

Higher Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract

How would humans learn when robotics could replace and assist human beings in doing many things including writing a poem? How would education be more valuable? This article starts with a review of influences and challenges artificial intelligence (AI) could bring to the future world such as connectivity, sharing and co-existence. With the increased uncertainty, ambiguity, complexity, and changeability, AI, as well as other disruptive technologies, is changing the behaviour of human beings and their mode of social operations and thus necessitating the reflection of education, the reform of teaching and learning, and the redefinition of higher education as a whole. The article then analyses the requirements of the future society for human talents and capabilities such as skills, strategies for adapting to a complex mentality from the current mentality, and fundamental principles of future social existence. The article further emphasizes the urgency of changing the current education mode of focussing on knowledge retention in response for tests and the importance of exploring new ways in the era of AI to nurture human talents and to promote education for the co-existence of humans and machines. The article concludes with an analysis of the future trajectory of higher education in the face of traditional industries being replaced or transformed by new industries, knowledge acquisition becoming more convenient, professions being fragmented, leisure time being continuously extended, and human demands becoming increasingly richer, more diversified, and higher-end. The author indicates that the mainstream mode of education for disciplinary elites will need to be adjusted urgently because the transformation of traditional industries and the emergence of new industries would demand more industrial elites with high quality, basic disciplinary training, and a higher level of industrial knowledge and stronger entrepreneurship and management skills. The new mode of education is more synteegrated, facilitating a revolutionary change from the mode of education to the form of universities. Of course, in addition to the two types of elites, educators also need to think about the future education of ordinary people and to find ways to help them integrate into the future world with fulfilled life and happiness.

Key Words

Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport, Shanghai/Suzhou International Airport, Suzhou Air,

Win-Win Option, Economic Integration of Yangtze River Delta Region