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The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence [AI] in Education:



DEFINING AFRICA'S FUTURE

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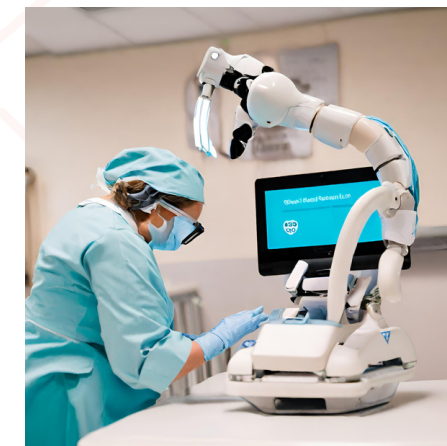
What is Generative AI?

Definition:

Generative AI is a subset of artificial intelligence technologies that can generate new content, ideas, or data patterns autonomously. Unlike traditional AI, which is programmed to respond based on Pre-defined Rules, Generative AI can create original outputs, often unpredicted by its developers.

How it Works:

It uses advanced machine learning techniques, particularly deep learning neural networks, to analyze vast datasets and learn how to mimic and create new content that resembles the original data.



Prompt

— A Robot working as a nurse

Examples of Generative AI Technologies

GPT-4



An advanced language model capable of understanding and generating human-like text, facilitating tasks like conversation, writing, and even coding.

DALL-E



A neural network that creates images from textual descriptions, demonstrating an impressive understanding of objects and their properties.

DeepMind's AlphaFold



Revolutionizing biochemistry by predicting protein structures with high accuracy.

Music Generation AI



Revolutionizing biochemistry by predicting protein structures with high accuracy.

Distinction of Generative AI from Other AI Technologies

Predictive vs. Creative

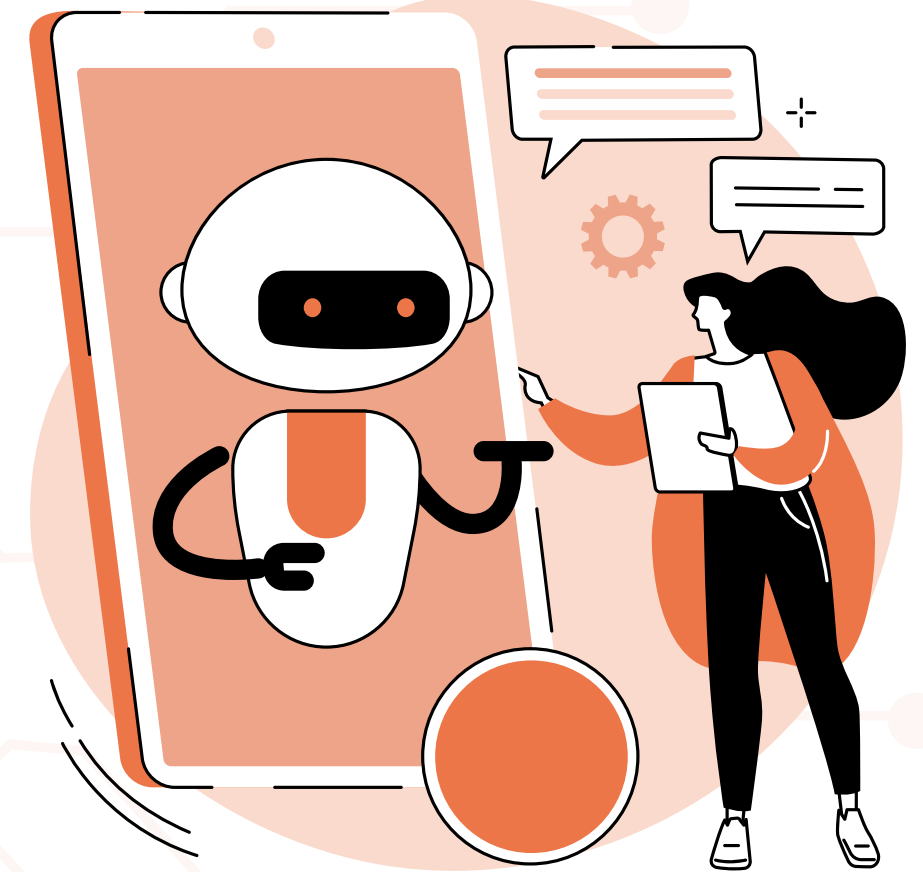
Traditional AI focuses on analyzing data and making predictions based on past patterns. In contrast, generative AI goes a step further by not just predicting but also creating new, plausible data that didn't previously exist.

