**From Tool to Tutor: The Role of AI in Enhancing University Learning Experiences Among Students in University of Southeastern Philippines**

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**Overview**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping university learning by providing personalized tutoring, automated feedback, and research support (Crompton & Burke, 2023). This study explores AI’s role in enhancing student learning experiences at the University of Southeastern Philippines, assessing awareness, effectiveness, and challenges. By examining AI integration, student engagement, and institutional support, this research aims to highlight AI’s potential as a transformative educational tool and provide insights for its improved implementation.

**Problem Statement:**

While AI has the potential to enhance education, there are concerns about its ethical use, reliability, and potential for misuse. Many students may not fully understand the implications of AI in learning, which could lead to over-reliance on these tools or improper use. Additionally, universities may lack structured strategies for integrating AI into the curriculum, resulting in gaps in digital literacy and understanding of how to effectively and responsibly use AI in academic settings (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019).

**Purpose and Scope**

This study explores the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing university learning experiences at the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP). As AI-powered educational tools become increasingly integrated into academic settings, understanding their impact on student learning is essential. This research aims to:

* Assess students' familiarity with and usage of AI-based learning tools.
* Examine how AI contributes to academic engagement, personalized learning, and overall student performance.
* Evaluate existing AI-driven initiatives within the university, including their accessibility and effectiveness.
* Provide recommendations for optimizing AI adoption to create a more student-centered and efficient learning environment.

This study is specifically focused on AI applications in student learning and does not extend to AI’s role in administrative tasks, faculty research, or other non-academic functions within the university. By identifying key trends and challenges, the research seeks to offer valuable insights into the evolving role of AI in higher education.

**Background/Case Summary**

AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and Coursera, have become widely used by students for writing, coding, and research support. Universities around the world are integrating AI-driven platforms for plagiarism detection, adaptive learning, and virtual tutoring to enhance academic experiences. However, concerns such as misinformation, academic dishonesty, and ethical implications have emerged (Crompton & Burke, 2023).

Understanding how AI is utilized within the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) can help address these challenges and improve the effectiveness of AI-powered learning tools. By examining student engagement, institutional support, and the benefits and limitations of AI in education, this study aims to provide insights into optimizing AI’s role in higher learning.

**Important Facts**

* AI-powered tools are widely used for assignments, research, and tutoring.
* Many universities are adopting AI-driven technologies but may lack clear policies on responsible usage.
* Ethical concerns, including academic integrity and AI bias, need to be addressed.

**Relevant Background Information**

**Identification of Stakeholders**

The primary stakeholders in this study are the students of the University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) from various colleges, including Engineering, Accounting, Computing, and other disciplines. These students are the main users of AI tools in their academic journey, and their experiences, feedback, and performance are central to evaluating the effectiveness and impact of AI technologies in enhancing learning. By examining a diverse group of students from different fields of study, this research aims to capture a broad perspective on how AI tools influence educational outcomes across various academic disciplines.

**Analysis and Discussion**

The responses from students at the University of Southeastern Philippines highlight the growing role of AI in academic learning. The data indicates that commonly used AI tools include ChatGPT, QuillBot, Grammarly, and DeepSeek, primarily for research, writing, grammar checking, and idea generation. Students incorporate AI into their learning process by using it for summarizing content, tutoring, and problem-solving, particularly in subjects like programming and mathematics.

A significant majority of respondents believe AI has positively influenced their study habits by making learning more efficient. One student stated, "AI helps me understand difficult topics faster and provides instant explanations when I struggle with programming assignments." Another respondent mentioned, "I use AI tools like Grammarly and QuillBot to refine my essays, making my writing clearer and more professional." Many students reported that AI tools helped them grasp complex concepts, improve their writing, and enhance their research capabilities. Additionally, AI-assisted learning has contributed to better grades and more effective studying by providing instant explanations and academic support.

Despite these benefits, concerns about AI usage remain. Some students fear over-reliance on AI, which may hinder critical thinking and independent learning. One participant noted, "I sometimes feel like I'm relying too much on AI, and I worry it might weaken my problem-solving skills." Others highlight ethical issues, such as academic dishonesty and misinformation. A respondent expressed, "There are times when AI provides incorrect information, so I have to double-check sources." However, a few respondents expressed no concerns, emphasizing that AI is merely a tool to aid learning rather than replace traditional study methods. One student shared, "AI is just a tool—I still use my own judgment when studying."

