

## **A Transformative Perspective on Integrating Generative AI in Science Education: Benefits, Challenges, and Ethical Considerations**

**Khinal Parmar<sup>a</sup>, Mahesh S. Naik<sup>\*\*</sup> and Swapnil Anil Prabhudesai<sup>a</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Department of Basic Sciences & Humanities, SVKM's NMIMS Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management & Engineering, Mumbai, India

### **Abstract**

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is significantly influencing education by creating human-like text, images, and audio. This advancement offers opportunities to enhance teaching through personalized content, adaptive tutoring systems, and interactive learning environments, catering to diverse learning styles and boosting student engagement and outcomes. However, challenges arise in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated content and addressing ethical concerns such as data privacy and algorithmic bias. Developing digital literacy skills among educators and students is essential to navigate these issues. This study reviews research from 2014 to 2024, examining AI's impact on science education. It proposes a structured framework for integrating AI, emphasizing ongoing monitoring, ethical practices, and professional development. The goal is to provide insights that support effective and responsible use of AI in educational settings.

**Keywords:** generative artificial intelligence, ethical, theoretical framework, science education, benefits.

### **Introduction**

Many aspects of human existence, including education, are being rapidly revolutionized by generative artificial intelligence (AI). Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize educational environments by producing text, visuals, and even audio that resembles that of a person. This presents creative opportunities for the improvement of pedagogy. However, these prospects also provide important problems that politicians, educators, and students must overcome. With the promise of improving teaching and learning through personalized content production, adaptive tutoring systems, and interactive learning environments, generative AI technologies have become more and more popular in educational contexts in recent years. By accommodating different learning styles and preferences, these technologies can maximize student engagement and learning outcomes. Furthermore, the creation of imaginative and dynamic educational materials can be aided by generative AI techniques, creating a lively and engaging learning environment. By accommodating different learning styles and preferences, AI technologies can maximize student engagement and learning outcomes. Additionally, the creation of imaginative and engaging educational materials can be aided by generative AI techniques, creating a lively and engaging learning environment. Notwithstanding these assurances, incorporating generative AI into the classroom presents a number of difficulties that should be carefully considered. The validity and dependability of content produced by AI are two of the main issues. It is getting harder to tell the difference between content created by generative AI systems and content written by humans. This calls into question the reliability of instructional materials and the possibility of spreading false information in classroom environments [1, 2].

Furthermore, it is impossible to ignore the ethical ramifications of generative AI in the classroom. Ensuring the appropriate and fair use of AI technology in educational environments is significantly challenged by issues including data privacy, algorithmic bias, and digital rights. To reduce any harms and protect students' interests, educators and legislators need to address these ethical issues. Developing digital literacy abilities in teachers and pupils is another important concern. People must learn to critically assess AI-generated information, identify biases, and resolve difficult ethical conundrums as generative AI becomes more prevalent in educational settings. Encouraging digital literacy will enable students to use AI technologies responsibly and develop into knowledgeable digital citizens. In addition, the quick development of generative AI begs the question of what the future holds for teachers in the digital age. The vital human component of education remains even though AI technologies could automate some aspects of teaching and administrative activities [3].

Human participation is still essential, highlighting the priceless importance of human interaction in education. Beyond just programming, human interaction and monitoring in AI also include protection setup [4], data curation [5], and training AI systems to distinguish between useful and hazardous information [6]. The process of creating sophisticated AI is labour-intensive, difficult, and may subject workers to exploitation [7]. The field of artificial intelligence in education, or AIEd, is a developing multidisciplinary field that uses AI technology to improve and modernize classroom settings. As interest in AI's effects on general education grows, so does the application of AI in science teaching and learning [8]. More precisely, scientific models utilized in the education industry have been automatically assessed through the application of machine learning, a particular kind of artificial intelligence technology.

Even though artificial intelligence has gained popularity in many areas of education, more empirical research is needed to fully understand artificial intelligence's place, benefits, and drawbacks in science education. Due to this knowledge gap, educators, legislators, and educational administrators may be forced to make decisions based on incomplete and inconsistent data, missing out on chances to improve science instruction and student learning using artificial intelligence. The current work closes this gap by offering a systematic evaluation that thoroughly analyzes and compiles the empirical publications from 2014 to 2023 that demonstrate AI's influence on science education. This assessment considers the entire range of AI technologies, including both pre-GenAI and GenAI advances, even though GenAI represents a considerable increase in AI capabilities. By doing this, we hope to offer a comprehensive view of the current situation, assisting stakeholders in realizing the potential of AI while also considering its drawbacks and moral ramifications for the educational sector.

