Transforming Education with AI: Insights from Developed Countries

Roszi Naszariah Nasni Naseri[1*], Raja Nazim Raja Abdullah[2]

[1]Faculty of Business and Management, University Technology MARA, Melaka Branch, Alor Gajah Campus, Malaysia

[2]Faculty of Management and Economics, University Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI),Tanjung Malim, Perak, Malaysia

[*]Corresponding author:

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing education in developed countries, including the United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore, by addressing critical challenges such as personalization, efficiency, and inclusivity. AI-driven platforms facilitate individualized learning experiences, enabling adaptive content delivery based on student performance, which enhances engagement and academic outcomes. Notable examples include Finland's "Elements of AI" initiative, which promotes digital literacy, and Singapore's Skills Future program, which leverages AI to support lifelong learning and workforce adaptability. Despite these advancements, significant challenges persist. Disparities in access to AI technologies, particularly in rural and underfunded areas, highlight enduring equity issues. Furthermore, ethical concerns, including data privacy, algorithmic bias, and transparency, pose barriers to broader adoption. Cultural resistance, as observed in countries like Japan, underscores the need for nuanced approaches to integrating AI within traditional educational frameworks. This research emphasizes the importance of collaborative efforts among policymakers, educators, and technology developers to develop inclusive, ethical, and accessible AI systems. Such efforts are essential for maximizing AI's transformative potential while ensuring equitable benefits across diverse educational contexts.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Personalized Learning, Educational Technology, Equity in Education, Lifelong Learning.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming education worldwide, offering new ways to enhance teaching and learning through advanced technologies. This review focuses on the core research question: How can AI be effectively integrated into education systems in developed countries to enhance learning outcomes while addressing challenges related to equity, ethics, and cultural resistance? Developed countries, with their robust technological infrastructure and research-driven approaches, are at the forefront of adopting AI applications in education. These nations leverage AI to address critical challenges such as personalizing learning experiences, automating administrative tasks, and fostering lifelong learning (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2021). AI integration is not merely a tool for efficiency but a mechanism for creating adaptive, inclusive, and equitable learning environments, ensuring that education systems remain responsive to diverse learner needs (Holmes et al., 2022).

Recent studies have highlighted the growing importance of AI in education, particularly in countries like Singapore and Japan. For instance, Singapore's AI-driven education policies, such as the Student Learning Space (SLS) and Skills Future, have been widely recognized for their effectiveness in personalizing learning and promoting lifelong learning (Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023). Similarly, Japan's resistance to AI adoption in traditional educational settings has been a focal point of recent research, with studies emphasizing

the need for cultural adaptation and teacher empowerment to overcome resistance (OECD, 2021; Holmes et al., 2022).

One of the primary advantages of AI in education is its ability to facilitate personalized learning. Unlike traditional one-size-fits-all approaches, AI-powered systems analyze individual student data to provide customized learning pathways. This approach allows learners to progress at their own pace, bridging gaps in understanding and building on their strengths (Holmes et al., 2022). For instance, adaptive learning platforms in the United States dynamically adjust the difficulty of exercises based on learner performance, enhancing engagement and comprehension (Luckin et al., 2023). Similarly, Japan's AI-driven tutoring systems use real-time data to refine educational content, ensuring that students receive tailored support suited to their learning styles (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan, 2023).

In addition to improving learning outcomes, AI streamlines administrative processes, significantly reducing the burden on educators. Tasks such as grading, scheduling, and managing student records are automated, allowing teachers to focus on pedagogy and student engagement. In countries like Singapore, AI-driven platforms are integrated into the national education system to support both teachers and students, demonstrating the scalability of such technologies across diverse educational settings (Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023). Moreover, AI-assisted analytics provide policymakers with data-driven insights to refine curriculum development and resource allocation, ensuring optimal educational outcomes (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2020).

AI also plays a crucial role in lifelong learning initiatives, an area of growing importance in today's rapidly evolving job market. Governments in developed countries are implementing AI solutions to upskill their populations and prepare them for future workforce demands. Finland's "Elements of AI" course exemplifies a successful initiative aimed at promoting AI literacy among citizens of all ages, reflecting a national commitment to lifelong learning and digital competency (University of Helsinki, 2023). Similarly, Japan and the United States have launched AI-enhanced professional development programs to ensure that workers remain competitive in an increasingly automated world (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2021).

