall academic performance.
- b) Career-focused learning. AI can help in aligning educational content with current industry trends and job market needs, ensuring that students are gaining relevant and applicable skills.

3. Efficiency and accessibility

- a) Automated administration. AI can streamline administrative tasks like grading, scheduling, and student inquiries, freeing up educators to focus more on teaching and less on bureaucratic tasks.
- b) Wider reach. AI-powered online learning platforms can make higher education more accessible to students who are unable to attend traditional on-campus classes, either due to geographical or financial constraints. [2]

4. Innovative teaching methods

- a) Simulation and virtual labs. AI can create realistic simulations and virtual laboratories for technical subjects, allowing students to gain practical experience in a controlled, risk-free environment.
- b) Interactive learning tools. AI can enhance learning through interactive tools and games that make complex technical concepts more digestible and engaging. [3]

5. Challenges and ethical considerations

- a) Digital divide. There is a risk that reliance on AI in education could exacerbate existing inequalities if some students lack access to the necessary technology.
- b) Data privacy and security. The use of AI in education raises concerns about student data privacy and the need for robust security measures to protect sensitive information.

6. Long-term impact

- a) Continuous learning culture. AI encourages a culture of continuous learning and upskilling, which is essential in the fast-evolving technical fields.
- b) Global competitiveness. By keeping pace with global technological advancements, AI in education can help ensure that graduates are competitive in the international job market.

7. Sustainability and future-readiness

- a) Resource optimization. AI can help educational institutions optimize resource use, contributing to sustainability.
- b) Preparing for future challenges. AI education equips students with the skills to deal with future technological challenges and innovations.

The integration of AI into tertiary technical education in Ukraine and elsewhere could revolutionize the learning experience, making it more personalized, efficient, and aligned with future job markets. However, this must be balanced with careful consideration of ethical implications and efforts to ensure equitable access to these advanced educational tools.

The potential of Artificial Intelligence in reshaping tertiary technical education is immense and multifaceted. As we have explored, the integration of AI and related technologies into educational systems presents a unique opportunity to enhance learning experiences, improve educational outcomes, and ensure the sustainability and global competitiveness of graduates.

AI-driven personalization offers a more tailored educational experience, catering to individual learning styles and needs. This approach not only fosters deeper understanding and engagement among students but also addresses diverse learning curves, ensuring that no student is left behind. The automation of administrative tasks and the introduction of innovative teaching methodologies, such as virtual labs and interactive learning tools, further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of education.

Moreover, the alignment of educational content with industry trends, facilitated by AI, ensures that students are acquiring skills that are relevant and in demand in the workforce. This alignment is crucial for fostering a workforce that is adaptable and equipped to meet the challenges of an ever-evolving technological landscape.

However, the implementation of AI in education must be navigated with careful consideration of potential challenges. Addressing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to technology are imperative to prevent the widening of educational disparities. Similarly, the ethical implications concerning data privacy and security demand stringent measures to protect student information.

In conclusion, the sustainable development of tertiary technical education through AI and technology is not just a path to enhanced learning but a strategic imperative for Ukraine. It offers a roadmap to educational resilience, adaptability, and excellence. By embracing these technological advancements and addressing their challenges head-on, educational institutions can unlock unprecedented opportunities for students, empowering them to thrive in a rapidly changing world. This journey towards a technologically enriched educational landscape holds the promise of nurturing a generation that is not only technically proficient but also adaptable, innovative, and prepared for the challenges of the future.

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