

	<h1 style="color: red;">GOMAL UNIVERSITY</h1> <h2 style="color: blue;">JOURNAL OF RESEARCH</h2> <p>Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan ISSN: 1019- 8180 (Print) ISSN: 2708- 1737 (Online)</p>				
Website	www.gujr.com.pk	HEC Recognized	Social Sciences	CrossRef	DOI:10.51380


EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF AI TOOLS ON CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS AMONG HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
<p style="color: red;">Artificial Intelligence (AI), Problem-Solving Skills, Critical Thinking, Students, Higher Education Institutions</p>	<p>This study investigates the effectiveness of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools in problem-solving skills in higher education students. The integration of AI in higher education has remodeled knowledge view, and AI- tool has developed as an encouraging tool for promoting real-world problem-solving skills in students. Study investigates how AI-based stimulation may promote critical thinking, logical reasoning abilities and examines its effectiveness in improving problem-solving skills. Descriptive statistics were analysed using SPSS. A stratified sampling method was used to collect the data from 300- university students 42% male and 58% female who were majoring in computer science, social science, languages, and sciences. The results involve educators seeking to merge AI-tools into their education practices to improve student-learning results. Educators may include AI-help in their education practices to improve students' logical abilities. Higher education institutions should invest in AI-powered learning platforms, tools to support student- learning outcomes. The findings offer valued observations for educators & institutions exploring to influence of AI-based stimulation to improve student-education outcomes. The study shows how artificial intelligence (AI)-tools play role to helps students in university students in critical thinking as well as problem solving skills.</p>
<p style="color: white;">Article History</p> <p style="color: purple;">Date of Submission: 23-02-2025</p> <p style="color: purple;">Date of Acceptance: 25-03-2025</p> <p style="color: purple;">Date of Publication: 30-03-2025</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">2025 Gomal University Journal of Research</p> </div>
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DOI	https://doi.org/10.51380/gujr-41-01-10

INTRODUCTION

Education is the foundation of our society, and science has significantly transformed the way we acquire and process information (Siemens, 2005). The widespread presence of electronics in our lives has influenced the rise of machine intelligence (AI) as a transformative innovation in education (Gee, 2003; Prensky, 2001). As, the younger generations become increasingly familiar with AI-powered tools, it is vital to investigate the impact of these technologies on their critical

thinking abilities, a crucial determinant of academic success and future career prospects (Van, 2006). Some models of AI-compelled brilliant schools contain the uses of the dossier without thinking to accommodate material surroundings, in the way that ignition and hotness, increase knowledge environments (Kumar, 2020; Jiang, 2020). Moreover, investigators have projected using AI to resolve scholars' nonverbal communication & mind postures to supply embodied responses of AI in educational settings (Chen, 2020), cultivate listening wholes for non-spoken performance by educators, causative to authentic-occasion implications for bettering (Rosen, 2019).

AI's machine intelligence competencies authorize adjusting evaluations (Chen, Chen & Lin, 2018), Natural Language Processing (NLP) for Chabot's and in essence helpers (Hirschberg & Manning, 2015), and knowledge science of logical analysis for intuitions into graduate practice and education effects (Siemens & Baker, 2012). By leveraging AI-compelled changes, educators can develop the education value and effectiveness (Harms & Jennings, 2016), embellish scholar date and ambition (Luckin, Holmes, Griffiths & Forcier, 2016), and support the made-to-order and the direct knowledge surroundings (Zhang, Chen & He, 2020). The progress of artificial intelligence has mutated the instruction area, advancing from calculating-located electronics to netting-located astute orders, and immediately, manlike androids and chatbots that can act as mentor charges alone, together associated instructors (Luckin et al., 2016). These manifestos have improved instructors' bureaucratic tasks, to a degree, evaluating and inspecting tasks, which has enhanced the value of education (Harms & Jennings, 2016). AI-inspired managing command constructions have been rooted to improve graduate demand results, and intelligent abilities, by providing responses and suitable demand facts (Chassignol, 2018; Roll & Wylie, 2016).

The growing celebrity of AI-based education tools and policies makes it more attainable for scholars to attack intensely and interactively the complex, real-world positions accompanying them (Kumar, 2022). Even though the custom of AI in universities is increasing, more research is wanted to appreciate how it affects student education effects, exactly concerning practical logical abilities. Recent research has proved that AI can improve scholarly data, inspiration, and intelligent growth (Creswell, 2022). Moreover, research has proved that AI-based teaching fabrics can help scholars' knowledge effects, to degree, their volume for critical understanding, and logic increasing use of AI tools in education, AI-assisted tutoring, learning systems, and intelligent feedback systems. (Alkhatlan, Al-Mutairi & Al-Harbi, 2022; Chan, Lam & Ng, 2022). This study is being attended in Pakistan, place meaningful changes are in preparation to the academy plan to strengthen students' critical thinking, change, and entrepreneurship. Thus, a number of arranging have then begun merging AI-based education tools and plans into their curricula, indicating this is critical plan for gaining these aims (Higher Education Commission, 2022).