**Conclusion**

AI has undeniably transformed university learning experiences by offering personalized academic support, enhancing efficiency, and improving student engagement. The findings suggest that students benefit from AI tools in research, writing, and understanding difficult topics. However, concerns regarding over-reliance and ethical implications highlight the need for responsible AI usage. Universities should implement clear guidelines on AI integration to balance technological advancements with academic integrity, ensuring AI remains a beneficial supplement to traditional learning rather than a substitute for critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Recommendations**

1. **AI Literacy Programs:** Universities should implement workshops and training sessions to educate students on responsible AI usage, emphasizing its role as a learning aid rather than a substitute for independent thinking.
2. **Ethical AI Guidelines:** Institutions should establish clear policies on AI integration in academic work to prevent over-reliance and maintain academic integrity.
3. **Fact-Checking and Source Validation:** Students should be encouraged to verify AI-generated information by cross-referencing multiple reliable sources to mitigate misinformation.
4. **Balanced AI Use in Learning:** Professors can integrate AI-based tools into coursework while also promoting traditional problem-solving methods to maintain critical thinking skills.
5. **University-Supported AI Platforms:** Developing or endorsing AI-driven platforms tailored to academic needs can ensure safe and effective AI usage aligned with university standards.

**REFERENCES**

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Crompton, H., & Burke, D. (2023). Artificial intelligence in higher education: The state of the field. *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education, 20*(1), 22.<https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-023-00392-8>

**Q1.** What AI tools do you use for studying, and how frequently? *(e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, QuillBot, etc.)* **Q2.** How do you incorporate AI into your learning process? *(e.g., research, writing, tutoring, summarizing content, generating ideas, etc.)* **Q3.** Do you rely on AI for specific subjects or tasks? If so, which ones?  **Q4.** Do you think AI has changed your approach to studying? If yes, how?

| Respondents | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| R1 | ChatGpt kapag naay reporting tapos Quillbot kapag magbuhat ug reflection and all | Mag-summarize ug content, sometimes kapag maglisod kog sabot kay ginapasimplify nako. | Sometimes, Quillbot kapag magcheck ug grammar or magparaphrase. | Yes, specifically when it comes to reporting, mas ma-elaborate nako akoa topics. |
| R2 | chatgpt and quillbot, I use it whenever I am having hard time in my assignments. | I use it mainly for checking grammatical errors, sometimes generate some ideas and to summarize long texts in modules | Yes specially in programming sometimes it helps me with my code. | I think machange sya, mas napadali niya akoang mga task and mas dali sabton ang mga himuonon. |
| R3 | Chatgpt, quillbot, deepseek | generating ideas | I would say a subject or task that involves math. | Yes, AI significantly changed my approach in terms of school matter in a way that it makes my student life more bearable. |
| R4 | ChatGPT and QuillBot. I use them frequently, especially when working on assignments. | As a student in education, I use AI for research to find helpful resources quickly, for writing by generating ideas and proofreading, and for summarizing content to make studying easier. AI also helps by explaining difficult topics and gives different teaching strategies which is essential for us as a future educator. | Sometimes. I rely on AI for different strategies depending on the subject or task. For example, I use AI for research in subjects like history or education, and for writing tasks like essays or reports. I also use AI for summarizing content in complex subjects and for getting help with difficult topics. | Yes, AI has made studying more efficient by helping me find resources, summarize content, and get quick help with tough concepts. It also helps me stay organized and manage my time better. |
| R5 | Chatgpt | Tutoring | Nope | Yes, by explaining terms that it's hard for me to understand |
| R6 | ChatGPT sometimes when needed | I sometimes incorporate it for seeking guidance and for grammar checking | No | No |
| R7 | Chat GPT | Generating ideas | No | Yes |
| R8 | I use ChatGPT and Grammarly regularly. ChatGPT for studying and brainstorming, and Grammarly for proofreading and clarity. | I use AI for studying, researching, generating ideas, and summarizing content to enhance my learning process. | I use AI mainly for researching, studying, generating ideas, and summarizing content, but not for specific subjects. | Yes, AI has made studying more efficient by providing quick explanations, generating practice questions, and helping me understand complex topics better. |
| R9 | Notebook LN, Gemini, Grammarly, Turn it in | Tutoring and generating ideas | Not really, I mostly use AI to understand the lesson more. | Yes, during the current midterms I use Notebook LN to summarize the content so its more digestible in a short time. |
| R10 | ChatGPT | Research, Tutoring, and summarizing | Yes, studying | Yes, made it easier to me to study |
| R11 | ChatGPT, Grammarly, QuillBot | Generating Ideas and Gathering Informations | No | Yes by gathering information easier |
| R12 | ChatGPT and CoPilot | Grammar Correction, Opinion, Summarize, Generate ideas, Scoring my work | I rely on it more in my coding subject, for example instead of searching the web how to fix an error I just ask ChatGPT. | Yes, it change how I study, like I do not need to summarize everything on my own, find solution to a specific problem. |
| R13 | ChatGPT and Grammarly - thrice a month | Summarizing content, grammar checking, generating ideas, searching | Not totally, but I use AI in hard tasks or projects | Yes, using AI tools, it's now easier for me to research and study. Back then after searching something, I have to write all the necessary informations for me to be able to study after. But now, it's easier because AI will make it for me. Listing and summarizing the things i searched and even generating quizzes in order to test my learnings. |
| R14 | ChatGPT | Generating ideas and summarizing contents | Programming | Yes, studying with AI helps me understand as it clearly explains some processes that some books or modules lacks |
| R15 | ChatGPT, sometimes | As a tool in helping me understand a complex topic, in creating summarizations of certain ideas, and also as an advanced search tool. I also use AI in coding. | In creating reviewers or generating key points for a report. | Yes. Using AI in creating reviewers and acting as an advanced search engine makes studying more efficient |

