

EDITORIAL

Embrace It but Humanise It: Technology for Humanity and Sustainability

In an increasingly digitalised environment, the inclusion of technology in education has evolved from a luxury to a must. The 21st century has brought rapid technological breakthroughs that have changed virtually every aspect of our lives, including education. One of these breakthroughs is artificial intelligence (AI). The invention of artificial intelligence (AI) is the most transformative technology of our time, a major turning point in the development of human intelligence and a technological milestone. Without qualm, AI has revolutionised the education sector by making teaching and learning more efficient, personalised and accessible.

At its best, technology is improving education by enabling teachers to present subject matter more effectively, personalise lessons and engage a wide range of learners. Interactive whiteboards, learning management systems, internet resources and virtual classrooms have made teaching more dynamic, adaptable and student-centred. Today's students are no longer just passive users of information; they are actively engaged in their learning processes, supported by digital tools and platforms that encourage creativity and curiosity. It provides learners with a wealth of opportunities, promotes autonomous learning, develops digital competences, facilitates collaborative learning and improves critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Despite the obvious benefits, the use of technology, particularly AI in education, presents an insurmountable challenge when it comes to integrity, honesty and privacy — an issue that educators and institutions need to address carefully. With the hope that technology and AI will move the world forward for the future generation, the same technology is taking a step back. Today's age is characterised by remarkable scientific progress, global interdependence and the collective pursuit of peace and prosperity, but war remains a terrible paradox. Although scientific and economic progress offers the potential for human advancement, wars are a constant step backwards — destroying lives, disintegrating nations and undermining the fabric of civilisation.

Notwithstanding our progress, warfare shows the vulnerability of progress. Hospitals become battlefields, schools are decimated, and infrastructures meant to improve lives become targets of destruction before the eyes of the world. As a result, millions of people are displaced, economies are destabilised, divides between people are deepened and the SDGs' dream of achieving quality education worldwide by 2030 seems elusive. The human civilisation that has taken decades and centuries to build can be destroyed in a second in a matter of days with the help of AI and sophisticated technological weapons.

Present-day nations are no longer in search of technologies that can propel human learning and personal growth at supersonic speeds. Instead, they are buying supersonic missiles and advanced air defence systems. One wonders whether these missiles and defence systems will protect or destroy

humanity—whether they will lift people out of abject poverty or sink them deeper—keep people safe or make them less safe? Can technologies be wrong, or do humans err? These are the questions to ponder as you read the July issue of IIUM IJES. The July issue, introduces you to the benefits of integrating technology into teaching and learning in conjunction with the importance of education for sustainability and community development.

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