AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.15 (1), May-August, 2025 https://ajemates.org

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF INTEGRATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TEACHING PROFESSION IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the legal implications of integration of artificial intelligence in teaching profession in Nigeria. It is a positional paper. In the study, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is conceptualized as technologies used to allow computers to perform tasks that would otherwise require human intelligence, such as virtual perception, speech recognition and language translation. Teaching, in the study, is regarded as an occupation dating from the time of human existence. In Nigeria, teaching has remained a trade union rather than a professional organization. In the same vein, a qualified teacher is identified as a trained person who impacts relevant knowledge to a learner in a school environment. Reasons for taking up teaching as a profession, as identified in the study include: inspire and influence; improvement and learning; work satisfaction; respect and potential for growth. The challenges facing teaching profession in Nigeria include: inadequate funding; poor societal perception of teacher education; lack of commitment among teachers; lack of motivation and unethical behavior of some teachers. In the same manner, the types of AI as identified in the study include: Data-based neural artificial intelligence; Logic-based artificial intelligence and Knowledge-based artificial intelligence. The benefits of AI include: Facilitating personalization of learning, providing instant feedback and improving efficiency in the assessment process. One of the key aspects of AI in education is the ability to adapt the learning process to the individual needs of pupils/students; Artificial intelligence helps to reducing the workload of lecturers. In the recent years, the lecturers have often shown dissatisfaction with the high workload experienced in education; Artificial intelligence can be used to create tutorial and interactive virtual assistants, system that can answer students' questions, provides additional explanation and guide students in real-time through the learning process. The hindrances of AI in education sector include: fear of ai jeopardizing the objectives of education if the emphasis is on technology alone; lack of human interaction; dependency on black-box models versus the responsibility of lecturers; applying ai without preparation and insecurity issues. the legal frameworks governing AI was discussed. The Legal

AJEMATES
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VOL.15 (1), May-August, 2025 https://ajemates.org

implications of AI in governance were also discussed. The study suggests that employers who have the intention of using AI in their place of work should retrain their staff to new tasks when the old ones would be taken over by artificial intelligence (automated machines). It is concluded that, with the help of AI technology, educational institutions can make teaching processes more efficient and effective and a range of benefits for students and teachers and that, with the help of artificial intelligence, teachers can better track students learning and create more personalized teaching plans.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Future, Teaching Profession and Nigeria.

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is dramatically transforming the landscape of eLearning, bringing about a revolution that enhances the learning experience and operational efficiency of educational platforms (Tulsiani, 2023). By integrating AI, eLearning platforms are evolving into intelligent systems capable of delivering personalized, engaging, and adaptive learning experiences (Iloka & Nwakoby, 2025; Okaforcha & Okeke, 2019; Ojimba, 2020). Okoye (2021) noted that one of the most significant contributions of AI to eLearning is the ability to provide personalized learning experiences. AI algorithms analyze vast amounts of data on individual learners' behaviours, preferences, and performance (Okeke, Okaforcha & Ekwesianya, 2019; Osegbue, 2019). This analysis enables the creation of customized learning paths tailored to each student's unique needs. Personalized learning is an educational approach that tailors instruction to individual students' needs, abilities, and interests (Anthony, 2019; Onyekwelu & Adinna, 2022). Anushiem and Anushiem (2023) reiterated that it involves adapting the content, pace, and style of teaching and learning based on each learner's unique profile. Personalized learning recognizes that one-size-fits-all instruction is often ineffective because learners have diverse backgrounds, prior knowledge, learning styles, and motivations (Katiyar, 2024). For instance, Onyekwelu, 2024 and Ofozoba & Ofozoba, 2022 in their respective studies asserted that AI can identify areas where a learner is struggling and adjust the content accordingly, offering additional resources, exercises, or alternative explanations to help them grasp difficult concepts. The use of modern technology to mold students' expectations and "abilities to access, acquire, manipulate, construct, create, and communicate information" in these digital contexts has resulted in students prospering (Enwezor & Chukwunonye, 2021; Ugwaka & Igbokwe, 2023).