Dynamic Learning

While conventional AI often operates within the scope of its initial programming, generative AI continuously learns and adapts, making it more dynamic and capable of handling a broader range of tasks..

Enhanced Interaction

Generative AI models offer more natural and engaging interactions, especially in fields like conversational AI, where responses are more varied and less scripted.



Importance of Generative AI in the African Context

Educational Transformation

In Africa, where educational resources are often limited, generative AI presents a unique opportunity to bridge gaps and offer innovative learning solutions.

Personalized Learning

It can personalize education at scale, catering to diverse learning needs across vast and varied populations.

Overcoming Challenges

With challenges such as limited access to qualified teachers, diverse linguistic and cultural landscapes, and varying levels of infrastructure, generative AI can play a pivotal role in revolutionizing how education is delivered and accessed.

Fostering Growth

Embracing this technology can propel African nations towards becoming significant players in the global digital economy, fostering growth, and innovation.



Education in Africa – Current State and Challenges

Current State of Education in Africa

Diversity and Potential:

Africa's education system is as diverse as its cultural and linguistic landscape. With one of the youngest populations globally, the continent holds immense potential for educational growth and innovation.

Progress and Enrollment:

There has been significant progress in increasing enrollment rates, particularly at the primary education level, across many African countries.

Quality and Infrastructure: However, the quality of education and the infrastructure supporting it vary widely. Many regions struggle with inadequate educational facilities and limited access to learning materials

Education in Africa – Current State and Challenges

Key Challenges in African Education

Access to Resources

Africa's education system is as diverse as its cultural and linguistic landscape. With one of the youngest populations globally, the continent holds immense potential for educational growth and innovation.

Teacher Shortages and Training

There has been significant progress in increasing enrollment rates, particularly at the primary education level, across many African countries.

Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

With over 2,000 languages spoken across Africa, linguistic diversity presents unique challenges in delivering standardized education that is also culturally relevant and inclusive.

Infrastructure and Connectivity

Inadequate infrastructure, including shortages of classrooms, basic utilities, and internet connectivity, hampers effective teaching and learning.

