United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

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Co-Chairs

L. Douglas Wilder Middle School Model United Nations Conference

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Letter from the Chairs

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the UNESCO committee! We are the co-chairs of the UNESCO Specialized Agencies committee, and we are greatly excited to have this chance to welcome you. Let's embark on this journey together and learn more about diplomacy, communication, and collaboration when faced with real-world issues. We will do this by combatting two issues: AI in education and the accessibility of education in third-world countries.

Yashvi Gupta is a 7th grader currently enrolled in the GYSA program at L. Douglas Wilder Middle School. This is her first year in Model UN and she has already learned so many new things. Outside of MUN, she participates in debate club, ice skating classes, and art after school. She loves to read, draw, write, and listen to music in her free time.

Olivia Artis is an 8th grader in the GYSA Program at Wilder Middle School. She enjoys dancing, listening to music, and volunteering throughout her community in her free time. This is her first time being a part of Model UN and she looks forward to growing the opportunities and skills that Model UN has to offer.

When looking for good delegates, we recognize students that express the qualities of honesty, respect, diligence, collaboration, and communication. If a delegate is interested in competing for an award at Wilder Model UN, then they must write a position paper. This position paper must be written without AI, and the student must cite their sources in MLA 9 format. They will research about their role's stance on the topic, using information only pertaining to their role's opinion. It is due at 3:00 on April 24th, and more information on submission procedures will be provided closer to the conference.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact wildermodelun@gmail.com. Thank you, and we are excited to see you at Wilder Model UN's very first iteration!

Your Chairs,

Olivia Artis and Yashvi Gupta

WMUN I

Wilder Model UN Conference

Topic I: AI in the Field of Education
Topic II: Accessibility of Education

Committee Overview:

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, seeks to create equal balance and security in educational, scientific, and cultural fields. After World War ll in 1946, people around the world came to the collective consensus that finding the resolution to problems should not be designated only to the limited human mind. Originally, UNESCO was founded by 19 countries and currently has 193. UNESCO pushes the initiative of keeping AI collaborative and fair while being used. They are also working on making AI available to everyone.

Along with working on adding more safeguards around AI to keep the user's privacy and information safe, UNESCO is ensuring that privacy protections are built into AI systems from the start, which can protect vulnerable students and educators from data exploitation or surveillance. Frameworks and professional development programs are helping educators with AI significantly. However, only seven countries have developed these kinds of software.

UNESCO has created a program called Beijing Consensus that helps education policymakers with artificial intelligence. Its purpose is to create an understanding of the opportunities and challenges AI has to offer.

Topic 1:
AI in the Field of Education

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence, with its creation dating back to the 1950s, is a vital aspect of our world today. Many of our students use it in assignments, adults may use it in their emails— so on and so forth. As the growth of AI has boomed throughout the years, so has the way that we view the things around us. When people learn more about Artificial Intelligence, it starts consuming their daily lives, making their dependence on it more and more prominent. Some may also face an altered state of reality after gaining an excess exposure to such tools. In spite of this, some may argue that AI has more of a positive effect than a negative one– it helps students grasp complex concepts on a greater level.

Opportunities

Utilizing AI presents a wide range of opportunities for individuals, educators, and organizations alike. AI gives people the opportunity to expand and express their thoughts and beliefs, better their organizational needs, and much more. In the field of education, AI allows students to learn at their own pace and in a style that suits them best. Another way AI can personalize their learning experience is by tailoring lessons to fit a student's individual needs, interests, and learning preferences. This capability makes education more engaging, effective, and accessible to all types of learners.

For students, this means they can progress through material at their speed, whether they need extra help in certain areas or can move ahead faster than their peers. With AI, students can spend additional time on subjects they find difficult while getting through topics they understand quickly, growing both their confidence and capability. The result of this is a more fulfilling educational experience where students feel more in control of their learning experience.