### **Literature Review**

In its widest definition, artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the intelligence displayed by machines, especially computer systems. This area of computer science study focuses on creating and analysing tools and software that allow machines to sense their surroundings and use intelligence and learning to make decisions that will increase their chances of accomplishing specific objectives. Advanced web search engines, like Google Search, as well as generative and artistic tools, including ChatGPT, Apple Intelligence, and AI art, are a few well-known uses of AI. After its November 2022 launch, ChatGPT attracted over 100 million users in just its first two months of operation. One could legitimately contend that it has developed into the most innovative, significant, and prosperous application in recent memory.

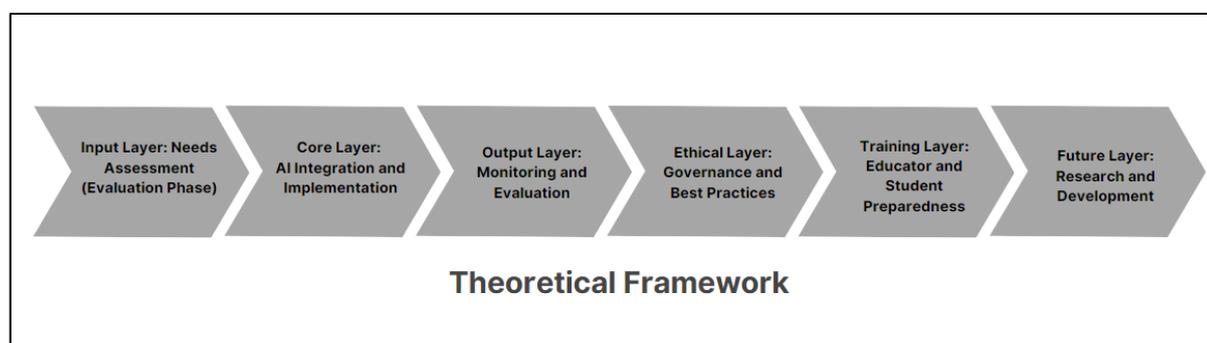
To gather relevant literature, a comprehensive search strategy was employed. This involved utilizing databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, JSTOR, Scopus, and Elsevier. Keywords like "generative AI in education," "AI in science teaching," and "AI-generated content" were used to identify pertinent studies. The search was refined to focus on peer-reviewed articles, recent publications, and foundational works in the field. This multi-faceted approach ensured a diverse and thorough collection of sources, providing a comprehensive perspective on the current state and future potential of AI in science education. Through this literature review, we aim to synthesize existing knowledge, identify research gaps, and offer insights for effectively integrating AI technologies in educational settings.

Zhai et al. [9] collected student answers to activities and then used machine learning techniques to evaluate the student responses. According to their research, artificial intelligence can be utilized to automate assessment processes and give students prompt, in-depth feedback on their science education assignments [9]. In a similar vein, Popenici and Kerr [10] looked into how AI affected the process of teaching and learning in environments related to higher education. Their research concentrated on the ways that traditional teaching methods in education and student learning are being impacted by intelligent technologies. Their study offers insightful information about integrating AI into science teaching settings. In their methodical evaluation of AI applications in higher education, Zawacki-Richter et al. [11] emphasized the crucial role that educators may play in this field. Their findings highlight how crucial it is to investigate and comprehend the requirements and viewpoints of educators when incorporating these technologies into educational environments. According to Yilmaz & Yilmaz [15], GenAI has the potential to enhance students' coding proficiency by providing prompt coding feedback. They also observed that this kind of coding assistance raises students' confidence in coding while strengthening their problem-solving and critical thinking abilities. There are additional challenges mentioned, like the possibility of student complacency and worries about professional development.

Our social context recognition capabilities, which bring generative AI closer to human-robot interaction than to human-software interaction, are among the issues that need to be considered. This kind of context includes hypothetical scenarios that give people more insight into how to apply their ideas most effectively, as well as dialogue-style communication that can identify and connect ideas and provide instances of specific social or psychological situations [16, 22]. According to Pataranutaporn et al. [20], software and algorithm communication is typically offered as an algorithm, in which a person gives instructions to software to perform a task. After the software has carried out a task, communication ends. In contrast to detached, one-sided processes, generative AI collaborates with the user to enable imaginative thinking and tasks [21]. These functions are significantly more akin to simulating an actual conversation between two people. In contrast to conventional software, generative AI makes use of both adaptive learning and deep data mining, which becomes better with each interaction over time [22]. By adapting to responses and broadening its knowledge base, generative AI gains insights from discussions and refines concepts, enhancing its capacity to offer support and useful information [18].

