

Will artificial intelligence help students grow or harm their progress? A Contemporary Analysis with Historical Parallels

Manas Verma
Research Scholar, CCSU

Abstract

The swift spread of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the world of academics has raised concerns.

Although AI tools will assist with research, learning and administration, the focus on academic integrity, job displacement, and access, among others, is rising. Recent instances of students protesting that professors can use AI but students cannot, has further fuelled this debate. This article looks at the implications of AI in academia. It discusses the pros and cons of AI, whether AI undermines academic integrity and uses historical context from the computer revolution to frame this debate. By relying on existing statistical data, surveys, and research on recent cases, this study provides a balanced assessment of the role of AI in higher education.

By Artificial Intelligence, it will not / affect the Jobs of Scholars and Educators.

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the ways knowledge is produced, shared, and evaluated in academia. AI tools like ChatGPT, Grammarly, Turnitin, and automated grading have become integral and essential to modern higher education. Yet, like other disruptive technologies, AI creating problems in universities is not unknown. Accusations of AI damaging academic integrity, adding dependency and risk to jobs has surged.

Many reports came out recently about some professors who have banned the use of AI for students, but they are using it for administrative and research purposes. This has led to a protest by students who are also demanding a refund of their tuition fees. The current situation resembles the 1980s and 1990s, when computers were similarly feared, but became necessary in universities and the workplace.

This study examines the various ways in which AI can impact academia whether it be a threat or an opportunity. It uses qualitative and quantitative analysis, with support from case studies and historical comparisons.

2. Literature Review

AI's Impact on Academic Integrity in India.

According to Bhargava and Singh (2023), a scoping review was conducted to study the impact of AI technology on research ethics and academic integrity in India. As part of a Routledge India volume, over 35 academic and policy documents relating to the incorporation of AI in teaching, research and plagiarism detection systems were examined. AI presents exciting

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opportunities for improved research quality and writing support, but at the same time creates new challenges for integrity in academia, the authors explained. AI-enabled paraphrasing tools are not able to be detected via conventional anti-plagiarism tools, said the review. The authors also emphasized the immediate need for Indian universities to update their academic integrity policies for AI-generated content.

Ethical Challenges in AI-driven Academic Workflows.

Bhardwaj et al. (2024) published a more extensive literature review in the International Journal of Education Ethics analyzing ethical issues posed by the use of AI for research and academic writing. Their review included 28 studies. It covered software for detecting plagiarism, abstract AI, and data analysis that automatized Indian higher education. The authors noticed that a lot of academic work is being produced by artificial intelligence (AI) and submitted for publication and evaluation. Moreover, it often goes undetected by most people and does not get picked up by plagiarism software. If left to run unregulated, AI technologies could threaten academic integrity and originality, they warned. As per Bhardwaj et al. (2024), a multi-layered institutional framework to utilize AI-based detection tools backed by human supervision with AI ethics modules must be incorporated into postgraduate and doctoral research.

Ways Indian Education Can Better Integrate AI.

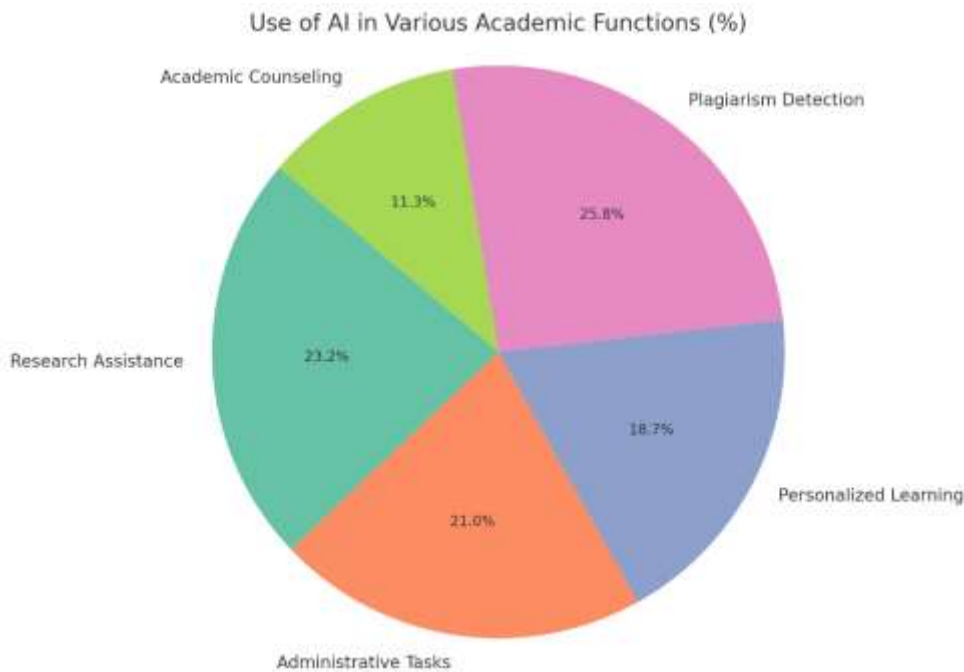
Ziesche and Bhagat (2022) has given a landmark technical report 'State of the Education Report for India 2022: Artificial Intelligence in Education' published by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. The literature review and the policy analysis examined AI adoption trends across more than 100 higher education institutions in India. The report identified a significant policy gap; nearly all universities employed AI-powered plagiarism-detection (lie-detection) tools and remote proctoring tools during the pandemic, but very few had formal policies on their ethical use. As per authors, there are no advisory committees or governance frameworks around AI in most institutions that leave the usage decision unregulated. University professors suggested the addition of AI ethics in curriculum under National Education Policy (NEP) and setting up of AI panel.