Artificial intelligence is defined as technologies used to allow computers to perform tasks that would otherwise require

human intelligence, such as virtual perception, speech recognition and language translation (Fanning, 2024). Anushiem, (2023) and Azubuike (2024) opined that artificial intelligence is a technology where machines can learn and understand logic like humans. This technology is said to be able to help simplify human life which is very complex (Fitria, 2021). AI itself works by combining the presence of several data, iterative processing, and intelligent algorithms (Ekwesianya, 2022; Okeke, Okaforcha & Ekwesianya, 2019). This allows the software to learn automatically from patterns or features in the data. Artificial intelligence education software development has revolutionized traditional learning methods, from mobile digital courses to online references and virtual classrooms (Adinna & Onyekwelu, 2021; Okaforcha, 2021). This advanced technology has become integral to modern educational environments, replacing traditional teaching methods. Artificial intelligence (AI) is poised to address some challenges that education deals with today, through innovation of teaching and learning processes (Ekwesianya, 2025). In its development, artificial intelligence has also penetrated the world of education. AI systems allow people to learn with the help of education assistants such as bots (Ezeaku & Okoye, 2025). The development of the times requires the world of education to adapt to technological developments to improve the quality of education, especially the adjustment of information and communication technology (Okechukwu, 2025; Osegbue, 2021). By applying AI in education technologies, educators can determine student needs more precisely, keep students more engaged, improve learning, and adapt teaching accordingly to boost learning outcomes (Issayeva, 2023). Artificial intelligence in education offers personalized learning experiences, automates administrative tasks, and provides real-time data analysis.

The role of artificial intelligence in the field of education is numerous. It is included as part of curriculum, as an instructional delivery system and a tool to enhance the entire learning process (Ezeamama & Ofozoba, 2023; Ibe, 2022; Raja & Nagasubramani, 2018). Technology has radically and positively impacted on education and training globally by transforming teaching and learning. In fact, Okoye and Ezeaku, (2025) noted that there is no aspect of human existence and career generally and particularly Entrepreneurship Education that has not been impacted tremendously by technology. It is expected that the wide application of artificial intelligence for teaching and learning in Entrepreneurship Education programmes in Nigerian institutions will likely impact in improving the quality and learning patterns to be more practical and effective (Azubuike, 2025; Onyekwelu, 2021). One of the most significant impacts of AI in education is its ability to provide individualized learning

paths for students based on their unique needs, learning styles, and abilities (Okechukwu, 2025; Takyar, 2022). This helps to ensure that students receive the support and resources they need to succeed, regardless of their background or skill level. Ezeaku (2025) asserted that AI in education helps educators identify gaps in student knowledge and provide targeted feedback to improve learning outcomes.

One of the biggest challenges in education is that everyone learns differently. It is difficult for teachers to accurately grasp each student's real learning situation, leading to the teaching design and teaching process, difficult to focus on each student's real learning needs, resulting in a waste of energy, time and teaching resources (Enwezor & Obi, 2022). But the artificial intelligence system can provide each learner with a personalized learning style, so that each student can learn in the most suitable way, accurately record the learning status of each student, assist teachers to achieve hierarchical teaching and precise teaching, and effectively solve the core problems of teaching and learning (Ucheagwu-Okoye, 2025). The presence of AI-based applications provides opportunities to learn anytime and anywhere, not limited by space and time (Fitria, 2021). In addition, students also have the opportunity to find teachers other than the teachers at the school. Onyekwelu, (2024) and Osegbue, and Nnubia, (2020) posited that with this online education platform and the availability of teachers to choose from, students have the opportunity to communicate with other teachers, even with teachers from other countries. The learning experience and abilities of students will certainly be able to develop better. At present, the application of artificial intelligence in the field of our education mainly includes image recognition, speech recognition, human-computer interaction and so on (Deng, Ang & Ning, 2019). Applications of artificial intelligence in this study mainly focused on AI-driven e-learning platforms and AI-based assessment tools in teaching and learning.

Concept of teaching profession in Nigeria

Teaching is an occupation dating from the time of human existence (Abonyi, 2021). However, despite its age, it has consistently lacked the command of prestige and power accorded the classical professions such as law and medicine. Teaching is a noble profession (Usman Mohammed Aklahyel, 2016). In Nigeria, teaching has remained a trade union rather than a professional organization. According to Izuchukwu, Ugwaka, Arazu and Ezechi (2023) there are very few things that are as rewarding as making a sound difference in shaping the lives of young people, inspiring and mentoring them to become the best versions that they can be teaching goes beyond subject knowledge and the satisfaction that it provides goes beyond words. According to Oxford, teaching is "a paid occupation,

especially one that involves prolonged training and a formal qualification.

Who is a qualified teacher?

A qualified teacher: is a trained person who impacts relevant knowledge to a learner in a school environment. According to Are (2002) a teacher refers to the person who instructs to provide the teaching-learning process.