**Q5.  
Q6.  
Q7.**

**Q8.**

| Respondents | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| R1 | Yes, parehas anang naay mga unfamiliar na terminologies, pwede nimo sya ipa-simplify kay AI. | Yes, in a way nga kaya niya i-explain ang topics in simplest way para mas masabtan sa students. | Biggest advantage, it makes learning easier.  Drawback, naging dependent ang mga students sa AI which is not good kay di na ma enhance ang mga skills such as critical thinking skill. | Yes, over-reliance. Despite sa advantages sa pag use ug AI, we can’t deny the fact gihapon na mas naging tamad and dependent ang students. |
| R2 | Yes like for example pag mag module lang mi or ipa self study, sometimes maglisod gyud kog sabot and gahelp jud ang ai like chatgpt kay pwede man nimo sya mapangutan-an. | Yes nakacontribute gyud sya sa akoang grade and more efficient kay naay mga task na pwede nalang nmo iautomate then mag focus ka didto sa mas lisod nga task. | Para sa akoa biggest advantages sa AI is kaya niya iautomate ang mga easy task para mas efficient pero usahay kay magsalig na ta sa AI na miski basic nalang na task di na ta kabalo muhimo. | Sa academic siguro kay over reliance lang kay naay times dili accurate ang AI and kailangan jud ug human na mucheck kung tama ba ang giingon sa AI. |
| R3 | Yes. For instance, if there’s a certain task given to me and I’m having a hard time to understand the question or instruction I copy paste it to an AI tool and command it to make the question more understandable. | I would yes YES, because AI indeed help in learning and it makes learning easier. | Biggest advantage of AI in my perspective is it significantly helped me in my study by making learning easier. But the drawbacks is I often find myself relying on AI too much, I noticed that I’m no longer putting effort in my study since AI exist. | I have none. |
| R1 | Yes, AI tools have helped me understand difficult topics better. For example, in our major subject (teaching social studies in elementary grades), I was having trouble understanding the concept of differentiated instruction. I used AI to break down the strategy into smaller steps and provide real-world examples. This not only clarified the concept but also helped me generate creative ideas on how to teach social studies in a more engaging way. With AI’s help, I was able to plan interactive activities and tailor my lesson for different learning styles, which will make my upcoming teaching demonstration more effective and engaging. | Yes, I think AI has helped me get better grades and study more efficiently. AI makes it easier to find resources, understand difficult topics, and organize my notes which makes studying faster and more effective. | The biggest advantage of using AI for learning is that it makes studying more efficient by providing quick access to information, helping with difficult topics, and offering personalized support. It also helps organize notes and manage time better.  However, a drawback is that relying too much on AI might reduce critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Also, AI may not always provide accurate information, so it's important to double-check sources. | Yes, personally, I have some concerns about using AI in academics. One concern is over-reliance, where there are times I depend too much on AI for answers, which could affect my ability to think critically and solve problems on my own. That's why It’s important to use AI responsibly and not replace essential learning skills. |
| R2 | Yes | Yes | Making it more easier while it can also lead to dependency on AI | I don't have concerns about it because we're now in modern day it's just the over reliance and dependency |
| R3 | Yes. Example is for unfamiliar topics | Yes, it guides me and help me in specific tasks | Generating ideas and correcting my grammars | None so far |
| R4 | Yes | Yes | Makes life easier yet may result to total dependence to AI and sometimes limits someone to explore or and discover someone's hidden potential due to total reliance on AI's. | Yes |
