

# Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Enhanced Project Completion in Education

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## Abstract

In the conducted research, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into educational settings was explored, with a specific focus on its impact on project-based learning. The study involved 200 students within a controlled educational environment. The investigation delved into the utilization of an AI-driven project completion support system to evaluate its effects on time management skills, engagement levels, and academic performance.

The results of the study demonstrated significant improvements in the Experimental Group, which had access to AI support, as opposed to the Control Group. This outcome provided compelling evidence of AI's positive contributions to project completion within the realm of education. The findings underscored the potential of AI-based educational support systems in enhancing students' overall academic success.

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## Introduction

In November 2022, OpenAI unveiled ChatGPT – an innovative generative language AI system capable of engaging in sophisticated, human-like conversations. This development has sparked concerns regarding the potential misuse of ChatGPT by students who may exploit its capabilities to craft essays or fulfill coursework assignments, evading easy detection (e.g., Cotton et al., 2023; Dehouche, 2021). Indeed, preliminary reports indicate that essays or exam responses generated using ChatGPT can attain a level of quality that aligns with university assignment standards (Choi et al., 2023; Malinka et al., 2023). This poses significant challenges for higher education. As outlined by Rudolph et al. (2023), educators are particularly apprehensive that ChatGPT could render traditional essay assessments obsolete, allowing students to "outsource" their writing tasks to AI. Nevertheless, the adoption of AI for assignments is not a foregone conclusion. Informal discussions with students reveal varying levels of skepticism towards AI, with some believing that utilizing the tool may not necessarily lead to improved grades and that overreliance on it could potentially dull their academic skills. Historical evidence suggests that the mere possibility of students resorting to cheating in assignments does not guarantee widespread misconduct, with prevalence rates differing across studies (e.g., Haney & Clarke, 2006; Whitley, 1998). Additionally, prevalence varies across assessment types, cheating methods, and the means employed to detect dishonesty. For example, Honz et al. (2010) demonstrated that the prevalence of cheating on examinations was higher (68.4%) than for take-home tests (59.5%) and reports (44%). Newton (2018) reported the prevalence of "contract cheating," where students enlist someone else to complete their work (Clarke & Lancaster, 2007), as low as 3.52% among 54,514 students. None of these prevalence rates reaches 100%, highlighting that not every student would engage in cheating under identical circumstances.

Project-based learning, recognized widely as an effective educational methodology fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and collaborative abilities among students, faced intricate challenges in successful management and completion within an educational context for both educators and students. In recent years, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in education emerged as a transformative force, offering innovative solutions to address these challenges and enhance the learning experience.

This experimental research delved into the role of AI in education, specifically exploring its potential to facilitate and augment project-based learning. The study focused on the deployment of an AI-driven project completion support system designed to assist students in various aspects of project work. The objective was to assess the impact of AI on critical elements such as time management skills, student engagement, and overall academic performance within a carefully controlled educational environment.

As educational landscapes underwent dynamic shifts driven by technological advancements, the incorporation of AI held great promise for revolutionizing traditional teaching and learning methods. The ability of AI to process vast amounts of data, adapt to individual learning needs, and provide real-time feedback positioned it as a valuable tool in the educational arsenal.

This research aimed to contribute empirical evidence to the ongoing discourse on the integration of AI in education, with a specific focus on its influence on project completion—a cornerstone of experiential learning.

*The study is guided by three key hypotheses:*

*Hypothesis 1: The implementation of an AI-driven project completion support system will lead to a substantial improvement in students' time management skills.*

*Hypothesis 2: The implementation of an AI-driven project completion support system will result in a substantial increase in student engagement.*

*Hypothesis 3: The implementation of an AI-driven project completion support system will have a pronounced positive effect on students' academic performance.*

*These hypotheses serve as the foundation for a comprehensive investigation into the multifaceted impact of AI in educational project work. The research aims to unravel the nuanced ways in which AI technologies can contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of project-based learning, ultimately enriching the educational experience for students.*

*To achieve the overarching aim of evaluating the impact of AI on project work in education, the study delineates the following specific research objectives:*

*Objective 1: To assess the impact of an AI-driven project completion support system on students' time management skills.*

*Objective 2: To examine the influence of the AI system on students' engagement levels.*

*Objective 3: To determine the effect of the AI-driven support system on students' academic performance.*

*Objective 4: To compare the performance and engagement levels of students using the AI system (Experimental Group) with those not using it (Control Group).*

*These objectives serve as a roadmap for systematically investigating the potential benefits of integrating AI into educational settings, with a focus on project-based learning. The study employs a rigorous methodology, including participant randomization and a range of data collection methods, to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.*

In the subsequent sections, the research methodology, results, and discussion has presented to shed light on the intricate dynamics of AI's impact on time management, engagement, and academic performance within the context of project-based learning. The ultimate goal is to contribute meaningful insights that inform educators, policymakers, and stakeholders about the transformative potential of AI in shaping the future of education.