Reasons for taking up teaching as a profession

According to Divyansh Bordia-09 Nov 2020 "To teach is to touch a life forever."

1. **Inspire and Influence:** as mentioned, teachers have the added responsibility of shaping future generations. Teachers have an opportunity to make a difference. You can teach them to be responsible and sensible citizens.
2. **Improvement and Learning:** teaching and learning go hand in hand. Since you will be around young, curious, minds all day, you will be able to push yourself and get better every day. When you are in an environment that asks a lot of questions and is inquisitive, you grow and develop each day. You get to polish your skills and techniques.
3. **Work Satisfaction:** the joy of making a difference and making a change in the right direction is like no other. Teaching provides job satisfaction that is like no other. Teachers have to use different teaching strategies and techniques to cater for each child (Ucheagwu-Okoye. 2025).
4. **Respect:** teaching is a respectful job and people look up to teachers for the work that they do and the influence they have. Teaching is a noble profession.
5. **Potential for Growth:** the stability and job security of a teaching career ae high. The potential that teachers have is commendable and the possibilities of teaching are vast. With online teaching apps and virtual classrooms on the rise, you can teach from the comfort of your home and without any geographical restrictions (Obumse & Egenti, 2021).

The Challenges Facing Teaching Profession in Nigeria

The following are the problems of teaching profession according to Ekwesianya, Okaforcha and Okeke (2020) as recorded in https://www.interesjournals.org

1. Inadequate funding.
2. Poor societal perception of teacher education.
3. Lack of commitment among teachers.
4. Lack of motivation.
5. Unethical behavior of some teachers.

Concept of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence can be described as the simulation of the human mind to make computers think and act like humans by performing tasks like learning and problem-solving (Zhang & Lu, 2021). Artificial Intelligence according to Benhamou and

AJEMATES
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Janin (2018) stated that artificial intelligence involves a collection of technologies that enable machines to act with a very high level of intelligence similar to humans. Merriam-Webster English Dictionary (2018) stated that artificial intelligence is "a part of computer science that deals with giving ability to the machines to look as if they have natural human intelligence". This means machines performances task like intelligent beings and animals (Mc Corduck, 2004). Artificial intelligence is an area of computer science with the help of digital electronics that emphasizes the creation of intelligent machines that works and reacts like humans (Enwezor, 2021; Ojimba, 2024). Artificial intelligence application is in wide use by educators and learner from nursery to tertiary education level.

Types of Artificial Intelligence

According to Ralph and George (2010) the history of AI can relatively be categorized into three types.

1. Data-based neural artificial intelligence: this type of AI is largely based on neural system (neurobiology/nervous system). Here the human brain started to look like a computer and the computer became known as the electronic brain.
2. Logic-based artificial intelligence: this form of AI was able to manipulate logical theorems and their creators were certain that they had produced solver that thinks. .
3. Knowledge-based artificial intelligence: this type focuses on the cognitive (intellectual) level of activity.

Benefits of Artificial Intelligence in Education

Education is one of the most important sectors in Nigeria that touches everybody regardless of age and location. Many other elements can be obtained through AI according to (Chen et al, 2020). We will briefly examine some potential benefits that AI offers to students and teachers. Artificial intelligence according to Nwakoby (2025) brings benefits and opportunities to education by:

1. Facilitating personalization of learning, providing instant feedback and improving efficiency in the assessment process. One of the key aspects of AI in education is the ability to adapt the learning process to the individual needs of pupils/students.
2. Artificial intelligence helps to reducing the workload of lecturers. In the recent years, the lecturers have often shown dissatisfaction with the high workload experienced in education.
3. Artificial intelligence can be used to create tutorial and interactive virtual assistants, system that can answer students' questions, provides additional explanation and guide students in real-time through the learning process.
4. Through tutorial and virtual assistance students can benefit from additional

support and learn at an individualized pace receiving real-time guidance to support learning process (Mahendra 2023).

Challenges of Artificial Intelligence in Nigeria

According to a Ph.D Student, Alabi Ebifakumor Blessing in the Journal of Business Education, Management Science and Information, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education Rumuolumeni Prot Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria Volume 8, Number 2, 2022. The following are some hindrances of AI in education sector.