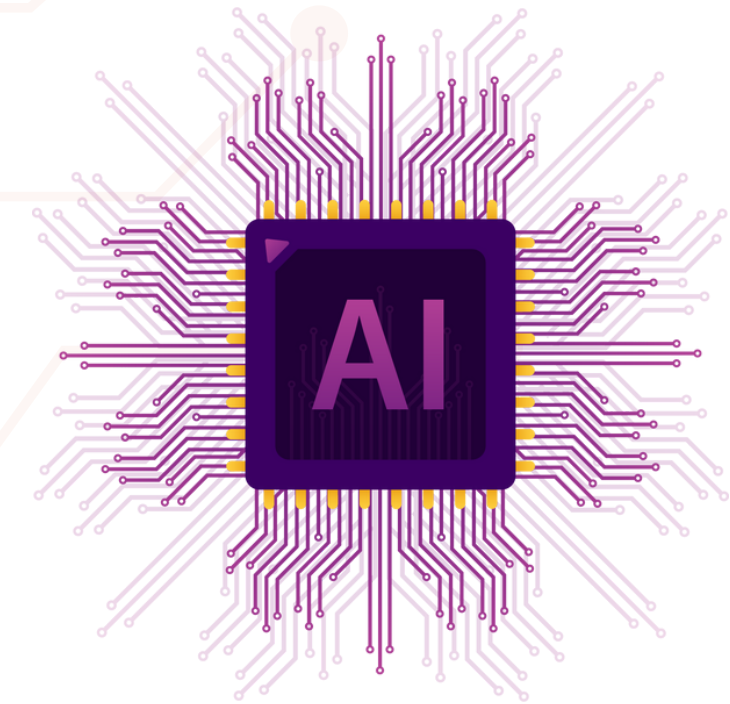
Socio-Economic Barriers

Factors like poverty, gender inequality, and regional conflicts further complicate access to education, disproportionately affecting girls and children in rural areas.

What can Policy Makers in Government do to use AI to power Teaching and Learning [Examples]

UK's AI in Education Initiative

The UK Government has invested significantly in integrating artificial intelligence into the educational sector, recognizing its potential to revolutionize teaching and learning. A notable example includes a £2 million investment in Oak National Academy to develop AI tools for teachers.



Strategies Employed by the UK Government:

- Investment in AI Technologies
- Pilot Programs
- Teacher Training
- Infrastructure Support

Outcomes and Benefits

- Enhanced Teaching Efficiency
- Improved Student Engagement and Learning
- Innovative Pedagogical Approaches

What can Policy Makers in Government do to use AI to power Teaching and Learning [Examples]

What Policy Makers Can Do



Foster Collaborations

Encourage partnerships between governments, educational institutions, and tech companies to drive innovation and share best practices.



Ensure Equitable Access

Work towards minimizing the digital divide by ensuring all students have access to AI-powered educational resources.



Promote Continuous Learning

Invest in ongoing research and development to keep pace with technological advancements and continuously improve educational outcomes.

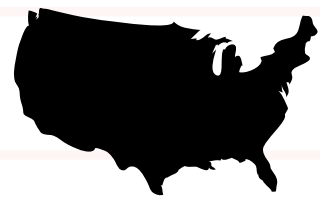
Examples of Generative AI Products and Platforms – UK, US, China and Africa.



United Kingdom (UK)



A pioneering AI company based in London, known for its advanced AI research and development. DeepMind's contributions to generative AI include advancements in deep learning and neural networks.



United States (US)



Creators of GPT-3, one of the most advanced language processing AI models to date, widely used for content creation, coding assistance, and more.



Also by OpenAI, DALL-E is capable of generating complex images from textual descriptions, showcasing the creative potential of generative AI.



China



A large-scale machine learning model that competes with the likes of GPT-3, designed for various tasks including natural language processing, content generation, and semantic understanding.



Focuses on deep learning, computer vision, and voice recognition technologies. Tencent's AI products are geared towards enhancing educational content and personalized learning experiences.

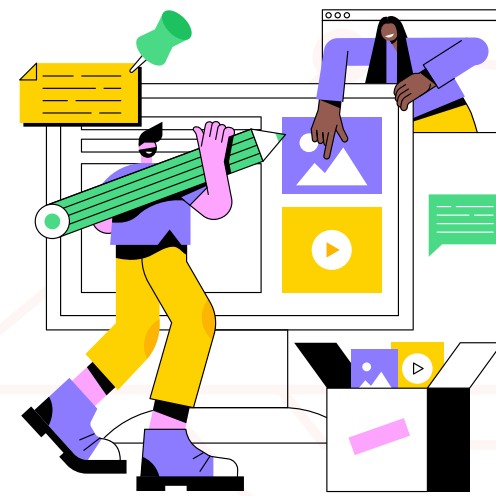
Generative AI Applications in Education

Examples of Generative AI in Education



Personalized Learning:

Generative AI can tailor educational content to individual student needs, abilities, and learning styles. For example, AI can generate practice questions suited to a student's current proficiency level or interests, making learning more effective and engaging.



Content Creation:

AI can assist educators in creating diverse and inclusive educational materials. From generating interactive lesson plans to creating customized textbooks, AI significantly reduces the time and effort required for content development.