Teachers also can benefit from using AI tools. They can use AI to create more engaging lessons that are more interesting and helpful to their students' learning styles. AI can provide teachers with the student's progress, helping them identify areas where students are struggling. This allows for a more specific and efficient solution. Additionally, AI can assist teachers by

making tasks easier by using technology, such as grading and tracking students' performance, giving them more time to focus on aspects of teaching. With AI's assistance, teachers can be better equipped to support each student's growth and create an environment where personalized learning thrives.

Another key benefit of AI in education is its role as a resource for students when their teachers are unavailable. AI-powered platforms can assist students with any questions they have about their assignments, concepts they don't fully understand, or topics they would like to learn more about. This support ensures that learning continues even outside of the classroom and encourages self-lead learning, helping students become more independent and motivated.

In addition, AI also provides students with valuable skills and knowledge that are aligned with the rapidly evolving digital world. By working with AI tools, students gain exposure to AI tools that continue to shape career fields. Moreover, AI encourages the development of essential life skills like collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving. These skills are not only necessary for academic success but also for future careers. The ability to use AI to solve real-world problems in innovative

ways prepares students for challenges beyond the classroom.

Risks

However, as with the growth of technology, the inclusion of AI into educational settings raises several concerns for schools, parents, and others involved in the process. One of the primary worries revolves around the potential impact of AI on students' social skill development. With increased reliance on AI-powered tools, some consider that students may have fewer opportunities for face-to-face interactions with peers and teachers, which is needed for developing social and emotional skills. This could impact their ability to work with others, communicate effectively, and build relationships.

Another concern is the possibility that students may misuse AI to complete their assignments or get answers without actually engaging and attempting the material. While AI can support learning, there is a risk that students might turn to it as a shortcut rather than a tool for deeper understanding. If not properly kept an eye on, students may use AI to cheat or avoid doing the work themselves, which defeats the purpose of education. It is essential to create a balance between using AI for support and ensuring that students are still

developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The potential for receiving inaccurate or biased information from AI tools is another significant issue. AI systems are trained on vast amounts of data, but if this data is incomplete, outdated, or biased, it can lead to misleading conclusions. This is particularly concerning in educational settings, where the accuracy of information is critical. Schools must ensure that AI tools used in classrooms are regularly checked and updated to provide reliable and up-to-date content.

Another concern with the use of AI in education is privacy. For AI to work effectively, students often need to create accounts and share personal information, such as their names, ages, and other data. This data is typically stored and processed by companies that provide AI tools. The collection and storage of this information raises serious questions about privacy, especially when students and their families may not fully understand how their data is being used or protected. There is also the risk that sensitive and/or inappropriate data could be exposed, either through data breaches or misuse by connected companies. If students do not recognize the magnitude of these issues, then their personal information will be exploited and their digital footprint may be at risk.

Furthermore, the data collected from students is often not accessible to them, which limits their control over their information. Once again, parents and students should be able to have a clear understanding of how their data is being stored and used. Additionally, there should be clear policies in place that oversee how long student data is kept, and how it is disposed of when no longer needed.

Another significant concern is the possibility that students may be exposed to sensitive, inappropriate, or harmful material through AI. AI systems can sometimes accidentally show content that's too advanced, too complicated, or just not right for a student's age or maturity level. There are some AI chatbots that are specifically designed to display such inappropriate conversations. According to the *American Psychology Association*, some chatbots confess their love to the users and sexually harrass minors. This is especially concerning for younger learners who may not be equipped to process certain topics or information. Considering the significant usage of technology in younger levels of education, and the fact that AI bots can be accessed with these technologies, teachers must determine how to make sure their

students are safe from such inadvisable content.

Additionally, AI is not perfect and can sometimes present biased or harmful perspectives, leading to misinformation or confusion. This is possibly due to the lack of representation in the tech industry, leading to the coding of AI bots to be biased or discriminatory of minorities. For example, using AI to employ students into colleges has proven to have setbacks as it sometimes looks against non-native English speakers and gives them a disadvantage. When it comes to majors like computer science, women typically have a disadvantage— with disciplinary consequences, AI may target certain racial and ethnic groups. To lessen these risks, AI tools could have robust content filters in place to ensure that only age-appropriate and relevant material is presented to students, and similar filters should be discussed among delegates.