1) **Fear of AI jeopardizing the objectives of education if the emphasis is on technology alone:** Nwakoby and Iloka (2025) and Enwezor and Obi (2022) opined that if the development of AI is mainly focused on technology, there is a risk that AI applications will no longer be in line with educational objectives. This risk increases when simulations are used excessively for teaching. There is a chance that knowledge and skills in a simulation cannot be applied in the real world.
2) **Lack of human interaction:** Such gaps can hinder students' personal development, as without human connections, it can be difficult for students to develop emotional and social skills according to (Grace et al. 2018).
3) **Dependency on black-box models versus the responsibility of lecturers:** there is a risk that education will become dependent on AI systems that we do not fully understand. A lecturer cannot take responsibility for systems that are incomprehensible.
4) **Applying AI without preparation:** so many conditions need to be met before Artificial Intelligence can be successful applied in education. For example, technical infrastructure and data are required before AI can be applied.
5) **Insecurity issues:** safety and security regarding AI-based system revolve around concepts such as safe Artificial Intelligence for use by humans, verification, validation, self-awareness in adversary prone environment.

Legal Frameworks Governing AI

As AI technologies evolve, various legal frameworks have been established to address the associated risks and ethical concerns (Enwezor, 2021; Okeke 2022; Okeke & Okaforcha, 2025). For instance, data protection regulations, such as the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** in the European Union and the **California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)** in the United States, provide guidelines for how organizations must handle personal data (Regan, 2015). These regulations emphasize the importance of consent, data minimization, and transparency, requiring organizations to implement measures that protect individuals' privacy rights.

AJEMATES
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VOL.15 (1), May-August, 2025 https://ajemates.org

Additionally, the **OECD Principles on Artificial Intelligence** establish a framework that promotes the responsible stewardship of AI technologies, emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability, and human-centered approaches in AI governance (Nwabachili, Iloka and Ucheagwu-Okoye, 2022). As governments worldwide recognize the transformative potential of AI, they are also increasingly implementing regulatory measures that hold organizations accountable for the implications of their AI systems (Abonyi, 2020).

Legal Implications of AI in Governance

Governance structures must address several legal implications associated with AI deployment:

- **Accountability for Algorithmic Decisions**: Organizations must be prepared to demonstrate accountability for decisions made by AI systems (Nwankwo & Ezeibe, 2021). Legal frameworks increasingly require organizations to explain how AI algorithms function, especially when these decisions impact individuals' rights and freedoms (Abonyi, 2022)
- **Bias and Discrimination**: The potential for AI systems to perpetuate bias raises significant legal concerns. Organizations must ensure that their AI technologies are free from discriminatory practices and comply with anti-discrimination laws (Dastin, 2018; Okaforcha and Okeke, 2020). Failing to address bias can result in legal liabilities and reputational damage.
- **Intellectual Property Rights**: The development and deployment of AI technologies present complex intellectual property challenges. Organizations must navigate issues related to authorship, ownership, and patentability of AI-generated content while ensuring compliance with existing IP laws (Ethelmary, Nwankwo & Aroh, 2019).
- **Regulatory Compliance**: Organizations must stay informed about evolving regulations surrounding AI technologies. Compliance with existing laws and proactive engagement with regulatory bodies are critical to mitigating legal risks and fostering public trust in AI applications (Ezeaku 2019; Martin, 2022).

Therefore, effective governance in the era of AI is essential for addressing the legal implications of AI deployment. Nwankwo (2022) and Obumse (2022) posited that organizations must establish robust governance frameworks that prioritize accountability, transparency, and compliance with legal standards. By doing so, they can navigate the complexities of AI technologies while mitigating risks and fostering responsible innovation. As AI continues to shape various sectors, organizations must remain vigilant in their governance practices

to ensure that AI is used ethically and legally (Okaforcha & Iloka, 2025; Osegbue, 2022).

Suggestion

1. Educational institutions should keep pace with rapidly evolving technology, to enable teachers and students to be future ready.
2. There would be less interactions between human beings in offices and other places of work as automated machines takeover most of the jobs.
3. Employers who have the intention of using AI in their place of work should retrain their staff to new tasks when the old ones would be taken over by artificial intelligence (automated machines).
4. Both software and hardware components should be made available in the school by the government to aid the use of AI by the Lecturers and learners.
5. There should be personal code for accessing one's data in order to maintain confidentiality.

Conclusion

The future of artificial intelligence in education is likely to grow in the coming years. With the help of AI technology, educational institutions can make teaching processes more efficient and effective and a range of benefits for students and teachers. With the help of artificial intelligence, teachers can better track students learning and create more personalized teaching plans. Educational institution and teachers must be prepared to use AI and adapt to technological changes.

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