

Emotional Intelligence in 5ir: Implication for Education in Rivers State Secondary Schools.

By

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Abstract

The 5th Industrial Revolution is transforming the world with technological advancements, artificial intelligence, and automation. The 5IR is coming as a force to take the work of human as technology is advancing in all spheres of the world. As humans increasingly collaborate with machines, emotional intelligence emerges as a crucial factor in navigating this new landscape. Humans are the only entity to have the trait of EI. Therefore, introducing the 5IR into education may likely not be effective as most teachers and students who exhibit EI are better in social relationship and their academic performance exceed those with high IQ. In order for AI to be effective there must be a strong collaboration of human emotional competencies in students in order for them to be able to fit into the world of technology. The educational sector needs to prioritize Emotional Intelligence development side by side with technical skills in Rivers State secondary schools. Integrating EI into school curricula will enable some soft skills and more social tolerance as it will help to develop teaching methods that are capable of promoting empathy, self-awareness, and relationship-building.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Emotional Intelligence, 5th Industrial Revolution, Education

Introduction

Fifth Industrial Revolution is encapsulated with concepts such as sustainability, human centredness, and concern for the environment, as well as transformation of the industrial structure through the use of AI. In order to achieve sustainability, human centredness requires the need to balance economic development with solutions to social issues such as education.

Education in the 5IR, being the gateway to sustainability, can be achieved through human centred approach, such as improving labour conditions and the acceptance of the AI era. The need to establish people and machines in separate workforce spaces is important, though there is a need to

take into cognizance of safety barriers and other measures. The use of AI is likely to pose a danger, such as the decay of memory in teachers and students.

The use of technologies that are harmless to humans and the environment is required to increase sustainability. Inculcation of individual technology is essential to help the growth and advancement of teaching and learning in Rivers State secondary schools.

Artificial Intelligence may be able to reduce the human labour and improve productivity it cannot completely replace the need for human intelligence (IQ) as it has no sense of emotional intelligence, which only humans can express. It is only humans who are capable of showing and managing empathy, self-awareness, managing others' emotions, and responding appropriately to the environment, and it cannot be replaced by AI.

Emotional Intelligence (EI) is the ability to control, understand, and manage one's own emotions as well as the emotions of others. EI comprises various aspects, such as understanding of personal emotions, the ability to manage and respond to emotions, and the ability to recognize things that matter in life. It also includes understanding the emotions of others and the ability to form social relationships with others. Emotional Intelligence is a skill that needs to be inculcated into children at an early stage in life. These reasons make it impossible for AI to take over the responsibility of humans in transmitting emotional intelligence to the students.

Teachers who exhibit excellent character emotionally tend to be good educators as they play an important role in modelling the same to their students. The act of shaping students' character not only requires commitment and hard work, but the teachers need to consistently guide their students so that they can become complete 'human beings' who are religious, honest, and honourable. They should also be compassionate towards others as God's creatures.

Emotional Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence: How They Work

Goleman (2001) researched to establish that Emotional Intelligence is capable of predicting more than 54% variables of success in relationships, health, and life quality. The emotional intelligence of teachers is crucial, according to Goleman's (2001) research work, which shows that Intelligence Quotient (IQ) contributed only 20% to the success of an individual, while 80% is influenced by other factors. In the same vein, Davis (2006) in his study revealed Intelligence Quotient

contributed only 25% to individuals' performance. From the above researchers' view, IQ cannot be used to affirm the performance of teachers' ability and students' academic performance in their school.

Jordan Joseph also conducted research using six generative AIs, including ChatGPT, to see how well the AI could answer questions using real-world examples. It was reported by them that AI was able to handle EI questions using real-life examples and earned an accuracy rate of 81% against their previous studies where humans scored 56% in the same tests. Dr. Schlegel also corroborated the studies of Jordan and Davis as he proved that AI proved to be a reliable, clear, and realistic as the test they conducted using humans took a long time before the test result was developed. AI works faster and accurately than humans because of its mechanical input. Though humans take a longer time to get the test done, it is still unrealistic to allow robots to do the work of humans because AI tools cannot think for themselves. They operate based on what is inputted into it. Though AI is able to respond to emotional questions, the fact still remains that there are a lot more things AI cannot do when it comes to human interaction. Emotional Intelligence in humans not only includes choosing the right response but sensing tone, body language, and context in real-time interactions, which are some Emotional responses AI cannot fully interpret.

Furthermore, AI may be able to give a correct response to questions posed to it. It does not rule out the fact that it may be acting based on emotional logic or the patterns to which it has been exposed. These reasons make it hard to really 100% on AI as being able to feel emotion in educational settings in the 5IR in Rivers State Secondary School pedagogy.

