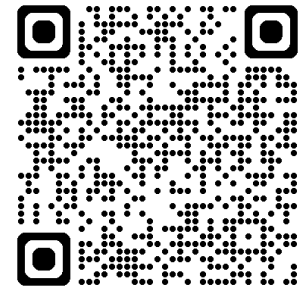


Preparing students for the age of AI



<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20260312114117855/>

Artificial intelligence is quickly entering our daily lives. This is raising questions about how children should learn to use the new technology, especially as AI can make mistakes. A US nonprofit that focuses on AI education is tackling the problem. We spoke with the CEO during his visit to Japan.

An event exploring innovative technology was held in January in Nagoya. On the final day, Alex Kotran CEO of the NPO, spoke about the necessity of AI education.

In the US, 1 in 5 students have an AI companion. The average user on Character AI spends more time than they do on Tik-tok, 2 hours a day on average. This is going to transform the world. It is going to transform your jobs. It is going to transform your kids' jobs.

His organization was founded in 2019. It provides free educational materials for students from elementary through high school. In the US it is estimated that last year more than 1 million students used the curriculum. The materials are available in English and Japanese and are designed to help students understand how AI works, its benefits, limitations, and risks. The most important thing is to develop the ability to critically engage with AI. For example, the curriculum is designed to prompt children to ask questions like: "Was fact checking done? What risks are involved?"

Almost the best compared to any other benchmark, is persuasion. AI is very very good at persuading people to think a certain way. The instinct that everybody needs to have but certainly kids, is "Why is it saying that? Should I actually think that?"

Generative AI which automatically creates content like text, images, audio, and video targets users aged 13 and older. However, it is quickly spreading to younger age groups.

I really do not understand the implications, so we need to be very careful. Generally, when people ask, “what age should kids be using AI?” It’s like basically not until you’re in late middle school/early high school. So, for us, that’s like 13/14.

Kotran says adults must understand AI and take proactive measures to teach students how to use the technology correctly.

Our work is really about how do you build the infrastructure so that students are being guided on to that path. It’s about how do you build the capability within the education system, within households, within society to ensure that there is guidance and curiosity and learning that needs to be happening.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Do your children or any children you know use AI? What do you think is an appropriate age to start using AI?
2. Do you think courses teaching how to safely use AI should be taught in the school curriculum? Why or why not?
3. What types of things should be prohibited when using AI in different situations like in school, at home, or in society?
4. What do you think is the biggest problem with AI?
5. Alex Kotran mentions that AI will transform jobs for children in their future. What types of jobs do you think will be created or lost?