



**NIGERIAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

**PHILOSOPHY, ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE, AND DIGITAL  
EDUCATION**

**VOLUME 35 NO. 1, OCTOBER, 2025**

**ISSN: 0794-0114**

**e-ISSN: 2971-5652**

Published by

**PHILOSOPHERS OF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PEAN)**

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# Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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## Abstract

This study explores the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning within the 21st century, grounded in the conceptual frameworks of personalized learning and adaptive instruction, alongside the sociocultural theory of learning. By employing a qualitative methodology, the research involved a comprehensive documentary review and document analysis to investigate how AI technologies can enhance educational experiences tailored to individual student needs and contextual factors. The findings reveal that AI significantly improves student engagement by providing personalized learning pathways that adapt to varying learning styles, preferences, and paces, thereby fostering a more inclusive educational environment. Additionally, AI supports teachers in developing adaptive instructional strategies, allowing them to better meet the diverse needs of their students and facilitating a more dynamic classroom experience. Moreover, the study highlights the importance of collaboration between educators and AI systems, emphasizing that effective implementation requires ongoing professional development and an understanding of the ethical implications associated with AI in education. The conclusion underscores the transformative potential of AI in reshaping educational practices, recommending that educators and policymakers prioritize investment in AI training, infrastructure, and resources. This investment should also address equity issues to ensure that all students have access to the benefits of AI-enhanced learning. By embracing these recommendations, educational institutions can harness the power of AI to create more effective, personalized, and adaptive learning environments that prepare students for the challenges of the modern world.

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**Keywords:** Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Adaptive learning, Personalized instruction, Education technology, Student outcomes

## Introduction

The 21st century has witnessed a significant transformation in the education sector, with the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) being a key driver of this change. According to a report by Kumar, Singh and Kumar (2023), AI has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach and learn, enabling personalized instruction, automating administrative tasks, and enhancing student outcomes. The use of AI in education has been gaining momentum in recent years, with many educational institutions and governments investing heavily in AI-powered learning systems. One of the primary benefits of AI in education is its ability to provide tailored learning experiences for students. As noted by Patel, Shah and Mehta (2023), AI-powered adaptive learning systems can adjust the difficulty level of course materials based on a student's performance, ensuring that they are adequately challenged and supported throughout their learning journey. Additionally, AI can help teachers to identify knowledge gaps and provide targeted interventions, leading to improved student outcomes and increased teacher efficiency.

Despite the potential benefits of AI in education, there are also concerns about its impact on the teaching profession and the potential for job displacement. As argued by Lee, Kim and Park (2023), the increasing use of AI in education raises important questions about the role of teachers in the classroom and the need for ongoing professional development to ensure that they are equipped to work effectively with AI-powered tools. This study aims to explore the current state of AI in teaching and learning, examining its benefits, challenges, and implications for the education sector in the 21st century.

## Conceptual underpinnings

The conceptual underpinnings of this study are rooted in the understanding that artificial intelligence has the potential to transform the teaching and learning landscape in the 21st century. Theories of personalized learning and adaptive instruction suggest that AI-powered systems can tailor educational experiences to individual students' needs, abilities, and learning styles, leading to improved academic outcomes and increased student engagement (Dziuban et al., 2018). Furthermore, the concept of teacher agency and autonomy is critical in understanding the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, as they must navigate the integration of AI tools and maintain their professional identity in a rapidly changing educational environment (Biesta, 2013).

The study is also informed by the sociocultural theory of learning, which posits that learning is a socially constructed process that is shaped by the interactions between students, teachers, and the learning environment (Vygotsky, 1978). The integration of AI in education raises important questions about the nature of these interactions and the potential for AI to augment or replace human interaction in the learning process. By examining the intersection of AI, teaching, and learning, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between technology, pedagogy, and student outcomes in the 21st century.

## Statement of the problem

The integration of Artificial Intelligence in education has the potential to transform the way we teach and learn, but it also raises a number of complex questions and challenges. Despite the growing interest in AI in education, there is a lack of research on the current trends and developments in AI-powered teaching and learning, as well as the benefits and challenges of integrating AI in education (Chen et al., 2024; Patel et al., 2024; Kumar et al., 2024; Wang et al.,

2024). Furthermore, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, the key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of AI in education, and the implications of AI for teaching and learning. The inadequate research on AI in education is a significant problem, as it hinders our ability to fully understand the potential benefits and challenges of AI-powered teaching and learning. Without a comprehensive understanding of the current trends and developments in AI in education, educators, policymakers, and researchers are ill-equipped to make informed decisions about the integration of AI in education. Furthermore, the insufficient research on the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, the key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of AI in education, and the implications of AI for teaching and learning means that we seem to be missing out on opportunities to harness the potential of AI to improve educational outcomes. This study aims to address these gaps in our knowledge and understanding of AI in education.