Integrity Challenges Generated by Technology in Independent Journalism

According to Yusuf et al. (2024), they conducted a literature review and qualitative analysis on debating academic integrity in the context of generative AI. The study published in International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education is a cross-regional analysis. In the study, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia were the three nations involved.. The study combined 40 articles and institutional policies that spanned the countries. As per the Writers, Indian institutions showed a tendency towards uploading a reactive layer. Through measures like banning the use of AI tools for student assignments and examinations. While allowing faculty use for grading and content creation. According to what they have said, double standards cause a lot of displeasure among students and ethics issue. Yusuf et al. (2024) suggested to involve both faculty and students in the co-creation of AI use policies. They also suggested for workshops on AI literacy and ethics in universities for fairness and transparency.

Plagiarism Detection 80%.

Academic Counseling 35%.



4. Cons of AI in Academia

Threat to Academic Integrity

Essays and assignments made using AI are making it tough to assess students properly. Detection tools sometimes lag behind generative models.

Dependency and Skill Erosion

i. Students might over rely on AI tools and may not build skills like critical thinking, writing and problem solving.

Data Privacy and Security Risks

AI systems use huge amounts of our data. Hence, there are fears regarding data safety, malicious use, or spying.

Job Security Fears

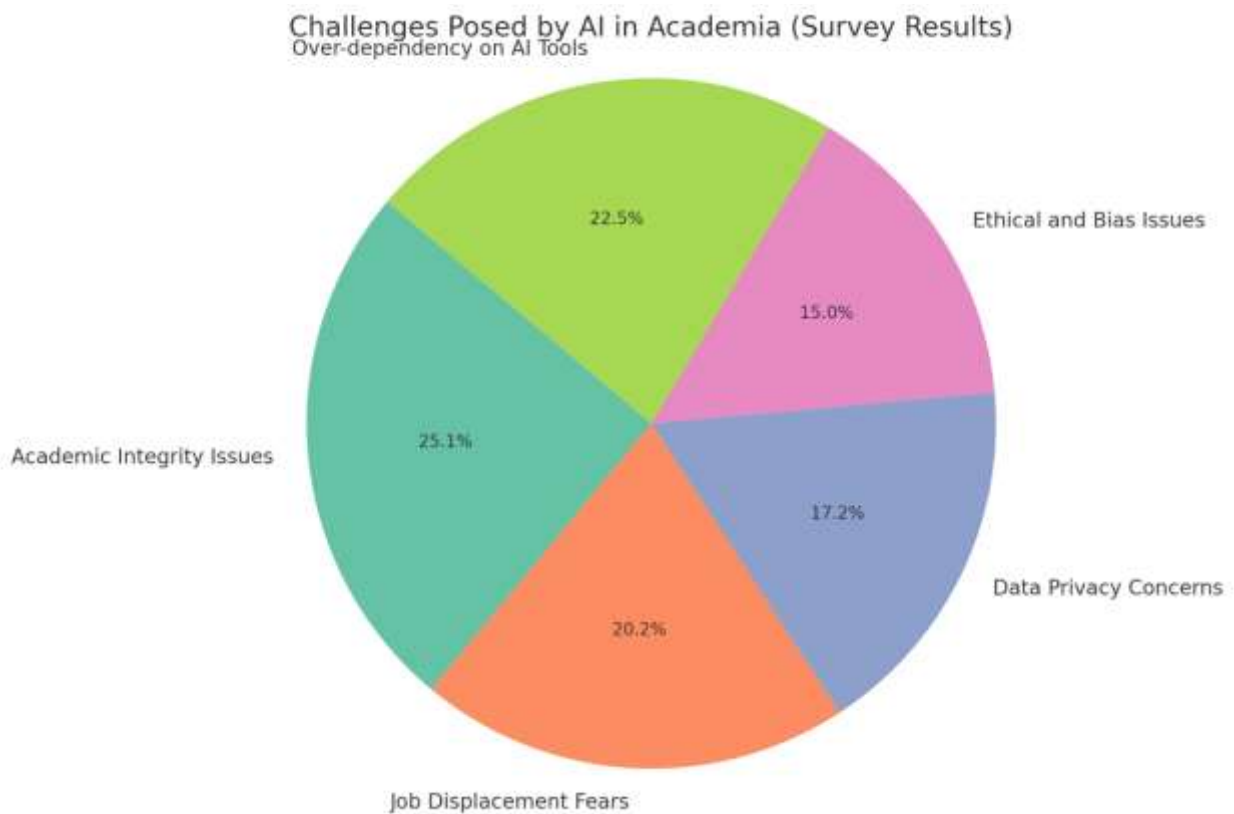
Automation of jobs normally done by academics has raised fears about losing jobs, especially among admins and junior teachers.