Language Translation and Localization:

With the linguistic diversity in Africa, AI can play a crucial role in translating educational content into multiple local languages, ensuring broader accessibility and cultural relevance.

Generative AI Applications in Education

Benefits for Students

- **Enhanced Engagement:** AI-driven content is often more interactive and engaging, keeping students motivated and interested.
- **Learning at Own Pace:** Students can learn at their own pace, with AI adapting to their learning curve, making education more inclusive and effective.
- **Skills Development:** Exposure to AI in education can also foster digital literacy and critical thinking skills, preparing students for a technology-driven future.

Benefits for Educators

- **Efficiency in Teaching:** AI can automate routine tasks like grading and creating teaching materials, allowing educators to focus more on teaching and less on administrative tasks.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** Many African countries face a critical shortage of qualified teachers. Additionally, existing teachers often lack access to ongoing professional development and training.
- **Professional Development:** Educators can use AI as a tool for their professional development, staying abreast of the latest educational technologies and methodologies.

Challenges and Ethical Considerations in Generative AI for Education

Challenges in Implementing Generative AI in Education:

- Data Privacy and Security
- Bias in AI Systems
- Access to Technology

Ethical Considerations:

- Transparency and Accountability
- Inclusivity and Cultural Sensitivity
- Consent and Autonomy
- Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation



The Future of Generative AI in African Education

Reshaping Education with Generative AI

Customized & Adaptive Learning

Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize education by creating highly customized and adaptive learning experiences. It can provide personalized educational paths for each student, adapting to their strengths and addressing their weaknesses.

Bridging Educational Gaps

AI can help bridge gaps in education, especially in remote or underserved areas. With AI-driven educational tools, quality education can reach students who lack access to experienced teachers or educational resources.

Enhancing Teacher Capabilities

AI can augment the capabilities of teachers, providing them with advanced tools for content creation, student assessment, and classroom management, thereby enhancing the overall teaching experience.

The Future of Generative AI in African Education

Long-term Benefits and Predictions

Improved Educational Outcomes

With more personalized and engaging learning experiences, students are likely to show improved educational outcomes, including higher retention rates and better understanding of complex concepts.

Empowerment Through Education

By improving access to quality education, AI has the potential to empower a new generation of learners, equipping them with the skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.

Innovation & Economic Growth

The integration of AI in education can stimulate innovation and contribute to economic growth. Educated populations are better equipped to drive technological advancements and address local and global challenges.

Preparing for the Future Workforce

As AI and technology continue to evolve, education systems powered by AI will be crucial in preparing students for the future workforce, particularly in tech-driven sectors.

Embracing Generative AI in Education – A Call to Action



Applying AI in Education

Awareness & Education:

Start by increasing awareness about AI and its potential in education among educators, policymakers, and the broader community. This involves organizing workshops, seminars, and training sessions.

Collaborative Efforts:

Encourage collaboration between tech companies, educational institutions, and governments to develop and implement AI-driven educational solutions that are tailored to Africa's unique needs.

Investment in Infrastructure:

Advocate for investment in digital infrastructure to ensure that schools and educational institutions have the necessary tools and connectivity to leverage AI technologies.

Embracing Generative AI in Education – A Call to Action

Proposed Initiatives & Steps

Pilot Projects:

Launch pilot projects in diverse educational settings to understand the practical challenges and benefits of AI in education. Use these pilots to gather data, refine approaches, and demonstrate value.

Policy Development:

Work with governmental bodies to develop policies that support the ethical use of AI in education, including standards for data privacy, student safety, and equitable access.

Building Local AI Expertise:

Invest in local talent by supporting AI education and research within African universities and tech institutes. This not only aids in developing home-grown AI solutions but also ensures a future workforce skilled in AI.

Inclusivity in AI Design:

Ensure that AI tools are designed with Africa's diverse cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic contexts in mind. This includes providing AI education resources in multiple local languages and considering various cultural nuances.

Thank you!



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