### **Theoretical Framework**

The integration of generative AI into science education offers transformative opportunities to enhance learning experiences and outcomes. By leveraging AI's capabilities to create personalized learning environments, generate dynamic educational content, and provide instant feedback, educators can significantly improve student engagement and comprehension. However, this technological advancement also brings forth challenges related to ethical use, data privacy, and the need for critical digital literacy. Addressing these concerns through a structured framework (Figure 1) ensures that AI's benefits are maximized while maintaining the integrity and quality of education. Below are detailed explanations of each layer, along with examples of tools that can be utilized at each stage.



**Figure1:** theoretical framework

#### **Input Layer: Needs Assessment**

In the initial phase, conducting a thorough needs assessment is crucial to identify specific educational objectives for integrating AI into science education. This involves defining the goals such as enhancing personalized learning and student engagement. A detailed evaluation of available resources, including current AI tools, technological infrastructure, and educator readiness, is essential. This foundational work ensures that the subsequent AI implementation aligns with educational needs and is feasible within existing capabilities. Tools like SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, SWOT Analysis Tools etc. can be used here.

Understanding the potential and challenges of AI in education is critical in this assessment phase. The importance of aligning AI tools with specific educational goals to maximize their effectiveness is underscored in the literature [8]. Moreover, the readiness of educators to adopt AI plays a significant role in the successful integration of AI in educational settings. Research indicates that the involvement and preparedness of educators are pivotal in the implementation process [11]. Conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, therefore, not only involves evaluating technological resources but also ensuring that educators are equipped and willing to embrace AI tools in their teaching practices.

### **Core Layer: AI Integration and Implementation**

The core integration of AI focuses on practical applications within the educational system. Adaptive AI systems are employed to develop personalized learning modules that customize experiences based on individual student profiles. AI-generated content like dynamic simulations, visual aids, and interactive materials enrich the learning environment. Automated feedback mechanisms provide immediate and personalized responses to assignments, while AI-driven engagement tools, such as educational games and virtual assistants, foster interactive learning and offer additional support to students, enhancing the overall educational experience. Tools like Knewton, Google Cloud AutoML, Grammarly, Kahoot! , Watson Assistant etc can be used in this layer.

Implementing AI tools like adaptive systems to customize learning experiences has shown promising results in enhancing personalized education [9]. AI-generated dynamic content, including simulations and visual aids, significantly enriches the learning environment by making complex concepts more accessible [8]. Automated feedback systems provide immediate and personalized responses to assignments, which is crucial for timely student development [10]. AI-driven engagement tools such as educational games and virtual assistants further support interactive learning and offer additional student assistance, making the educational experience more engaging and effective [15].

### **Output Layer: Monitoring and Evaluation**

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to ensure the effectiveness of AI integration. AI tools analyse student performance data, providing insights for ongoing improvement. Feedback mechanisms collect input from both students and educators, which is then used to refine AI tools and methodologies. This iterative process maintains high educational standards and adapts to the evolving needs of students and teachers. Tools like Tableau, Edmodo, and Power BI can be used here.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are critical for effective AI integration, as they help identify areas for improvement and ensure that educational standards are maintained [1][8]. Utilizing tools like Tableau for performance analytics provides valuable insights into student progress and learning outcomes [13]. Additionally, platforms such as Edmodo facilitate the collection of feedback from both students and educators, allowing for iterative refinement of AI tools and methodologies [11]. This process ensures that AI applications are continuously adapted to meet the evolving needs of students and teachers [10].

### **Ethical Layer: Governance and Best Practices**

Addressing the ethical implications of AI in education is crucial. Ensuring data privacy and compliance with protection regulations is paramount. Regular audits are conducted to identify and mitigate biases in AI systems, ensuring accuracy and fairness in AI-generated content. Developing and enforcing ethical guidelines for AI use in education maintains trust and integrity in the educational process. Tools like GDPR Compliance Tools, Fairness Indicators by Google, and Ethics Canvas can be used in this layer.

Ensuring ethical AI use in education involves stringent data privacy measures and adherence to regulatory standards [4]. Regular audits are essential to identify and correct biases within AI systems, promoting accuracy and fairness in AI-generated content [5]. Developing and enforcing ethical guidelines helps maintain trust and integrity in the educational process [7]. Tools such as GDPR Compliance Tools ensure data protection, while Fairness Indicators by Google and Ethics Canvas facilitate unbiased and ethical AI implementations [6].