This review focuses on four countries—United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore—that exemplify leadership in AI-driven educational transformation. Each of these nations has adopted unique approaches to integrating AI into their education systems, shaped by their cultural, social, and economic contexts. By examining their strategies, this review highlights best practices, identifies common challenges, and offers insights for broader global adoption. The experiences of developed countries underscore AI's transformative potential while emphasizing the importance of addressing issues such as equity, ethical considerations, and accessibility to ensure that the benefits of AI are realized by all learners (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2021; Holmes et al., 2022; Luckin et al., 2023).

United States of America

The United States has positioned itself as a global leader in leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to transform educational systems. By adopting innovative AI tools and platforms, the U.S. addresses critical challenges in its diverse and complex educational landscape. These technologies aim to enhance personalized learning experiences, streamline assessment processes, and improve administrative efficiency, reflecting a commitment to scalable and inclusive education models (Holmes et al., 2022).

Adaptive Learning Platforms

Adaptive learning platforms such as Dream Box and Carnegie Learning exemplify the U.S.'s approach to personalized education. These platforms employ machine learning algorithms to analyse student performance data and customize learning pathways to individual needs. For example, Dream Box focuses on mathematics education, using real-time data to provide tailored challenges and instructional support for students, while Carnegie Learning integrates AI-driven insights with teacher-led instruction to enhance overall classroom learning (Holmes et al., 2022).

These platforms have been widely adopted in K-12 schools and online learning environments, demonstrating

their scalability and effectiveness in addressing diverse learning needs. Studies have shown that students using AI-powered adaptive platforms often experience improved academic outcomes, as the technology identifies and addresses learning gaps more effectively than traditional methods (OECD, 2021). Moreover, the ability to provide instant feedback and adjust the difficulty of tasks ensures that learners remain engaged and motivated throughout their educational journey.

AI in Assessment

AI has also revolutionized assessment practices in the United States, particularly in higher education. Tools like Grade scope are widely used to automate the grading of assignments, quizzes, and exams. Grade scope leverages natural language processing and machine learning to evaluate student responses consistently and efficiently, reducing the time educators spend on manual grading (OECD, 2021).

This automation not only alleviates teacher workloads but also addresses issues of subjectivity and inconsistency in traditional grading practices. However, despite these benefits, the use of AI in assessment has sparked debates regarding fairness and bias. Critics argue that algorithms may inadvertently reinforce existing biases, particularly when evaluating diverse student populations. For instance, studies have highlighted instances where automated grading systems performed differently based on linguistic or cultural variations in student responses, raising concerns about equity (Broussard, 2020).

To address these concerns, educational institutions and AI developers are working to improve the transparency and accountability of AI systems. Initiatives such as algorithmic audits and the inclusion of diverse data sets in training models aim to mitigate biases and ensure fair assessments for all students (U.S. Department of Education, 2022).

Challenges

While the United States has made significant strides in integrating AI into education, challenges remain. One of the most pressing issues is the digital divide, which disproportionately affects underfunded schools and rural communities. These institutions often lack the resources to implement advanced AI technologies, exacerbating educational inequalities (Holmes et al., 2022). For instance, schools in low-income areas may struggle to provide students with access to devices, high-speed internet, or AI-driven learning platforms, limiting the potential benefits of these innovations.

Additionally, ensuring data privacy and compliance with regulations like the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a critical concern. FERPA mandates strict protections for student data, requiring educational institutions and technology providers to implement robust security measures when using AI tools. However, as AI systems increasingly rely on large datasets to function effectively, balancing the need for data-driven insights with privacy considerations presents a significant challenge (U.S. Department of Education, 2022).

Despite these obstacles, the United States continues to lead in developing and implementing AI solutions for education. By addressing issues of equity, fairness, and privacy, the U.S. can further harness the transformative potential of AI to create more inclusive and effective educational systems.

Finland

Finland is widely recognized as a leader in educational innovation, and its approach to integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into education reflects its commitment to digital literacy and lifelong learning. By prioritizing accessibility, equity, and public engagement, Finland has developed comprehensive strategies to leverage AI for educational transformation (Holmes et al., 2022). Finland's initiatives highlight the importance of equipping both citizens and educators with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

National AI Literacy Campaign

One of Finland's most notable AI education initiatives is the "Elements of AI" course, developed by the

University of Helsinki in collaboration with Reaktor, a Finnish technology company. This free, online course introduces citizens to fundamental AI concepts in an accessible and engaging way. Since its launch, the course has been completed by over 2% of Finland's population, making it one of the most successful AI literacy campaigns globally (University of Helsinki, 2023).

