

The Impact, Potential Risks, and Countermeasures of Artificial Intelligence on Ideological Education in Higher Education

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Abstract: The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) technology has brought about profound changes in various sectors, including education. In higher education, AI's integration into the classroom, especially in ideological education, is reshaping traditional teaching methods. While AI offers opportunities for enhancing teaching effectiveness and student engagement, it also presents potential risks, particularly in ideological education, such as the distortion of information, manipulation of values, and the spread of biased or misleading content. This paper seeks to identify these risks, analyze their implications, and propose strategies to counteract them. The research is crucial in ensuring that AI applications in universities support, rather than undermine, the core principles of ideological education. By addressing these risks, higher education institutions can harness the potential of AI to improve teaching quality and safeguard the integrity of ideological education.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the rapid advancement of generative AI technology has significantly transformed various sectors, including education. International research has increasingly focused on the application of AI in education, exploring different models such as AI+Education, where AI acts as a complementary tool to enhance teaching and learning processes. Other key research areas include AI as a technology in itself, along with its capabilities in computational intelligence, which can revolutionize how educational content is delivered and personalized^[1]. This integration has not only enriched teaching methods but also improved educational outcomes, making learning more interactive, engaging, and efficient.

From a historical perspective, the combination of AI and education has become an inevitable trend as technological advancements continue to shape modern society. In the context of ideological and political education, which is a compulsory and essential part of university curricula, AI holds the potential to bring both opportunities and challenges. The use of AI tools in ideological education could reshape the delivery of content, but it also introduces risks such as information distortion and the manipulation of values. As the "AI+Internet+Education" model evolves, universities must carefully assess the potential risks AI poses to ideological education and implement effective

strategies to safeguard the integrity of ideological work, ensuring it aligns with the core values and beliefs of higher education institutions.

2. The Close Relationship between Artificial Intelligence and Ideological Education in Higher Education

AI technology is closely related to ideological education in higher education. Currently, universities in China are exploring and developing AI applications in ideological and political courses, and reforming teaching practices. For example, Zhejiang University's Marxism College will explore the "AI+Moral and Legal Education" teaching reform in the fall and winter semester of 2024-2025, achieving deep integration between AI technology and ideological courses. The development and application of AI technology provide universities with richer educational resources and more convenient teaching methods. For instance, Changsha University of Science and Technology has launched an "AI Teacher" for video-based ideological classes, which aids in improving teaching effectiveness and student engagement. However^[2], AI applications are based on databases, algorithms, and computational power, and often reflect specific values and political stances, which could lead to information bias or selective presentation. Therefore, while using AI in ideological education, we must remain cautious of its potential risks in the field of ideology, ensuring that AI's role in shaping students' values aligns with the principles of truth, objectivity, and balanced discourse. This careful approach is vital to safeguarding the integrity of ideological education in the digital age.

3. Potential Risks of Artificial Intelligence on Ideological Education in Higher Education

3.1 Risk of Information Distortion

AI tools, especially in the context of ideological education, enable political education teachers to gather and analyze large volumes of real-time domestic and international news, social issues, and public discourse. This data enrichment helps diversify teaching content and enhances engagement. However, the risk lies in AI algorithms not being perfect in their data processing, potentially leading to knowledge mismatches or mixing unrelated information. In some extreme cases, AI can generate errors or misrepresentations, including factual inaccuracies or misinterpretations of complex political issues. More concerning is the manipulation of AI-generated content to fabricate or distort information intentionally. A notable example is the creation of fake news, such as reports of a "landslide in Yunnan causing 8 deaths," which spread misinformation. Such distortions can mislead students, undermine their critical thinking, and lead to misconceptions about real-world issues, ultimately affecting the integrity of ideological education.

3.2 Risk of Value Misalignment

Artificial intelligence systems are designed to operate based on algorithms and data, but these systems can be influenced by the biases embedded within their data sources or algorithmic programming. As AI becomes more integrated into ideological education, there is a risk that it could be subjected to the influence of capital interests or political agendas. If AI is used to tailor or filter the content that students receive, it may promote certain political ideologies or worldviews over others. In this context, AI could inadvertently or intentionally propagate incorrect political views or biased values. This can destabilize the values and worldviews students hold, especially if they are exposed to conflicting or misleading ideologies^[3]. Materialism, hedonism, and extremism may resurface as dominant narratives, especially if AI systems prioritize sensational or divisive content.

As students are exposed to these skewed perspectives, it may lead to confusion, value conflict, and disorientation, ultimately impacting their ability to develop a coherent and sound worldview.

