

“ChatGPT and Digital Inequality: A Rising Concern”

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Abstract**Short Communication**

Since its launch of the latest version as GPT-4 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) in March 2023, ChatGPT has drawn a lot of interest from a multitude of domains and the educational community as well. Unfortunately, the digital world is not accessible equally to all, and digital inequality continues to widen the gap between those who have and those who don't. ChatGPT, an advanced language model created by OpenAI, has the potential to completely change how people communicate and share information, but it also emphasizes how urgently the problem of digital inequality has to be addressed. The potential of such advanced technologies can only be optimally utilized if they are made accessible to all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic background, geographical boundaries, and gender biasing. The actual revolutionary power of technology may be unlocked by bridging the digital gap through fair access, digital literacy, and inclusive practices, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, ChatGPT, Digital Inequality, Internet Access, Literacy.

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ChatGPT and Digital Inequality

Since its launch of the latest version as GPT-4 (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) in March 2023, ChatGPT has drawn a lot of interest from a multitude of domains and the educational community as well [1-3]. In a time when technology has infused every aspect of our lives, having access to digital tools and possibilities has emerged as a key indicator of one's chance of success. Unfortunately, the digital world is not equal for everyone, and the gap between the wealthy and the poor keeps growing as a result of digital inequality [4]. ChatGPT, an advanced language model created by OpenAI, has the potential to completely change how people communicate and share information, but it also emphasizes how urgently the problem of digital inequality has to be addressed. ChatGPT, with its remarkable language understanding capabilities, offers users an unprecedented level of access to information and expertise. It can assist in various tasks, provide insights, and even simulate human-like conversations [5]. For example, data analysis and scientific writing are increasingly using AI-powered language models [6]. The key benefit of ChatGPT is that it can link information more rapidly and draw conclusions than humans can. However, the very existence of ChatGPT shines a light on the disparities that exist in terms of access to technology and digital literacy. This also

reflected in assignment completing abilities, obtaining in-depth knowledge of topics, and performance evaluation of students. Thus, ChatGPT has brought forward new challenges and threats to education [7].

The problem of digital inequality is a multifactorial issue [8]. On the one hand, there are those without even basic access to computers and the Internet. They are unable to harness the power of ChatGPT or any other online resources to enhance their knowledge and efficiency to improve their lives and contribution to the community. On the other side, the disparity may be seen in the poor digital literacy and abilities of individuals who do have access to the internet. A lot of people find it difficult to sort through the overwhelming amount of information available online, and many lack the analytical and critical thinking skills necessary to assess the truthfulness and dependability of the data they come across. Every new development has some associated difficulties, thus a system must be created to maximize its benefits and minimize its drawbacks [9]. Using a chatbot might provide additional challenges for students with special needs [10].

Addressing digital inequality requires a concerted effort from governments, private organizations, and communities. It starts with ensuring universal access to affordable and reliable internet

connectivity. Efforts should focus on bridging the rural-urban divide, as rural communities often face greater challenges in terms of connectivity and training opportunities. The inclusion of Public-private partnerships can help in expanding broadband infrastructure and making it accessible to underserved areas. Moreover, digital literacy campaign needs to be prioritized and integrated into educational systems at all levels [11]. Basic computer skills, internet navigation, critical thinking, and information evaluation from raw data should be taught from an early stage. Governments should allocate resources to train teachers and provide the necessary tools to impart digital literacy effectively. Additionally, efforts must be made to make advanced technologies like ChatGPT more inclusive and accessible. OpenAI's commitment to responsible AI should extend to ensuring that the benefits of technologies like ChatGPT reach marginalized communities [12]. This can be achieved through partnerships with community organizations and initiatives that provide training and support for individuals who may not have direct access to such tools. Authorities must keep up with the technological advances and take into account how they could affect their teaching strategies, curriculum creation, and evaluation techniques [13]. It is also crucial to foster a culture of digital inclusion, where diversity and equitable representation are valued and promoted. By ensuring that technology development is driven by diverse perspectives, we can avoid perpetuating biases and exclusionary practices that further exacerbate digital inequality. Learning institutions must take proactive measures to ensure that all students have fair access to digital technologies like chatbots in order to narrow down digital inequality. By including lessons on digital inequality and the need for universal access in their syllabi, policymakers may play a significant role in promoting this understanding [14]. The issue won't be resolved by restricting or banning ChatGPT. It is best to embrace it and provide clear rules for its use in academic environments [2]. Evaluation of student's performance for completing their assignments needs to be tailored accordingly to provide fair marks irrespective of the use of AI.

In conclusion, ChatGPT represents a significant advancement in the field of artificial intelligence, but emphasis must be given to reducing digital inequality. The potential of such advanced technologies can only be optimally utilized if they are made accessible to all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic background, geographical boundaries, and gender biasing. The actual revolutionary power of technology may be unlocked by bridging the digital gap through fair access, digital literacy, and inclusive

practices, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.

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