**Yes, AI could profoundly disrupt education. But maybe that’s not a bad thing**

Rose Luckin

*Humans need to excel at things AI can’t do – and that means more creativity and critical thinking and less memorisation*

Education strikes at the heart of what makes us human. It drives the intellectual capacity and prosperity of nations. It has developed the minds that took us to the moon and eradicated previously incurable diseases. And the special status of education is why generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are likely to profoundly [disrupt this sector](https://www.theguardian.com/money/2023/jun/27/the-future-is-bleak-how-ai-concerns-are-shaping-graduates-career-choices). This isn’t a reflection of their intelligence, but of our failure to build education systems that nurture and value our unique human intelligence.

We are being duped into believing these AI tools are [far more intelligent](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2023/mar/16/the-stupidity-of-ai-artificial-intelligence-dall-e-chatgpt) than they really are. A [tool like ChatGPT](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/01/chatgpt-write-code-computer-programmer-software) has no understanding or knowledge. It merely collates bits of words together based on statistical probabilities to produce useful texts. It is an incredibly helpful assistant.

But it is not knowledgeable, or wise. It has no concept of how any of the words it produces relate to the real world. The fact that it can pass so many forms of assessment merely reflects that those assessments were not designed to test knowledge and understanding but rather to test whether people had collected and memorised information.

AI could be a force for tremendous good within education. It could release teachers from administrative tasks, giving them more opportunities to spend time with students. However, we are woefully equipped to benefit from the AI that is flooding the market. It does not have to be like this. There is still time to prepare, but we must act quickly and wisely. <…>