### **Training Layer: Educator and Student Preparedness**

Proper training is vital for the successful implementation of AI in education. Professional development programs equip educators with knowledge of AI tools and their applications. Students are educated on digital literacy, focusing on critically evaluating AI-generated content and ethical AI use. This training ensures that both educators and students can effectively

navigate and utilize AI in their educational activities. Tools such as Coursera, Khan Academy, and Microsoft Educator Center are instrumental in this phase.

Effective implementation of AI in education requires educators and students to be well-prepared and knowledgeable about AI tools and their applications [10][15]. Professional development programs, such as those offered by Coursera, help educators gain a thorough understanding of AI technologies and their practical uses in the classroom [10]. Additionally, digital literacy training for students, provided by platforms like Khan Academy and Microsoft Educator Center, ensures they can critically evaluate AI-generated content and use AI responsibly [15]. This comprehensive training equips both educators and students to effectively integrate and utilize AI in their educational activities [10].

### **Future Layer: Research and Development**

The final layer emphasizes the importance of continuous research and development. Ongoing research efforts aim to enhance AI capabilities in education, exploring innovative practices and new applications. Staying at the forefront of technological advancements and pedagogical models ensures AI continues to contribute positively to science education, adapting to future challenges and opportunities. Tools like Jupyter Notebooks, TensorFlow, and Zotero are essential for this purpose.

Continuous research and development are crucial for advancing AI capabilities and exploring innovative educational practices [9][12]. Utilizing tools like Jupyter Notebooks allows for the development and testing of new AI applications in education [14]. TensorFlow facilitates the exploration of advanced AI models, while Zotero helps manage research sources and stay updated with the latest advancements [19]. By staying at the forefront of technological and pedagogical developments, AI can continue to evolve and positively impact science education, adapting to future challenges and opportunities [8][17].

### **Gen AI in Science education**

Integrating generative AI into science education through a structured framework can greatly enhance learning experiences. Initially, a thorough evaluation phase is crucial to identify educational goals, utilizing tools like SurveyMonkey and Google Forms to gather input from educators and students. In the core integration phase, AI tools such as Knewton for personalized learning modules, Google Cloud AutoML for content generation, Grammarly for automated feedback, and Kahoot! for engagement support are employed. Monitoring and evaluation involve tools like Tableau for performance analytics and Edmodo for collecting feedback. Addressing ethical concerns ensures responsible AI use, with tools like OneTrust for data privacy and Google's Fairness Indicators for bias mitigation. Training involves professional development through platforms like Coursera and digital literacy resources from Khan Academy. Continuous research and development using tools like Jupyter Notebooks and TensorFlow keep AI integration innovative and effective, enhancing the overall quality of science education by making it more personalized, engaging, and efficient.

### **Benefits of Gen AI in Science Education**

The impact of GenAI as causing a profound transformation in global education are described by Cooper [12]. Moreover, the potential of GenAI, exemplified by ChatGPT, to significantly enhance various aspects of education is highlighted. This includes improvements in learning, teaching, pedagogical innovations, assessment, and educational administration. Key tools such as intelligent tutoring systems, chatbots, robots, learning analytics dashboards, adaptive learning systems, and automated assessment can support and elevate the educational process if effectively utilized.

Students can receive individualized instruction and feedback through ChatGPT, which is based on each student's unique learning requirements and development. A study by Chen et. Al. [23] showed how students might receive individualized math tutoring from a conversational agent built on a generative model (ChatGPT), leading to better learning outcomes. According to the study, the conversational agent could adjust its explanations to the students' comprehension level and cater them to their misconceptions.

A broader audience can access educational resources by translating them into multiple languages using ChatGPT. A generative model (ChatGPT) trained on a dataset of bilingual sentence pairs was shown in a study by Johnson et. al. [24] to translate between languages accurately and achieve great performance on various translation benchmarks. The results of the investigation demonstrated that the model could provide precise translations into another language while also comprehending the meaning of sentences in the original language.

Generative AI evolves by learning from conversations, adjusting its responses based on interactions, and broadening its range of possible answers. This process enhances its capability to assist and offer useful information more effectively [18]. ChatGPT can help develop adaptive learning systems that tailor their teaching strategies to a student's progress and performance [25]. Research has demonstrated that an adaptive learning system powered by a generative model like ChatGPT significantly enhanced support for students learning programming. This led to better performance on programming assessments. The study revealed that the model could assess students' knowledge and adjust the difficulty of the generated problems accordingly.