### **Methodology**

This study employed a qualitative methodology, which involved a comprehensive documentary review and document analysis. The documentary review aimed to gather and analyze a wide range of documents related to the use of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning, including policy documents, research reports, academic articles, and educational websites. The review process was guided by a set of predetermined criteria, including relevance to the research question, date of publication, and credibility of the source. A total of 50 documents were selected for in-depth analysis, which were then coded and themed using a qualitative data analysis software. The document analysis involved a detailed examination of the selected documents to identify patterns, themes, and insights related to the use of AI in education. The analysis was guided by a set of research questions, including the benefits and challenges of AI in education, the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, and the implications of AI for teaching and learning. The data were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach, which involved identifying, coding, and categorizing the data into themes and sub-themes. The themes were then interpreted and discussed in relation to the research questions, and the findings were used to inform the development of a conceptual framework for understanding the role of AI in teaching and learning.

### **The Current Trends and Developments in the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century**

Several studies have explored the current trends and developments in the use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching and learning in the 21st century. According to a recent report by Chen et al. (2024), AI is increasingly being used in education to support personalized learning, automate grading, and enhance student engagement. The report highlights the growing trend of AI-powered adaptive learning systems, which can adjust the difficulty level of course materials based on a student's performance. Similarly, a study by Patel et al. (2024) found that AI-based chatbots are being used to provide students with instant feedback and support, freeing up instructors to focus on more complex tasks.

Another significant advancement in the field of education is the integration of artificial intelligence into intelligent tutoring systems, which offer personalized, one-on-one support to learners, particularly in subjects like mathematics and science. According to Kumar, Singh and Kumar (2024), these systems employ AI-driven algorithms to evaluate student inputs and deliver immediate, tailored feedback, thereby enhancing comprehension and retention of complex

subject matter. The ongoing trends and innovations in AI application within education reflect a rapidly transforming landscape marked by continual technological emergence. This study, therefore, seeks to explore these evolving developments to provide a comprehensive insight into the transformative role of AI in 21st-century teaching and learning.

### **Benefits of Integrating AI in Educational Institutions**

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in education presents a wide array of benefits and implications that span student learning outcomes, teacher roles, and institutional practices. According to Wang et al. (2024), AI technologies offer significant advantages such as personalized learning experiences, improved instructional efficiency, and enhanced academic performance—particularly among students with learning difficulties or special needs. AI-powered adaptive learning platforms, for instance, can tailor content to individual learning styles and paces, thereby promoting deeper understanding and achievement. However, the deployment of AI is not without challenges. Wang et al. (2024) also emphasized concerns around algorithmic bias and the pressing need for comprehensive teacher training to maximize the potential of AI tools. Supporting this perspective, Gupta et al. (2024) explored the evolving role of teachers in AI-integrated classrooms. While some educators perceive AI as a threat to their professional identity, others recognize its value in enhancing instruction, streamlining administrative tasks, and providing real-time feedback. The study underscores the critical importance of continuous professional development to help teachers adapt to these technological shifts.

Moreover, institutional readiness plays a crucial role in successful AI implementation. Lee et al. (2024) reported that educational institutions must address infrastructural demands, such as reliable internet connectivity, digital devices, and cybersecurity systems, alongside revising curriculum frameworks to incorporate artificial intelligence literacy and data ethics. These considerations are vital in ensuring equitable access and sustainable integration of AI in education. In sum, while the integration of artificial intelligence holds transformative potential for teaching and learning, its benefits and challenges are multidimensional. A balanced approach involving collaboration among educators, policymakers, technologists, and researchers is essential to navigate this complex landscape and harness AI's full potential in shaping the future of education.

### **Roles of Teachers In AI-Powered Classrooms, Including Their Perceptions, Attitudes, and Experiences With AI-Based Educational Tools**

The role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, including their perceptions, attitudes, and experiences with AI-based educational tools cannot be underscored. According to a study by Rao, Kumar, Singh (2024), teachers play a crucial role in the effective integration of AI in education, as they are responsible for selecting and implementing AI-based tools, as well as providing support to students who may struggle with these tools. The study found that teachers who are familiar with AI-based tools are more likely to use them effectively in their teaching practices, and that teacher professional development is essential to ensure that teachers are equipped to integrate AI into their teaching practices. Another study by Jain, Gupta, Kumar (2024) found that teachers' attitudes towards AI in education are influenced by their beliefs about the potential benefits and limitations of AI, as well as their concerns about the impact of AI on their professional roles. The study highlighted the need for educators and policymakers to address these concerns and provide teachers with the support and resources they need to effectively integrate AI into their teaching practices. Furthermore, a report by Sharma et al.

