

**International Conference for Media in Education (ICoME):
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**Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Teacher
Empowerment: Key to success of
AI + Education**

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Interdisciplinary collaboration in AI + Education Innovation

- AI + Education is not a mere technology but a curriculum eg. Modernized smart content, embedding interdisciplinary themes and related competencies and assessment
- AI + Education reform has to be done through an Interdisciplinary group comprising of AI Developers, Educational Psychologists, Pedagogical experts, Subject content specialists, Assessment specialists, teachers etc..

Developing Trust and Confidence in AI in educators

- Educators and teachers of our generation and in our part of the world have been relying high only on their human potential
- Naturally there is some hesitancy when it comes to bringing AI into the classroom
- They need to be helped to change their mind sets to have trust and confidence in AI in Education as a helpful tool/reshaping pedagogy.

Teacher Empowerment in AI+ Education context

- In our culture we worship teachers. Will teachers be respected by students and society in their new role?
- Teachers should be empowered to use AI as a tool and not allow to become a teacher –substitute.
- Action oriented /hands-on/experiential modes of Teacher Development programs on AI+ Education must be introduced.

Challenges to AI + Education Reform in School Education

- Parents, educators and the general public need to understand AI and its potential educational implications.
- Train-the Trainer programs to be strengthened for Teacher empowerment
- Examination systems that dominate General Education will have to be changed.

Transformation of Teaching and Learning: Non-age graded classrooms?

- AI allows for greater differentiation and individualised learning, allows customization of the educational experience for learners which are key to teaching and learning. Such approaches could lead to dismantling of age-graded schools and exam driven systems.
- The need to educate students starting at an early age about how to not just be consumers of AI, but creators, is essential.

AI in Andragogy

- In an andragogic environment (such as University) with adult learners who are ready to take on a greater role in their knowledge acquisition, it would be relatively easy to incorporate many principles of andragogy into an online learning venue
- Personalized learning through AI is much appreciated. AI and machine learning have the capabilities to pinpoint each student's educational needs in a classroom. This task is much more challenging to do alone as a teacher and will be a much-appreciated help.

Where are we now at University of Colombo in terms of AI ?

- Blended Learning initiatives in Faculties of UoC (UNESCO initiative)
- Developing online learning experience for selected content
- Traditional role of the teacher is still the main approach to teaching and learning
- Staff Development is getting transformed to incorporate Blended learning

Way forward...

- Introduce STEM programs that focus on coding and robotics in the system of General Education
- Blended learning to be introduced to Higher Education and Teacher Education
- Smart Classroom development in schools, higher education contexts especially in teacher education faculties
- Reformulation on student assessment modalities moving away from examination driven system.
- Inter-faculty collaborations in Universities for developing interdisciplinary thematic content and research for future relevance.

Thank you.

Looking forward for Collaboration with all of you.