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FlashFile20 From chalkboards to chatbots

Extrait p.169 – Article de Daniel Itai, *connectingafrica.com*

The influence of AI in African schools

According to Maxwell Chimedza, an online tutor, the use of a laptop, smartphone or tablet is proving to be a key resource for young people, particularly when it comes to revisions, books, group work, submission of homework and exams. […]

Using AI, a reading book can easily be shared among a group of learners or read online without the need of acquiring or photocopying it, he explained.

"With the shortage of textbooks in most African schools, AI works as the shortcut[1] to getting academic info on the go […]." said Chimedza.

Although there seems to be many positive aspects about the advent of AI in learning institutions, experts warn that AI could also negatively impact disciplines such as critical thinking and the ability of learners to make their own assessments[2] without the need of a search engine or chatbot.

"AI is helpful for sure, but it will take some time to learn to work with it properly. As it stands, AI is unfortunately helping students to bypass[3] deep learning, understanding

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[1] quick way

[2] *évaluations*

[3] avoid

and interpretation, making it an unnecessary tool," said Dr. Christopher Allsobrook, director of the Centre for Leadership Ethics in Africa at the University of Fort Hare. "Although AI is a tool among many, students must learn wider skills and educators should teach them how to draw on a wider array of resources and skill sets," Allsobrook added.

Daniel Itai, *connectingafrica.com*, 2025