Given these concerns, the introduction of AI into educational settings must be approached with caution. Safeguards must be in place to protect students from exposure to harmful content while respecting and maintaining their privacy. Teachers, parents, and schools must play an active role in monitoring and guiding the use of AI, making sure that it is used as a tool rather than a replacement for regular interactions.

In conclusion, while AI in education presents a wealth of exciting opportunities, it also requires careful consideration and planning. By embracing the potential of AI while addressing the associated risks, educators, policymakers, and families can work together to create a learning environment that encourages both technological literacy and responsible use. With proper safeguards, AI has the potential to enhance the educational experience for all students, empowering them to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Current Status on AI in Education

The studies of UNESCO in 2023 showed that many countries were divided in their beliefs on how AI should be managed in school systems. While some used them in a way that made Artificial Intelligence almost take over curriculums, others decided to ban them completely from school systems. This distinct disagreement remains today in 2025, with most high-income countries having a positive view on AI.

Analysis

Artificial Intelligence has many roles in schools for students and teachers alike. For example, AI can enhance students' learning experience by offering personalized

teachings or AI can make lesson plans for teachers. Despite the benefits, there are still many drawbacks. Educators and parents have expressed their concerns, although their worries go deeper than just students using AI to cheat. With the constant use of electronics, students could become disconnected and won't be able to develop proper social etiquette. Nevertheless, delegates will analyze and research how AI affects education and influences society and whether or not it should be implemented at schools based on their role's views.

Questions to Consider:

1. **What does your role consider the best approach to handling Artificial Intelligence? Should we completely ban it in education, let it slide, or provide it to students with some restrictions?**
2. **Considering the data that may be at risk when students use Artificial Intelligence, what can be done to spread more awareness to students to prevent them from damaging their digital footprint?**
3. **Could the incorporation of AI lessen social interaction, which could potentially hinder students' development of social skills?**
4. **What could be changed about the current way that AI is being used by students?**
5. **How can the biases of AI negatively influence schools and alter their views on different ethnicities and religions?**

Topic 2: Accessibility of Education

Introduction

Education is a human right everyone should have access to. It has the power to change someone's future and open more opportunities and knowledge. Education is so much more than obtaining knowledge, it is a journey of discovery, transformation, and development. Not only does it change an individual's future but it holds the shape of a society and its people. Education is a guide to learning and a pathway to successful adulthood. No matter who or where you are, the right to education should

always be available to you, no matter the condition.

Despite education being essential globally, factors including affordability, gender inequality, racism, geographic limitations, lack of widespread public education, and poverty, access to education, particularly in developing countries, are far from resolved. The lack of schooling and poor education can lead to negative effects on the population and country, specifically developing countries. 771 million adults are uneducated and 260 million children don't have access to Education as of 2025 worldwide. Additionally, two-thirds of the uneducated adult population are women. Problems of this nature arise because many individuals lack an understanding of the critical importance of education for everyone.

Affordability of School

Education remains a significant concern, particularly among financially disadvantaged families. The cost of tuition, textbooks, and supplies makes it difficult to manage a secure budget. Because many families lack the funds needed for their child's education, a significant amount of children can't attend school. Students who attend schools with limited resources have more restrictions when it comes to educational opportunities. This limits the student's ability to attend extracurricular activities, school events, advanced learning programs, and other opportunities. Moreover, rising rates in universities and colleges have made higher education increasingly unaffordable for countless families. Because of this, students have to skip higher studies and start working at a young age. Various students are not aware of the useful resources available to them. For instance, financial aid, scholarships, and student loans provide essential support to students. However, students may lack access to the resources available to them. Students who decide to take loans may feel obligated to choose higher-paying jobs over the career they want to pursue. Furthermore, students may have to juggle school alongside numerous jobs to support their families. This dual burden can hinder their ability to engage in their education and limit their future opportunities fully.