Generative AI facilitates the generation of new hypotheses and research questions by simulating scenarios and predicting outcomes based on existing data, which can lead to innovative research directions and discoveries that were previously unexplored [29]. Additionally, AI-driven tools assist in literature reviews by rapidly scanning vast amounts of academic literature and summarizing relevant information, saving researchers considerable time and effort [30].

In summary, generative AI offers substantial and transformative benefits to science education. It boosts student engagement, tailors learning experiences to individual needs, and enhances critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, all of which can greatly improve educational outcomes. Additionally, it makes education more accessible and inclusive, simplifies assessment and feedback processes, and helps educators by reducing their administrative workload. As we continue to adopt these advanced technologies, it's essential to use them thoughtfully and ethically to ensure they enhance and enrich the learning experience for all students. With the potential of generative AI, the future of science education looks promising, ushering in innovative teaching methods and more dynamic learning environments.

### **Challenges and risks**

Teachers will need to put in extra effort to update the tactics and resources they employ in their lesson plans and use their professional judgment when deciding how to integrate GenAI in the classroom because the application of AI in education will require significant methodological adjustments [26]. Critically speaking, it's essential to recognize that not everything in the AI world is as beneficial as it appears. There are inherent challenges and limitations when using this technology to support learners and learning.

Hargreaves [27] highlights concern about the significant risks of academic dishonesty posed by AI, especially in take-home assessments. His project revealed that ChatGPT was more effective in generating answers for essay-based law exams compared to issue-spotting or problem-solving exams. However, he concludes that accepting ChatGPT as an active learning tool is a possible course of action and that ignoring or restricting its potential as a learning tool is just not an option.

According to UNESCO [28], the time has come to get the next generation of students ready for a world where artificial intelligence will play a bigger role in their daily lives. They suggest that curriculum policies should consider the integration of GenAI instructional tools.

When students use ChatGPT to seek information on a specific topic, they may notice that the responses often lack originality. Sometimes, the answers might be meaningless, straightforward, or uninspired, falling short in fostering creativity, exploration, and imagination [31]. Therefore, the true issue for students is to realize that relying too much on these technologies might lead to dependence and possibly poor performance or even failure.

With the use of AI, there's a growing concern about academic dishonesty, as students might use generative AI tools to finish their assignments, which can compromise the integrity of education. Additionally, we must consider the ethical implications of AI decision-making, especially since these systems can make judgments impacting students' academic paths and future opportunities. Tackling these issues demands a strong ethical framework and continuous conversation among educators, policymakers, and technologists to ensure AI's integration into education is fair, transparent, and aligned with educational objectives.

This technology might turn out to be either a beneficial educational aid or a significant threat to jobs and livelihoods. Only time will reveal its true impact. What is clear is that educators are directly confronting the challenges and opportunities it presents. To navigate the technological upheaval and the constant pressure for rapid change, educators will increasingly rely on their networks and colleagues to find a balanced path forward. Thus, it is more important to improve our education systems around AI than it is to incorporate AI into our current ones.

## **Conclusion**

The integration of generative AI in science education presents both transformative opportunities and significant challenges. The theoretical framework, structured across six distinct layers, provides a robust foundation for analyzing how AI can be seamlessly integrated into educational practices. Generative AI has a wide range of exciting applications in scientific education, from creative teaching methods to personalized learning experiences. The benefits, as discussed, include enhanced student engagement, tailored instruction, improved accessibility, and efficient assessment processes. These benefits highlight how generative AI has the power to completely transform science education and make it more engaging and open to all.

However, the journey to fully harnessing generative AI is not without its challenges. There are several significant obstacles that must be overcome, including privacy problems, the possibility of academic dishonesty, ethical considerations, and the danger of an excessive dependence on technology. These challenges necessitate the development of a robust ethical framework and ongoing collaboration among educators, policymakers, and technologists to ensure that AI integration is conducted responsibly and transparently.

Ultimately, the successful incorporation of generative AI into science education depends on our ability to balance its benefits with the ethical and practical challenges it poses. By fostering a collaborative and thoughtful approach, we can leverage generative AI to enhance educational outcomes and prepare students for a future where AI is an integral part of their learning journey. The promise of generative AI in science education is immense, and with careful implementation, it can lead to more innovative, effective, and equitable learning environments.

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