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4. Countermeasures to Address the Potential Risks of Artificial Intelligence in Ideological Education in Higher Education

4.1 Adhering to the Fundamental Guiding Position of Marxism in the Ideological Field

Ideological education plays a pivotal role in shaping the values, worldviews, and moral compass of students in universities. To ensure that this foundation remains strong and aligned with the national interests, it is essential to uphold Marxism as the fundamental guiding ideology in the ideological field. Universities must be proactive in steering the direction of ideological education, ensuring that it adheres to Marxist principles. This involves universities taking a leading role in setting the educational agenda and embedding socialist values within the curriculum. Political education teachers have a responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the ideological education front within their institutions. They must actively monitor and counter the risks introduced by AI technologies, such as biased algorithms or the spread of misinformation. In addition, universities should strengthen students' awareness of the risks AI may pose to ideological education, helping them critically engage with the content they encounter. By reinforcing the development of a strong, mainstream ideological framework, universities can mitigate the potential destabilizing effects of AI technologies on students' values and belief systems.

4.2 Strengthening Technological Research and Independent Innovation

One of the most effective ways to mitigate the risks posed by AI in ideological education is to focus on strengthening domestic technological research and promoting independent innovation in AI technologies. By reducing reliance on foreign technologies, universities and research institutions can ensure that AI systems are developed with a deeper understanding of local values, cultures, and educational needs, thus minimizing the risk of ideological misalignment. Fostering domestic AI development also allows for greater oversight and control over the ethical guidelines that govern AI usage. Simultaneously, universities should raise awareness among both ideological education teachers and students about the potential public risks posed by AI. Through workshops, seminars, and courses, educators can highlight the importance of ethical considerations when using AI tools. Additionally, universities can establish AI ethics education systems to ensure students understand the moral implications of AI and develop the skills necessary to navigate these challenges. By

balancing technological advancement with ethical considerations, universities can foster a responsible approach to AI integration in ideological education.

4.3 Improving Laws, Regulations, and Supervision Systems

As AI technologies continue to evolve at an accelerated pace, there is a growing need for robust laws, regulations, and supervision systems to ensure their safe and ethical use, particularly in sensitive areas such as ideological education. AI should not be allowed to operate above the law, and clear legal frameworks are necessary to define the boundaries of its applications. Specific laws should be introduced that govern AI's use in educational settings, particularly focusing on the ethical implications of data collection, content delivery, and the potential for biased or misleading information. These regulations should also outline the responsibilities and liabilities of AI developers and users, ensuring accountability for any harm caused by AI-driven content. Moreover, specialized regulatory agencies should be established to oversee AI projects in the ideological education sector. These agencies would be responsible for reviewing and approving AI technologies before they are used in educational settings, ensuring they adhere to ethical standards and national values. This proactive regulatory approach is critical for mitigating the risks posed by AI and ensuring that its use remains aligned with the broader educational and social goals of the university system.

4.4 Establishing a Sound Early Warning and Response Mechanism

Given the rapid pace of AI development, it is essential for universities to establish comprehensive early warning and response mechanisms that can effectively identify, prevent, and mitigate potential risks associated with AI in ideological education. These mechanisms should utilize AI itself to process large amounts of data, detecting emerging threats or irregular patterns that may indicate potential ideological risks, such as the spread of false information or the introduction of biased content. By employing AI to monitor AI, universities can create a proactive approach to risk management, ensuring that potential issues are identified early and addressed before they escalate. Additionally, universities should develop detailed emergency response plans that outline how to handle specific risks related to AI's impact on ideological education. These plans should include clear procedures for assessing the severity of identified risks, determining appropriate countermeasures, and ensuring that affected stakeholders, such as students and faculty, are informed and supported. Through these precautionary measures, universities can maintain control over the integration of AI into ideological education while safeguarding the integrity of their educational objectives.

5. Conclusion and Outlook

This paper delves into the growing influence of artificial intelligence (AI) on ideological education in higher education institutions, identifying potential risks such as information distortion, value misalignment, and public opinion conflicts. It emphasizes the importance of adhering to Marxist principles in the ideological domain, promoting technological innovation and domestic AI research, and strengthening legal frameworks to regulate AI applications in educational contexts. Additionally, the paper advocates for the establishment of robust early warning and response mechanisms to monitor and address emerging risks. The findings highlight that while AI brings significant opportunities to enhance education, a proactive approach to managing its risks is crucial for maintaining the integrity of ideological education and adapting to the challenges of the modern world. As AI continues to evolve, it is vital for universities to strike a balance between technological

advancement and the preservation of core educational values.

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