Research Objectives

1. To examine the role of AI based tools in Promoting critical thinking and decision making in real word scenarios.

2. To Access the effectiveness of AI Based Tools in Problem solving skills among higher Education Students.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This literature review presents a comprehensive test of the consolidation of (AI) information, stress, and life-changing potential. The review synthesizes verdicts from obvious studies that survey the occurrence of AI standards, allure requests in younger fate, and the privilege and challenges that guide the allure exercise (Luckin et al., 2016; Bostrom & Yudkowsky, 2014). As juniors at more generous subordinate level touch following AI forms, it improves fault finding to resolve in what way or manner these sciences impact their reasonable talents – an essential component of academic profit and future employability (Baker, 2020). This essay will test the flexible impact of AI on junior' probable proficiencies, claiming that while AI can raise critical thinking and ability, it can still risk damage-free probable talents except that linked softly into the course of study (Griol, García, Molina & Calvo, 2019). The fusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the embodied education has transformed the instructional countryside, contributing a transformational style to fluctuating demand to individual graduates' needs (Luckin, Holmes, Griffiths & Forcier, 2016). AI's affect the embodied knowledge abilities are versatile, reaching further absolute content customization to authorize the educators to support deep knowledge occurrences.

Similarly, AI-compelled embodied education as machine learning has accumulated meaningful consideration for the glamor of life-changing powers & Virtual helpers like Siri and Alexa have still leveraged automobile judgment to build up their voice command acknowledgment and reaction wherewithal (Hoy, 2018). Moreover, machine intelligence algorithms have reached unusual accomplishments, that human planet champions in complex tricks like Chess and Go (Silver et al, 2016). The instructional machines and instructional androids have reconstructed the educational countryside, contributing a singular space to search for the impact of AI on undergraduates' logical abilities (Grau et al., 2017). These androids, outfitted accompanying state-of-the-art AI electronics like voice acknowledgment, despair acknowledgment, beyond human electronics, aim to nurture graduates' examining skill, artistry, and efficient capability (Miller et al., 2008). AI-stimulated Chabot can provide instant help to scholars on friendly news principles, transforming the habit support presented (Baker, 2020). These Chabot's can answer questions, determine study tips, offer analysis on tasks, even offer psychological support when wanted.

As AI virtual learning environments (VLEs) advance resume, uses the facts correctly to offer, possibly outside limits more direct and informed information forms (Huang & Fang, 2020). Therefore, studying the impact of AI on subordinates' apparent abilities detracts from ruling allure comprehensive potential in command. The rise of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) forms like ChatGPT has revolutionized growth of freshman detracting thinking abilities (Martineau, 2023). By leveraging the competencies of deep-information models prepared on enormous amounts of dossier, Gen AI can create novel resolutions, visions, plans, advancing artistry and novelty (Limna, 2023). Gen AI can specify authentic-period response, counseling, advocating repetitious detracting thinking (Kohnke, 2023). It can offer the different views and

approaches, hopefully detracting from thinking and interpretation (Bearman & Ajjawi, 2023). Furthermore, Gen AI can ease cooperative faultfinding thinking, and undergraduates to work efficiently accompanying AI finishes considering problem solving that is vital for educators and students. (Martineau, 2023). Therefore, higher education has been entirely remodeled by artificial intelligence (AI), which gives students exceptional freedom to practice logic in real world.