## Literature

Playfoot, D., Quigley, M., & Thomas, A. G. (2023) delve into the realm of degree apathy and its impact on students' adoption of AI tools for academic writing. The paper sheds light on the potential for students to exploit AI, including ChatGPT, to plagiarize their academic essays with minimal risk of detection. While the study acknowledges the prevalence of this issue, it emphasizes the dearth of knowledge regarding students' willingness to employ such tools. The research focuses on psychology undergraduates (N=160) from the United Kingdom, employing an anonymous online questionnaire to gauge their inclination and history of using ChatGPT and AI tools for university assignments. Notably, 32% expressed a willingness to use these tools, with 15% having utilized them in the past. Intriguingly, neither personality traits nor academic performance could predict this willingness; the sole influencing factor identified was degree apathy, as measured by a newly developed scale. Surprisingly, no factor reliably predicted previous tool usage. Further analysis revealed a heightened willingness to use AI tools when the risk of detection was low and the associated punishment was mild, particularly among those high in degree apathy. Despite study limitations, the research suggests that degree apathy could be a critical factor contributing to academic misconduct among students. The paper concludes by discussing potential broader research implications and pedagogical applications related to degree apathy.

## Methodology

The methodology of this study was developed and executed by faculty members and staff of the EdTech Research Association, with Kavita Roy serving as a co-author and actively contributing to the design and implementation of the research.

- **Research Method:** This study employed an experimental research design to investigate the impact of an AI-driven project completion support system on students' time management skills, engagement levels, and academic performance in educational settings.
- **Data Collection Tools:** The data collection process utilized a combination of pre-project and post-project surveys, project completion rates, and academic performance metrics. The surveys were designed to capture information on students' time management habits, engagement levels, and academic performance before and after the implementation of the AI-driven support system.
- **Sampling or Research Group:** The study involved a sample of 200 students from diverse academic backgrounds and grade levels, randomly assigned to two groups: a control group (n=100) and an experimental group (n=100). The sampling technique employed was random sampling, ensuring that participants were selected without bias, contributing to the generalizability of the findings.
- **Research Procedures:** Participants in both groups were subjected to the same project-based learning environment. The control group did not have access to the AI-driven project completion support system, while the experimental group utilized the AI system throughout the project. Data collection occurred through surveys administered before and after the project, as well as through tracking project completion rates and academic performance metrics.
- **Validity and Reliability Measures:** To ensure the validity of the study, the surveys were carefully designed to capture relevant information related to time management, engagement, and academic performance. The use of established survey instruments and academic performance metrics contributed to the content validity of the data collected. Additionally, the study employed internal consistency measures to assess the reliability of the survey instruments, ensuring that the questions consistently measured the intended constructs. The research employed rigorous methods to collect valid and reliable data, ensuring that the findings accurately reflected the impact of the AI-driven project completion support system on students in an educational setting. The use of random sampling and standardized data collection tools enhances the study's credibility and contributes to the robustness of its findings.

## Findings

### 1. Time Management Skills

- i. **Experimental Group:** Demonstrated a significant average improvement of 72% in time management skills.
- ii. **Control Group:** Showed a lower average improvement of 40%.
- iii. **Implication:** The AI-driven support system substantially enhanced students' ability to allocate time efficiently for project-related tasks.

### 2. Engagement Levels:

- i. **Experimental Group:** Reported a significant average improvement of 67% in engagement.
- ii. **Control Group:** Exhibited a notably lower average improvement of 32%.
- iii. **Implication:** The AI-driven support system positively influenced students' involvement and participation in the project, providing tools and resources for sustained engagement.

### 3. Academic Performance

- i. **Experimental Group:** Experienced a remarkable average improvement of 79% in academic performance.
- ii. **Control Group:** Showed a lower average improvement of 57%.
- iii. **Implication:** The AI-driven support system had a pronounced positive effect on students' overall educational outcomes, contributing significantly to academic achievements.

## DISCUSSIONS

### 1. Impact on Time Management Skills

- i. AI's Role: The AI system's ability to guide and assist students in efficiently managing their time was evident.
- ii. Educational Significance: AI technology emerges as a crucial tool in helping students develop effective time management skills.

### 2. Influence on Engagement Levels:

- i. AI's Contribution: The AI-driven support system likely provided essential tools and resources that contributed to sustained engagement throughout the project.
- ii. Pedagogical Significance: The positive influence of AI on student engagement underscores its potential as a valuable resource in enhancing the learning process.

### 3. Effect on Academic Performance:

- i. AI's Positive Impact: The significant improvement in academic performance in the Experimental Group highlights the effectiveness of the AI-driven support system.
- ii. Educational Implication: AI technology stands out as a catalyst for improved educational outcomes, showcasing its potential to positively impact students' academic success.

This research affirms the positive impact of integrating an AI-driven project completion support system in education. The findings suggest that AI technology significantly contributes to enhancing time management skills, increasing student engagement, and improving academic performance. As education evolves in the digital age, the integration of AI may prove instrumental in fostering a more efficient and effective learning environment, ultimately contributing to students' overall academic success.

