

Reimagining Inclusion: How Artificial Intelligence is Shaping the Future of Education

Education systems worldwide face a structural imperative: neurodivergent learners — estimated at 15 - 20% of the global school population — continue to be underserved by both traditional pedagogical design and, increasingly, by AI systems that replicate rather than redress existing inequalities. This contribution reimagines inclusion not as an adaptive accommodation, but as a foundational principle capable of reshaping educational futures through the thoughtful integration of Artificial Intelligence. Drawing on the concept of compossibility (Carruba, 2024) and on recent systematic reviews in AI and education (Chiu et al., 2023; Crompton & Burke, 2023), a synergistic framework is advanced articulating four interdependent lenses — Universal Design for Learning, the International Classification of Functioning, Instructional Differentiation, and AI — and examines how their integration can move inclusion from individual exception to systemic design. Concrete evidence is presented across six categories of high-impact AI technologies, from adaptive learning platforms and text-to-speech tools to Extended Reality environments and executive function scaffolds, with specific attention to the vocational education and employment transition. The ethical stakes of this reimagining are addressed directly: algorithmic bias, the inverted digital divide, children's data rights, and the risks of anthropomorphisation demand governance frameworks grounded in both deontological and consequentialist traditions. Crucially, the argument is advanced that AI must amplify — never replace — the distinctly human capabilities of critical thinking, relational intelligence, creativity, and agency that inclusive education ultimately seeks to cultivate. The paper closes with a call for an expanded conception of AI literacy that encompasses democratic, societal, and geopolitical dimensions, guided by the principle that has long anchored disability rights advocacy: Nothing about us without us.