By providing the embodied counseling and approvals established individual students' needs, knowledge styles, and aims, chatbots help graduates feel backed and assumed. Grammarly is a modern writing tool, improves literature quality and accuracy over its progressive features, containing grammar and punctuation checks, spelling fixings, language rules progress, style and color hints, and plagiarism discovery. The judgments of meaningful suggestions for the future of learning, labour pool improvement, and social standards. As AI-stimulated tools become more universal, it is important to acknowledge the potential results of these tools for critical thinking and problem-solving (Baker, 2022). It define the critical thinking and problem-solving skills, emphasizing their standing in higher education and their relevance to preparing students for future careers. Educators, policymakers, and management officers must agree to promote game plans that develop the trustworthy development and use of AI-power-driven tools, while further supporting the critical thinking and logical abilities that are essential for achievement in more complex and robotic experiences (Ku, 2022). Research has explained its influence in reconstructing paper skills specifically for non-native English speakers (Lee & Lee, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The target population for this study consists of university students in Multan, who consume Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their academic structure. The study focuses on two co-institutions (Bahauddin Zakariya University BZU and Institute Of Southern Punjab ISP) and in areas like; (Computer Science, Language, Science & Social Science) and choose one department from each due to specific resources. A simple stratified sampling method ensures all university students in society have an equal opportunity to be preferred for the sample (Kumar, 2020). Sub samples of 300 university students are picked in this method. A simple stratified sampling technique is used to collect the sample from population. This technique involves dividing the population into distinct subgroups, strata based on weighty features. This study investigates quantitative data collection method to search for the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on M.Phil & PhD students at university level and determine their critical thinking logical abilities of student's (Creswell, 2014). The scholar collected data using survey questionnaire. Data was composed utilizing a survey covering two portions are facts and evaluating abilities of AI. To ensure data accuracy, reduce bias, analyst engaged in a self-executed questionnaire survey design (Kumar, 2020).

RESULTS OF STUDY

Descriptive study took quantitative approach. For data analysis, SPSS was applied. Descriptive data was used to resolve figures. Means, standard deviations and percentage was determined

to compile participants' logical reasoning scores, Chi-square was used to check the connection between AI exposure and techniques. A liberated samples eminent conclusion scores between students accompanying everywhere AI. To evaluate the evidence composed from the surveys and coherent tasks, an orderly approach was utilized to rule and classify ideas in the inclusive dataset (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The all-inclusive report from the surveys was utilizing the Statistical Package for Social Sciences, and report to conduct, mean stander deviation and chai square.

Table 1
Evaluate the Impact of AI Apps on Students Learning

SN	Statements	Mean	SD
1	The Grammarly can help us to improve the literature quality as well as accuracy.	3.50	1.090
2	Quizlet can help us to boost our knowledge by performing the quizzes and tests	3.52	1.083
3	Students AI can offer flexible knowledge policies, creative instruction schemes.	3.37	2.658
4	Chatbots can answer questions limit study tips & even offer emotional support if needed	3.15	1.311

This result highlighted the majority of respondents (45.3%) believe that Grammarly improves accuracy, usefulness of research, whilst 42.3% believe that Quizlet may improve knowledge through interactive exams and quizzes. The acknowledged advantages of some AI-accelerated techniques for rebuilding academic knowledge. Moreover, many respondents acknowledged adaptability and creativity suggested by AI-stimulated education strategies (36.3%). Chatbots were also seen as a valuable resource, accompanying 34.3% of the respondents understanding their strength to determine answers, study tips, and emotional support. Overall, the survey results point out that the respondents view AI-powered tools as appropriate supplements to established educational plans, embellishing academic characteristics, adaptability, along with support.

Objective No. 1

To examine role of AI Based Tools in Promoting critical thinking and decision making in real word scenarios

Table 2
Promoting Critical Thinking & Decision Making

SN	Statement	Tool	Gender
1.	AI contribute development of critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills in students.	CHI-S DF SIG.	5.494 4 .240
2.	AI tools help me understand complex concepts better but in real scenarios students fell in problems	CHI-S DF	9.153 4

		SIG.	.057
3.	AI usage improves academic performance but decrease creative writing	CHI-S	8.960
		DF	4
		SIG.	.062
4.	AI usage reduces problem-solving and decision making skills among higher sector students	CHI-S	8.111
		DF	4
		SIG.	.088

This table showed that although responses fluctuated little, the results of chi-square test, for the majority of statements, the variations were not statistically significant. Interesting findings on variations in attitudes between males and females participants of the use of AI are shown. Specifically, AI contribute the development of critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills in students . ($\chi^2 = 5.494, p = 0.240$), AI tools help to know complex ideas better ($\chi^2 = 9.153, p = 0.057$), me complex concepts better but in real scenarios students fell in problems ($\chi^2 = 8.960, p = 0.062$), AI usage improves academic performance but decrease creative writing ($\chi^2 = 8.111, p = 0.088$) AI usage reduces problem-solving and decision making skills among higher sector students

Objective No. 2

To Access effectiveness of AI Based Tools in Problem solving skills among higher Education Students.