## Conclusion, Implications and Suggestions

In conclusion, this research underscores the transformative potential of integrating an AI-driven project completion support system in educational settings. The study demonstrated significant enhancements in students' time management skills, engagement levels, and academic performance when exposed to AI assistance. The findings affirm the positive impact of AI on project-based learning, emphasizing its role in fostering efficient time allocation, sustaining student engagement, and contributing to overall academic success. As education evolves in the digital era, the incorporation of AI technologies emerges as a valuable strategy to empower students and optimize their learning experiences.

The implications of this research extend beyond the experimental context, offering valuable insights for educators, institutions, and policymakers. The positive outcomes observed in time management, engagement, and academic performance suggest that integrating AI support systems into educational practices can be a strategic approach to enhance learning outcomes. Institutions may consider adopting AI tools to facilitate project-based learning, thereby promoting efficiency and effectiveness. Educators can leverage AI-driven support to tailor instructional strategies, providing personalized guidance to students. Policymakers should recognize the potential benefits of AI in education and explore avenues for its responsible integration into curricula to prepare students for the demands of the digital age.

While this study contributes significantly to the understanding of AI's impact on project completion in education, there are avenues for further exploration:

- i. Long-term Effects: Investigate the long-term effects of AI-driven support systems on students' academic performance and career readiness to assess sustained benefits beyond the immediate project timeline.
- ii. Diversity and Inclusion: Explore the impact of AI on diverse student populations, considering factors such as socio-economic background, cultural differences, and learning styles to ensure equitable access and benefits.
- iii. Ethical Considerations: Conduct in-depth investigations into the ethical implications of AI integration in education, addressing concerns related to privacy, bias, and accountability.
- iv. Comparative Studies: Expand the scope of comparative studies to analyse the effectiveness of different AI-driven tools and platforms in diverse educational environments.
- v. Teacher Training: Examine the role of teacher training programs in preparing educators to effectively integrate and utilize AI technologies in their teaching methodologies.

By addressing these areas, future research can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the nuanced dynamics surrounding AI in education and guide further advancements in pedagogical practices.

## Statements and Declarations

### Author's Contributions

Khrish Swargiary: Conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis, investigation, data curation, visualization, writing—original draft preparation, writing—review and editing; Kavita Roy; supervision, project administration, funding acquisition, writing—original draft preparation, writing—review and editing. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript OR The author has read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

### Data Accessibility Statement

- The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available in the [Khrish Swargiary] repository, [RESEARCHGATE.NET]
- All data generated or analysed during this study are included in this published article [and its supplementary information files].

### Ethics and Consent

I, KHRITISH SWARGIARY, a Research Assistant, EdTech Research Associations, India, hereby declare that the research conducted for the article titled "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Enhanced Project Completion in Education" adheres to the ethical guidelines set forth by the EdTech Research Association (ERA). The ERA, known for its commitment to upholding ethical standards in educational technology research, has provided comprehensive guidance and oversight throughout the research process. I affirm that there is no conflict of interest associated with this research, and no external funding has been received for the study. The entire research endeavor has been carried out under the supervision and support of the ERA Psychology Lab Team. The methodology employed, research questionnaire, and other assessment tools utilized in this study have been approved and provided by ERA. The research has been conducted in accordance with the principles

outlined by ERA, ensuring the protection of participants' rights and confidentiality. Ethical approval for this research has been granted by the EdTech Research Association under the reference number 08-22/ERA/2023. Any inquiries related to the ethical considerations of this research can be directed to ERA via email at [edtechresearchassociation@gmail.com](mailto:edtechresearchassociation@gmail.com). I affirm my commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards in research and acknowledge the invaluable support and guidance received from ERA throughout the course of this study.

#### Author(s) Notes

The calculations, algorithms, and contextual groundwork for this scholarly paper were conducted by EdTech Research Associations, with the collaborative efforts of Kavita Roy and Khritish Swargiary. Noteworthy to the creation process was the involvement of OpenAI's GPT-4, a generative AI, which contributed to specific aspects of the work. To maintain transparency and uphold academic integrity, we provide a detailed acknowledgment of the AI's role in our research.

In accordance with established guidelines, we specify the nature of the AI's contribution:

1. Direct Contribution: Parts of this paper were generated with the assistance of OpenAI's GPT-4. The generated content underwent meticulous review, editing, and curation by human authors to ensure precision and relevance.
2. Editing and Reviewing: This paper underwent a comprehensive review and refinement process with the aid of OpenAI's GPT-4, complementing the human editorial efforts.
3. Idea Generation: Ideas and concepts explored in this paper were brainstormed in collaboration with OpenAI's GPT-4.
4. Data Analysis or Visualization: Data analysis and/or visualizations in this work were assisted by OpenAI's GPT-4.
5. General Assistance: The authors acknowledge the use of OpenAI's GPT-4 in facilitating various stages of writing and ideation for this paper.
6. Code or Algorithms: Algorithms/code presented in this paper were designed with the help of EdTech Research Associations.
7. This comprehensive acknowledgment ensures transparency regarding the collaborative nature of this research, where the synergy between human expertise and AI assistance played a crucial role in the development of the final scholarly work.

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#### Competing Interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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