Concept of Emotional Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence is the ability to manage our emotions, to overcome stress, empathize, and communicate effectively. EI is an indispensable life skill that empowers individuals to recognize, understand, manage, and harness their emotions effectively while being attuned to the emotions of others.

Fullan and Matsuba (2024), they coined the 5C's that should be inculcated in students to ensure that they are well prepared for the challenges of the modern of the 5IR. Teaching should be made to align with the EI and well-being through classroom teaching and learning.

- i. Communication: - effective communication should be at the nucleus of EI teaching to students so they can express themselves in their work orally and in written forms. Educators should support and create an enabling environment where students can freely communicate without resulting to bullying or intimidation because of lack of emotions towards their fellow students and teachers.
- ii. Collaboration: - Team work like projects, seminars, and excursion offer students the chance to develop their ability to manage others as team leaders or members of a team which is likely to necessitate empathy, active listening, and conflict resolution skills.
- iii. Critical thinking: - To be emotionally intelligent there is the need to be a critical thinker which could assist the teacher not only to analyze information but also be able to teach the process of emotional intelligent. Students could be taught to think critically about the emotional impact of their decisions and their decisions and the ethical considerations associated with their actions in the 5IR era.
- iv. Creativity: - teachers who have self-management ability are able to encourage students to explore their creative potentials by enhancing their artistic and innovative abilities as they express their (teacher) emotion.
- v. Compassion: - Empathy which is one of the key elements of EI can be used by the teacher to encourage students to understand emotions and perspectives of others.

Importance of Emotional Intelligence in Education

Emotional intelligence in Education refers to the ability to understand, recognize, and manage their own emotions and those of others. There is a need to prioritize the development of EI in school settings where students can excel academically as well as academically and socially.

Stress is managed while building on strong emotional intelligence, which plays an important role in shaping a positive, productive learning experience for students and educators. To be EI, one needs to have the 5 components of EI, which are Self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. Hence, in education, high EI helps both teachers and students in the school.

The knowledge of EI helps to motivate, reduce stress, and improve relationships among students, which also helps the teacher to create a positive, supportive classroom environment where students feel safe and motivated to carry out their academic pursuits.

Furthermore, EI contributes to students' academic success by enhancing their ability to manage frustration, setbacks, and stress. EI is capable of improving self-awareness, problem-solving skills, boosting resilience, developing empathy, and making better decisions.

Emotionally intelligent teachers are more adept at creating an inclusive classroom atmosphere, supporting, and responding to students' needs. Teachers with high emotional intelligence are also more likely to remain calm and composed under pressure, helping to de-escalate conflicts and constructively address issues.

Benefits of Artificial Intelligence in 5ir

The benefits of AI in education are numerous as well as significant, as it streamlines the administrative work of administrators in grading, saves time for educators to focus on giving instruction and providing individual support. It accommodates diverse learning styles and needs through the provision of guided support through assistive technologies.

AI aids personalized learning experience whereby students interact with their teachers online, as well as sourcing information to enhance their studies. AI plays a vital role in academic performance by fostering emotional intelligence among students. By leveraging AI-powered tools and applications, educators can provide students with opportunities to develop and enhance their emotional intelligence skills.

How AI is likely to foster EI is through the use of chatbots designed to provide emotional support. AI-powered conversation agents are likely to engage in empathetic and non-judgmental conversations with students who use them, as it allows them to express their emotions and concerns in a safe environment.

Virtual reality is another tool used for fostering EI by showcasing realistic scenarios. Virtual-reality simulations also allow the students to experience and understand different perspectives, thereby enhancing empathy and social awareness.

A study carried out by Hessah, Mdawi, Kahtani and Badawy (2023) shows that teachers who know AI and are high in emotional intelligence are more adept at creating positive, inclusive classroom environments. In their study, there is a positive correlation that suggests that teachers who are EI may be inclined to embrace AI technologies, skills, and the ability to navigate computer educational settings.

Conclusion

Conclusively, emotional intelligence has an important role to play in the 5IR, as it enables individuals to thrive in a world where humans are collaborating with modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence. The demand for educational growth is becoming high and to meet such demand of 5IR, there is need to integrate EI into curricula in order to prepare teachers and students for future challenges. In order to prioritize emotional intelligence development, it is crucial for educators to equip students with essential skills like empathy, self-awareness, and complex decision-making, ultimately enhancing their ability to work effectively alongside AI systems.

The key to unlocking students' potential is the ability to enhance or imbibe students' EI to their optimum level, as well as making sure they are prepared for the opportunities and challenges of the 5IR era.

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