

Will AI Become Better Teachers Than Humans?

The potential for AI to become better teachers than humans is a topic of significant debate, and while AI offers several advantages, there are also critical limitations. Here are some key points to consider:

Advantages

Personalization

AI, through adaptive learning systems, can tailor educational content to the individual learning pace and style of each student, identify areas where they struggle, provide realtime feedback, and adjust the curriculum with customized exercises accordingly.

Availability

AI systems can be available 24/7, providing students with consistent instruction, access to learning materials, and assistance whenever needed without the variability that might come from different human teachers.

Scalability:

AI can educate large numbers of students simultaneously without a drop in quality.

Limitations

Emotional Intelligence

AI lacks the ability to understand and respond to the emotional needs of students, and cannot replicate the empathy, encouragement, motivation, and relationship-building that human teachers provide, which are crucial for a supportive learning environment.

Creativity and Critical Thinking

Human teachers can inspire creativity, critical thinking, and a passion for learning in ways that AI, which relies on predefined algorithms and data, cannot, emphasizing that teaching is not just about transferring knowledge but also about providing a human touch and inspiration.

3. Ethical and Social Considerations:

The use of AI in education raises ethical issues, including data privacy and the potential for biased algorithms, and over-reliance on AI might reduce essential human interaction needed for the development of social skills.

Conclusion

Before thinking whether AI is a better teacher, we would have to define what is a “better teacher”. If you define teacher as “the way of getting new knowledge”, I will say that AI is a better teacher. But if you define teacher as “the one teaching in the school”, I will say that the answer is negative. As a child of an elementary school teacher, I can not imagine a world without elementary school teachers. In elementary schools, teachers will teach all the basic concepts like how to use the toilet, how to speak in a polite way, how to make friends, how to behave well on class. Some of these tasks require physical support, some of them requires the skills of dealing with children. Although there might be a robot have some powerful models embedded inside to teach those things, they are still other safety issues, not to mention the fact that they don’t have emotions. The students often cry, yell, scream in the classroom which is too hard for current AI to handle. Suppose there is one day that AI can have emotions and the robots are strong enough, I can imagine AI replacing teachers, but as a person that believe AI will not have emotion, I do not expect that to happen.