| R5 | Yes, AI tools have helped me understand difficult topics better. For example, I use ChatGPT to simplify complex Business Taxation concepts and practice solving VAT-related problems, which improves my comprehension. | Yes, AI helps me study faster and understand topics better, which likely improves my grades. | Advantages: Quick explanations, efficient study, personalized help.  Drawbacks: Over-reliance, lack of critical thinking, possible inaccuracies. | Yes, about over-reliance and the risk of compromising original thinking. |
| R6 | Yes it has, for example with gemini, I can have a conversation and with that we can talk and do a deep dive on a specific topic | AI has definitely helped me in my studies especially when there is something I don't understand and if I'm short on time | Advantages: convinient, and AI can helps you to understand better  Disadvantage: over-reliance | Off course, the no. 1 Issue in using AI in academics is the over-relience of using it, but aside from that I can't think of any at the moment |
| R7 | Yes, Software Engineering | Yes, very fast and efficient | easy but makes person lazy | No |
| R8 | yeah it helps me example of that is when i wanted to know about our leasson which is all about the Gas laws | yes it contributes to us by allowing the students to have a basic understanding on topics that they doesn't really know about. | one of tha biggest advantage of AI is that the student can have a grasp on the topics that they are tackling about and its biggest drawback or let s say affect is that students or people can tend to rely on it | maybe the some really over relied on it but it really is depending on the student on how he uses the AI for ones self |
| R9 | Yes it help me understand more, example I do not understand this type of things, instead of blindly searching across the web, I just ask chatgpt and double check it if it is correct | Yes, cause it make my work easier, and easier work equal more time to study. | For me the biggest advantage is that it made everything easier, and the drawback is that we sometimes relies on it too much, which lead to doubt our abilities in actual thinking. | Yes I have one concern and that is over-reliance on AI, so much reliance that you don't know how to. |
| R10 | Yes. Just like in my report in a specific subject, I did bot understand the explanation provided in the module so, I asked the AI tool to explain it to me as simple as possible and it did. | I think AI tools really contributed because using these tools, it can improve your writing skills and find informations easier without browsing different webpages. AI tools will do it for you | Easier searching and improve vocabulary and writing skills. But if abused, it can lead to laziness among students to study and learn | Too much reliance resulting to laziness of some students to actually learn from it. |
| R11 | Yes, if i know how to approach a problem logically but i cannot translate it into a code, AI helps me understand how to execute my approach | Yes, because in college, time is running so fast, you wont have time to read several chapters in the module, AI can summarize all important items in a module for efficient studying. And it also provide detailed examples for me to understand a concept better | Since AI only answers what information it absorbs so idea generating with AI might be already overused by other people. Thinking outside the box can be harder to those relying in ai for idea generating | AI sometimes gives a false references and due to over reliance they do not even check the source ai gave if it is a correct information and just add it in their study |
| R12 | Yes. For ideas that are new to me or difficult to understand like socio-political ideologies. | Yes, by making certain tasks like creating key points automated and easier. | Advantages: Efficient and can be modified to fit personal learning style. Disadvantages: Can become too reliant, being lazy especially when doing assignments. | Personally, I don't have concerns about issues such as over-reliance as it ultimately depends on the individual and how they use AI. However, I do have a problem about AI checkers mistakenly labeling works as AI generated, making authors lose credibility. |