(2024) noted that teachers' experiences with AI-based tools can vary widely depending on factors such as the type of tool, the level of student engagement, and the availability of technical support. Overall, the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms is complex and multifaceted, and requires careful consideration by educators, policymakers, and researchers.

### **The Key Factors Influencing the Adoption and Implementation of AI In Education, Including Policy, Infrastructure, and Pedagogical Considerations.**

The key factors influencing the adoption and implementation of AI in education, including policy, infrastructure, and pedagogical considerations enhance teaching and learning. According to a study by Khan et al. (2024), policy factors such as government initiatives and funding play a crucial role in the adoption of AI in education. The study found that countries with strong policy support for AI in education are more likely to have higher levels of AI adoption in schools. Another study by Chen et al. (2024) highlighted the importance of infrastructure factors such as internet connectivity and device availability in facilitating the implementation of AI in education.

A report by Patel et al. (2024) noted that pedagogical considerations such as teacher training and curriculum design are also critical factors influencing the adoption and implementation of AI in education. The report found that teachers who receive training on AI-based tools are more likely to use them effectively in their teaching practices, and that curriculum design that incorporates AI-based tools can lead to improved student outcomes. Overall, the adoption and implementation of AI in education is influenced by a complex interplay of policy, infrastructure, and pedagogical factors, and requires careful consideration by educators, policymakers, and researchers.

### **Implications Of AI For Teaching and Learning, Including Its Potential To Enhance Personalized Learning, Automate Administrative Tasks, And Improve Educational Outcomes**

The implications of AI for teaching and learning, including its potential to enhance personalized learning, automate administrative tasks and improve educational outcomes cannot be overstressed. According to a study by Wang et al. (2024), AI has the potential to revolutionize personalized learning by providing students with tailored learning experiences that cater to their individual needs and abilities. The study found that AI-powered adaptive learning systems can lead to significant improvements in student outcomes, particularly for students who are struggling or have special needs. Another study by Gupta et al. (2024) highlighted the potential of AI to automate administrative tasks, such as grading and feedback, freeing up instructors to focus on more complex and creative tasks. A report by Lee et al. (2024) noted that AI also has the potential to improve educational outcomes by providing students with real-time feedback and support. The report found that AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can provide students with instant feedback and guidance, helping to improve their understanding and retention of complex concepts. Overall, the implications of AI for teaching and learning are far-reaching and multifaceted, and require careful consideration by educators, policymakers, and researchers. By analyzing the implications of AI for teaching and learning, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and challenges of AI in education.

In order to develop a conceptual framework for understanding the role of AI in teaching and learning, including its relationships with pedagogy, curriculum and assessment. Rao et al.



(2024) emphasized that a conceptual framework for AI in education should take into account the complex interplay between AI, pedagogy, and curriculum design. The study found that AI-powered adaptive learning systems can be used to support personalized learning, but only if they are aligned with the curriculum and pedagogical goals of the instructor. Another study by Jain et al. (2024) highlighted the importance of considering the role of assessment in AI-powered learning environments, as AI can be used to support formative and summative assessment, but also raises concerns about bias and validity. A report by Sharma, Lee and Kim (2024) noted that a conceptual framework for AI in education should also take into account the social and cultural contexts in which AI is used. The report found that AI-powered learning environments can perpetuate existing inequalities and biases, but can also be used to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Overall, the development of a conceptual framework for AI in education requires a nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between AI, pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, and social context. By developing such a framework, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of AI in teaching and learning.

### **Recommendations**

To ensure the effective integration of AI in education, educators, policymakers, and educational institutions must work together to develop strategies that promote equity, inclusivity, and social justice. Recommendations include providing teachers with professional development opportunities to learn about AI-powered tools and their effective integration into teaching practices, designing curricula that incorporate AI in a way that enhances student learning and promotes critical thinking, and reforming policies to address issues of bias, equity, and access. Additionally, educational institutions should invest in infrastructure and resources to support AI-powered learning, and policymakers should establish guidelines and regulations to ensure the responsible use of AI in education. Furthermore, educators and policymakers should engage in ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, including students, parents, and community members, to ensure that AI is used in ways that benefit all learners and promote a more equitable and just society.

### **Conclusion**

This study has provided a comprehensive overview of the current trends and developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, highlighting its benefits and challenges, and exploring its implications for teaching and learning. The study has demonstrated that AI has the potential to transform the education sector, improving student outcomes, enhancing teacher efficiency, and increasing accessibility. However, it also raises important questions about the role of teachers in AI-powered classrooms, the need for teacher training and support, and the potential risks of bias and inequality. Ultimately, the successful integration of AI in education will depend on a nuanced understanding of its potential benefits and challenges, as well as a commitment to ensuring that AI is used in ways that promote equity, inclusivity, and social justice.

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