Table 3
Promoting Critical Thinking & Decision Making

SN	Statement		GDR
14.	AI Base learning influence students engagement and motivation in problem solving assignment.	CHI-S	5.718
		DF	4
		SIG.	.221
15.	Majority of students performing the task & projects through the help if AI .	CHI-S	1.105
		DF	4
		SIG.	.894
16.	AI impact students ability to apply problem solving strategies on real l word scenarios	CHI-S	3.495
		DF	5
		SIG.	.624b
17.	AI can answer the questions; determine study tips and even offer emotional support if needed.	CHI-S	9.926
		DF	4
		SIG.	.042*

The results revealed varying levels of importance in the assessment between male and female accused concerning benefits of different AI-stimulate tools. Notably, there were no important dissimilarities in assumption on whether AI influence students engagement and motivation in problem solving assignment students performance quality and accuracy ($\chi^2 = 5.718, p = 0.221$), Majority of students performing the task and projects through the help if AI ($\chi^2 = 1.105, p = 0.894$), AI impact students ability to apply problem solving strategies on real l word scenarios

($\chi^2 = 3.495$, $p = 0.624$). However, the results presented in the above table provides a meaningful dissimilarity in the assessment of whether AI can effectively answer questions, provide study tips, and offer emotional support ($\chi^2 = 9.926$, $p = 0.042$), suggesting that the male and female accused may have various outlooks on the potential of the AI to support pupil knowledge and prosperity.

DISCUSSION

The result shows a specific valuable understanding of ideas and beliefs of the accused towards AI usage in their daily lives and academic occupations. The judgments indicate that accused are mainly positive about benefits of AI usage, but still accept a few potential disadvantages. The conclusion implies that the accused may worry about potential impact of AI-power-driven tools on their creative thinking and logical abilities. Overall, judgment plan that the accused is commonly conclusive about benefits of AI usage but still accepts a few potential drawbacks. Furthermore, the judgments highlight the need for the educators and policymakers to test the potential risks and benefits of AI usage in learning and to expand approaches to support the innovative improvement of AI-stimulated tools in counseling and education practices (Kumar, 2022). The results offer significant guidance for accomplishing the AI-stimulated resources in academic training. There are not many notable qualities between the Grammarly, Quizlet, and Students AI's plans, meaning that these programs are mainly visualized as effective resources for reconstructing competency of documents, expanding understanding, and offering flexible facts.

Moreover, the finding that chatbots can offer diverse support underlines the potential of AI to appropriate intellectual support and advance sense of participation in connected to the internet command atmospheres (Alkhatlan et al., 2022). To satisfactorily harness the potential of these tools, educators and policymakers must plan out productive modifications, elect enough skill and support, and address concerns about approachability and property. By gaining so, we can substantiate facts surroundings that are customized to the needs of individual learners, thus boosting enhanced academic results and improved education facts. AI tools are being used in various fields, and understanding their impact on the cognitive skills like critical thinking and problem solving is vital for both educators and students as highlight the rise of AI and its integration into higher educationnd problem-solving skills among higher education students. The judgments highlight the need for continuous research into the impact of AI-stimulate tools on the human understanding, acting as well as organization, further the meaning of cultivating AI-stimulate tools that are comprehensible, explainable, and controlled accompanying human principles.

The findings have main suggestions for the adjustment of AI-stimulated tools in the academic environment. The lack of meaningful dissimilarities in concepts of Grammarly, Quizlet, and Students AI indicates that these tools are widely accepted as valuable resources for cultivating literature characteristics, improving knowledge, and providing flexible facts (Alkhatlan et al., 2022). However, the main conflict in belief on potential of chatbots to decide inclusive support highlights the need for educators and planners to start design of chatbots that can efficiently

address sensitive and academic needs of pupils eir relevance to preparing students for future careers (Kumar, 2022). Furthermore, the judgments emphasize the importance of unending research into the impact of AI-stimulated tools on scholar outcomes, apart from the need for educators, policymakers to cultivate slants for capably blending tools into academic practices (Baker, 2022). By realizing so, potential of AI-stimulated tools to enhance student information, boost academic effects, and designate inclusive support for students' emotional and academic needs.

CONCLUSION

The study indicate that AI-tools can play meaningful role in developing critical thinking and decision-making in real-world scenarios. The results indicate that students who took AI-tools showed enhanced critical thinking skills, including the analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information (Kumar, 2020). Furthermore, the study shows that the AI-based stimulus can be an effective tool in improving real-world logical abilities among higher education students. The results show that students who received AI-based stimulation determined enhanced logical abilities, containing describing questions, generating answers, and classifying outcomes (Lee, 2019). The findings indicate that educators and policymakers promote designs that encourage effective assimilation of AI-based stimulation into teaching practices while further establishing that students develop the critical thinking and logical abilities essential to achieve in real-world scenarios (Johnson, 2018). Integrated AI-stimulated logical tools into curricula and Educators should examine logical tools into their curricula to improve the juniors' logical abilities and decision-making abilities. Educators should specify instructor training and support to ensure that faculty members are well prepared to effectively use AI-power-driven logical tools in their classrooms.

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