Gender Inequality

Affordability in school is closely linked to gender inequality, as women face barriers preventing them from accessing education. This is particularly evident in

economically disadvantaged families, where girls are far less likely to remain in school compared to their brothers. In other words, in some regions, boys are prioritized over girls. When it comes to education this leaves girls at a disadvantage and negatively impacts their future.

Consequently, child marriage significantly contributes to gender inequality. Child marriage is a worldwide problem. It happens mostly in economically poor families. In desperation for money, they decide to marry off their daughters to receive money and lift some burdens. Thus, these children must abandon their education and end their childhood. In child marriage, it is common for girls to be married before turning 18. Boys are also married as children but girls are more tremendously affected. Countries including Niger, Bangladesh, India, and countries located in Africa have the highest rates of child marriages. Currently, Niger has the highest child marriage rate in the world. In addition, India has had the most child marriages worldwide, with 95 million girls married before the age of 15, and 220,400,000 girls married before the age of 18. They are forced to live the rest of their lives with an unfamiliar man thrice their age. Once married, they are expected to take responsibility for their families and bear

children. Girls who marry young are less likely to remain in school, leading to long-term economic impacts. They also face heightened risks of mental and physical abuse, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, forced pregnancies, and serious health issues such as HIV/AIDS. These forms of violence leave mental and physical scars that forever affect a girl's well-being. Tragically, many girls endure not only these forms of violence but also injustice and subjection.

Conversely, some girls are fortunate enough to escape this fate. However, even though female students receive access to education, they might not receive the same treatment as male students. These factors include teacher bias, favoritism for male students, fewer female students and staff, poor facilities, and more. Gender inequality not only happens to the female students but also to the educators. Studies show women educators are paid less than male educators in some regions despite doing the same work. Gender inequality in education can affect girls mentally and physically. Impacts on their mental health and self-esteem will diminish their confidence and future goals. Additionally, various schools do not meet safety, hygiene, or sanitation needs for girls. Although some girls may have access to

education, most have to drop out of school due to issues including puberty, safety concerns, harassment, family issues, religion, and more. These factors may end a girl's education permanently. Gender-based violence is a huge concern in schools. This can be a result of gender norms or stereotypes. Gender norms and stereotypes are considered bad as they are generalized assumptions of characteristics or roles males and females must possess or follow. Gender stereotypes may pressure girls not to pursue higher studies or certain careers. In addition, gender stereotypes such as "Women are not smart" and "Women are weak" are reasons why numerous girls aren't given educational opportunities.

Racial Inequality

Similarly, stereotypes can also be racial. Although vast differences shape our world, people have been denied proper educational opportunities because of their skin color, race, culture, etc. Students of color are most likely to face harsher disciplinary actions than white students despite being in the same situation. Moreover, schools with mixed kids often face a shortage of funds, fewer resources, outdated materials, and inexperienced teachers compared to more privileged neighborhoods.

Another massive problem is racial bullying and violence. Racism and discrimination from peers and/or educators can affect students' mental health and ability. In some cases, students may be damaged physically as well.

Educational material can neglect the histories and actions of diverse cultures. This can lead to a lack of recognition of students' identities, which negatively affects how students with different backgrounds view themselves and how others view them. Individual students can start to feel sensitive because of their different ethical backgrounds. This can result in feelings of discomfort and threats to their safety, which will affect students' ability to learn and grow.

Analysis

Education is essential for every human being. Education makes one grow, learn, and prepare for the future. Learning shapes us into who we are today. Education will continue to face problems related to affordability, gender inequality, racial injustice, and more. Nonetheless, no matter how hard we try to change our ways, there will always be people out there who won't

change. But if we all stand together we can make a difference. We can work towards bringing everyone together and ensure education is accessible for everyone.

Questions to Consider:

1. **How deeply do factors such as poverty, gender inequality, and racism affect the accessibility to education?**
2. **How do we make education more accessible for people all around the world?**
3. **What can we do to make education more safe for students and educators?**
4. **How do we convince people that education is important?**
5. **Why is education important?**
6. **In what ways can we make school a more safe environment for students?**

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