Chapter 9
Redefining the Role of Educators, Not Replacing Them:
Strategies for Creating Content With AI

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ABSTRACT

This chapter discusses the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and education by arguing that AI should empower educators rather than replace them. While AI offers significant benefits such as personalized instruction, improved lesson planning, and enhanced assessment capabilities, education fundamentally requires human connection, empathy, and adaptive instruction that AI cannot replicate. We suggest a five-pronged model that redefines educators' roles in light of AI advancements and in conjunction with the Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) technology integration framework. Our model posits the role of educators with AI integration as Innovators, Instructional Designers, Facilitators of Critical

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Thinking, Ethical and Moral Guides, and Social-Emotional Mentors. The chapter explores practical applications of AI for content creation across curriculum planning, presentational instruction, interactions, and assessment, and offers guidance for educators to effectively integrate AI while maintaining pedagogical oversight and the human element of teaching.

The role of educators worldwide is rapidly evolving in the face of ongoing technological advancements, especially with artificial intelligence (AI) recently emerging as a disruptive tool in many facets of the educational landscape. We now live in a world where educators have real concerns about the potential impacts of AI on education, including benefits and unintended consequences. Some have documented threats to teaching and learning, such as academic integrity concerns (Perkins, 2023), that prompt maintaining a cautious and balanced approach to AI integration. Yet, AI can also be a powerful tool to transform how teachers design, deliver, and adapt their curriculum (Adıgüzel et al., 2023). As our classrooms grow increasingly more diverse, AI offers educators the ability to create tailored materials that cater to individual learning needs (Kolluru et al., 2018), streamline lesson planning (Bucchiarone, 2024), and enrich the overall learning experience (Barrios-Beltran, 2024). AI's potential to enhance education is also linked to several positive learning outcomes, including enhanced engagement, motivation, and skill development (Xu, 2024).

Furthermore, this growing body of research serves to highlight several important impacts on education. First, there is a need for educational stakeholders to better prepare students and teachers for the appropriate use of AI. AI competencies need to be integrated into content curricula to assist learners in developing such skills and appropriate uses, and we need to provide more AI professional development for educators at all levels. Second, the role educators play in terms of shaping the use of AI is still evolving. Notably, the presence of AI in education has significantly increased the imperative for educators to better understand AI tools, their uses and misuses, and to leverage them in their teaching and learning practices. As Velander et al. (2024, p. 4086) note, "This 'new normality' requires teachers to be able to teach about different aspects of AI related to different subject topics as well as different age groups." We argue here that the role of educators should be redefined to empower them to harness the potential of AI, rather than be replaced by it.

By integrating AI-driven methods, teachers can not only save time (Fitria, 2023) but also unlock new creative possibilities in the classroom (Habib et al., 2024) that have the potential to empower them to meet the unique challenges of modern education. To further illustrate these opportunities, this chapter explores how educators must transform their roles as educators to successfully integrate AI into their instructional practices. Whether you are a veteran educator or new to teaching, this