

# Resume of "Will AI Destroy Education?"

Dalia Hareb

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*Will AI destroy education* is an article written by By Moshe Y. Vardi ,a University Professor, published on Communications of the ACM website in January 2020 where he presented his point of view about the impact of using AI in the education system.

## 1 Problem

According to Prof. Vardi, Artificial intelligence is everywhere nowadays. Several AI Research Institutes have been launched by The U.S. National Science Foundation (NFS) in 2020 to push forward the frontiers of AI and one of the themes of this research initiative is "AI-Augmented Learning.

However, he thinks that even if technology might improve education by making free or almost free massive open online courses (MOOC) available for either rich or poor students. As a staunch defender of books, he also believes that reading produces "men and women with capacity for original thought". Also, he argues that state spending on public higher education remains well below historical levels in the U.S. And this is might be caused by the ignorance of the true cost of faculty labor involved in producing and running MOOCs.

Moreover, he believes that deploying AI in education without answering to some important and big questions, like: "What problems are we trying to solve? How do we measure improvements? Are we trying to improve teaching or replace teachers? What are the drivers? Societal need? Technology? Money?" is a mistake and unethical because according to him, it's primordial to define what needs to be improved, so it can be possible to know what successes have been realised. Also, it may ensure that using AI in education is going to be used for good.

## 2 Solution

In order to avoid any damage, prof. Vardi believes that one of the solutions to address the problem exposed above is to move slow without breaking things and deploy technology to respond to a **well-understood** problem. One exemple of

the use of such technology is the Online Master of Science in Computer Science (OMSCS), a degree program at the College of Computing of Georgia Institute of Technology which educates thousands of students with very affordable tuition and without forcing them to assist classes if they have professional life besides.

### 3 Pros

From my point of view, I totally agree with prof. Vardi when he states that AI may destroy education if we do not take safe steps and define clearly the ultimate objectives behind each idea, each technology and each project. Because, even if the initial goal of deploying AI in education is to help students to learn easily and get access to the most of knowledge possible, applying the attitude of "disruptive innovation" to education risks causing tremendous damage. And this is going to be due to the misunderstanding of the problem they tried to solve.

Regarding the master he talked about, I'm not able to take any position because of the lack of information about it.

### 4 Cons

Theoretically, the scenario proposed by prof. Vardi is perfect but it is also uthopic. Because, if we are, let's say, realistic we'd realise that actually answering to such questions may take very long time if we want to do it in a right way. And even if we do, very often the long-term consequences are impossible to predict and become out of control at a some point. Because, we must not forget that these technologies are always in interaction with people and students. So, in fact AI technologies depend fully on the behavior of these lasts which ceases to amaze us.