The campaign aims to demystify AI and equip participants with a basic understanding of its applications and implications, enabling them to engage critically with AI in their personal and professional lives. It has also inspired similar initiatives in other countries, with translations and adaptations offered in multiple languages. This demonstrates Finland's influence in promoting global AI literacy while addressing local needs for workforce readiness in the AI-driven economy (OECD, 2021).

Teacher Empowerment

Finland's education system places significant emphasis on teacher empowerment, integrating AI tools into professional development and classroom management. Teachers are provided with access to AI-driven platforms that enhance lesson planning, monitor student progress, and streamline administrative tasks. For instance, AI tools in Finland are used to analyse classroom data, helping teachers identify areas where students may need additional support (Holmes et al., 2022).

Additionally, teacher training programs in Finland incorporate AI literacy as a key component, ensuring that educators are equipped with the skills to utilize these technologies effectively. This approach not only supports teachers in managing their workloads but also fosters a culture of continuous professional development. By integrating AI into teacher training, Finland ensures that its educators remain at the forefront of technological innovation, capable of adapting to the evolving demands of education (University of Helsinki, 2023).

Challenges

Despite its successes, Finland faces challenges in ensuring equitable access to AI resources across its education system. Rural schools, in particular, often lack the infrastructure and funding needed to implement AI tools effectively. This digital divide highlights the importance of targeted investments and policy interventions to ensure that all students, regardless of their geographic location, can benefit from AI-driven educational innovations (OECD, 2021).

Furthermore, as AI becomes more deeply embedded in education, concerns about data privacy and ethical considerations have emerged. While Finland has strong data protection regulations, ensuring that AI tools are used responsibly and transparently remains a priority for policymakers and educators alike (Holmes et al., 2022).

Finland's approach to AI in education exemplifies a balance between innovation and inclusivity. Through initiatives like the "Elements of AI" course and teacher-focused AI tools, the country has set a global benchmark for integrating AI into education. However, addressing challenges related to equitable access and ethical considerations will be crucial for sustaining these advancements and ensuring that all learners benefit from AI-driven education.

Japan

Japan has embraced Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a strategic tool to address challenges posed by workforce shortages and a declining student population. With an aging society and a shrinking labour force, AI is seen as a means to modernize education and ensure the country remains competitive in a rapidly evolving global economy. Japan's approach emphasizes practical applications of AI, particularly in vocational training, classroom assistance, and administrative efficiency (OECD, 2021).

AI for Vocational Training

Vocational education is a cornerstone of Japan's educational strategy, and AI is playing a transformative role in this sector. Industries that require hands-on training, such as manufacturing and healthcare, have integrated AI tools to simulate real-world scenarios. One notable example is Smart Mentor, an AI system designed to guide students through technical exercises. This tool provides real-time feedback, allowing learners to correct errors and refine their skills on the spot (OECD, 2021).

AI's use in vocational training addresses the demand for skilled workers by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. For instance, in nursing education, AI-powered simulations train students in patient care techniques without requiring access to real patients, a critical benefit during public health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic (Holmes et al., 2022). Similarly, in manufacturing, AI-driven systems help students master complex machinery operations, preparing them for high-tech job roles.

Virtual Assistants

AI-powered virtual assistants and chatbots are increasingly utilized in Japanese classrooms to support both students and educators. These systems handle routine administrative functions, such as scheduling, attendance tracking, and managing inquiries, which reduces teachers' administrative burdens (Holmes et al., 2022). Additionally, AI chatbots provide academic assistance to students by answering questions, guiding them through course material, and offering personalized study recommendations.

In higher education, institutions like Ritsumeikan University have implemented AI systems to support international students by translating academic resources and assisting with cultural adaptation. These tools not only enhance student engagement but also foster a more inclusive learning environment by addressing language and communication barriers (OECD, 2021).

Challenges

Despite its advancements, Japan faces unique challenges in integrating AI into traditional education settings. Cultural resistance to technology remains a significant barrier, particularly in schools that prioritize teacher-led instruction and traditional pedagogical methods. Many educators' express concerns that AI may diminish the importance of human interaction in learning, a core value in Japan's educational philosophy (Broussard, 2020).