Ethical and Bias Concerns

Machine learning models that are trained on biased data will only reinforce that bias.

Survey Results on AI Challenges in Academia (Graph 2)

Concern	Percentage of Respondents.
Academic Integrity Issues	67%.
Job Displacement Fears	54%.
Data Privacy Concerns	46%.
Ethical and Bias Issues	40%.
Over-dependency on AI Tools	60%.



5. Case Studies and Current Debates

Student Protests Over AI Use Policies

Recently, students at American and European universities protested against inconsistent AI policies. While students were punished for using AIs, professors allegedly used AIs for research summaries and grading help.

Historical Parallel: The Computer Revolution

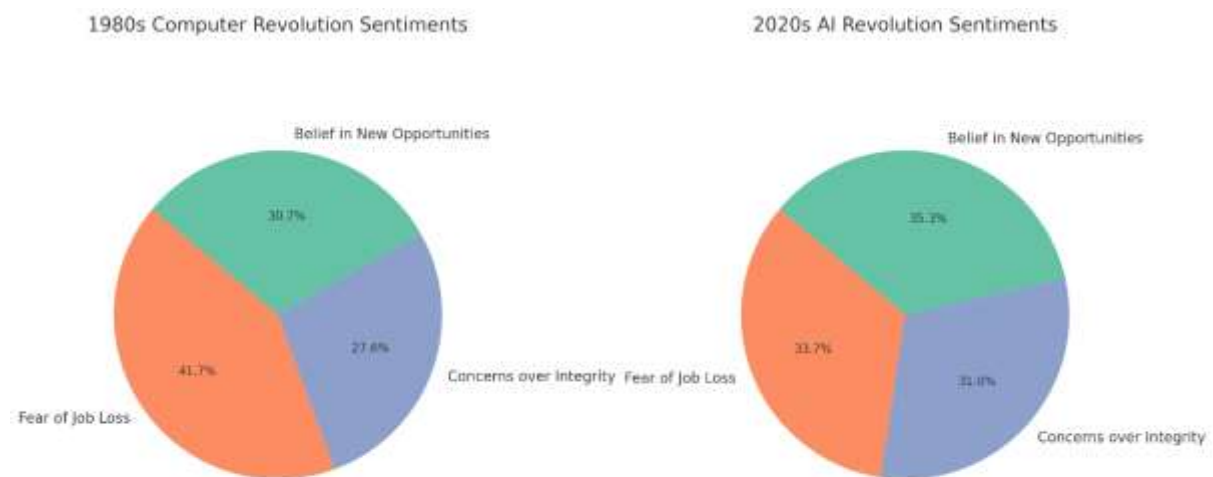
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Computers were conceived as employment and academic threats in the early 1980s when they first came to the academic and corporate life. However, they ended up improving productivity and forming new occupations. This parallel offers a tempered perspective on AI fears.

Graph 3: People’s attitude during Computer and AI revolutions (%)

Sentiment from the 1980s computer revolution to the 2020s AI revolution.

Fear of Job Loss	68%	62%.
Concerns over Integrity	45%	57%.
Belief in New Opportunities	50%	65%.



6. Do you think AI is harming academic integrity?

The central issue relates to the regulation of AI in the academic field. AI can make education accessible for all and can improve quality. But, misappropriation of this technology can obliterate the basic sanctity of education.

When professors begin using AI but ban students from using it, which sparks resentment, protests and more. It is necessary that there be open, fair policy decisions about the use of AI by all stakeholders that preserve academic integrity.

Historical evidence shows that people often push back against technology until institutions change and find a way to make the technology work for them. The current debate over AI is reminiscent of those over computers in the past. In turn, this highlights the need for the balancing mind set.

7. Conclusion

The use of AI in higher education is both a blessing and a curse. This has the potential to change the way we learn, research, and administer programs, but unchecked it will erode academic integrity, create dependency, and (potentially) displace jobs.

Institutions must learn from the computer revolution and take the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) and come out proactively with policies that address concerns related to it, including through transparency in practices and collaboration as well. If used properly, AI can not harm the basic value of education.

8. Recommendations

- Create policies for students and staff about how to use A.I.
- Add AI literacy programs to student classes.
- Get tools for the ethical auditing and detection of AI.
- Stimulate AI applications for inclusivity and accessibility.
- Enable discussions among stakeholders to clarify fears and expectations.

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