Moreover, there are fears that the adoption of AI in classrooms could lead to job displacement among teachers. Although AI is intended to augment rather than replace educators, the perception of technology as a threat to employment has slowed its acceptance in some areas (OECD, 2021). Addressing these concerns through policy initiatives and public dialogue is crucial for fostering a balanced approach to AI integration.

Japan's use of AI in education reflects its commitment to addressing workforce demands and demographic challenges. By focusing on practical applications such as vocational training and virtual assistants, the country has demonstrated the potential of AI to modernize education and enhance efficiency. However, overcoming cultural resistance and addressing fears about job displacement remain critical for ensuring the long-term success of AI-driven educational reforms.

Singapore

Singapore has established itself as a global leader in educational innovation, driven by its Smart Nation initiative, which prioritizes the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance teaching and learning. This strategic approach reflects the country's commitment to preparing its population for the demands of a rapidly evolving digital economy. Singapore's AI-powered educational initiatives focus on STEM education, lifelong learning, and workforce adaptability, positioning the nation as a hub for technological and human capital development (OECD, 2021).

AI in STEM Education

Singapore's emphasis on STEM education aligns with its vision of fostering a technologically proficient workforce. AI-powered tools such as the Student Learning Space (SLS) exemplify this commitment by providing personalized learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The SLS platform leverages machine learning algorithms to analyze student performance data, enabling the system to tailor educational content and exercises to individual needs. This ensures that students master fundamental concepts before progressing to more advanced topics (Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023).

For instance, the SLS adapts to students' learning paces, offering additional practice to those who struggle with specific topics while challenging advanced learners with more complex problems. This approach not only enhances student engagement but also improves outcomes by addressing learning gaps in real time. Studies have shown that adaptive learning platforms like SLS significantly improve students' retention rates and critical thinking skills, making them well-suited for Singapore's STEM-focused education system (OECD, 2021).

AI for Lifelong Learning

Singapore's Skills Future initiative exemplifies the country's focus on lifelong learning and workforce readiness. Skills Future employs AI-driven platforms to provide personalized learning pathways for adult learners and professionals. These platforms analyse user profiles, including skill sets, career goals, and industry trends, to recommend courses and training programs tailored to individual needs (Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023).

By integrating AI into lifelong learning, Singapore ensures that its workforce remains competitive in an increasingly automated economy. For example, professionals in fields like healthcare, finance, and engineering can access targeted upskilling opportunities, allowing them to adapt to technological advancements and shifting job requirements. The initiative also emphasizes inclusivity, offering subsidies and support to encourage participation across socioeconomic groups (OECD, 2021).

Challenges

Despite its successes, Singapore's centralized education system poses challenges in adapting AI tools to diverse learner needs. While the highly structured nature of the system enables efficient implementation of national policies, it may limit the flexibility required to cater to varying learning styles and preferences. This rigidity can be a barrier to fully realizing the potential of AI-driven personalization (Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023).

Equity of access is another significant challenge. While Singapore has made substantial investments in technology infrastructure, ensuring that all students regardless of their socioeconomic background—can benefit from AI-enhanced education remains a concern. Students from lower-income families may face difficulties in accessing devices or high-speed internet, which are essential for utilizing AI-powered tools effectively (OECD, 2021). Addressing these disparities will be crucial for ensuring that Singapore's AI-driven educational initiatives are both inclusive and impactful.

Singapore's integration of AI in education through initiatives like the Student Learning Space and Skills Future underscores its forward-thinking approach to preparing citizens for the digital economy. By focusing on STEM education and lifelong learning, the country is fostering a workforce that is both adaptable and innovative. However, challenges related to equity and adaptability within its centralized education system highlight the need for continuous refinement of policies and practices. As Singapore continues to lead in AI-driven education, its experiences offer valuable lessons for other nations seeking to modernize their educational systems.

Cross-Country Analysis

The table 1 provides a comparative analysis of AI integration into education across four developed countries—United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore—highlighting their shared strengths and challenges. Each country leverages AI to enhance personalization, efficiency, and inclusivity in education, but all face common hurdles related to equity of access and ethical considerations.

One of AI's most transformative contributions to education is its ability to deliver personalized learning experiences. The United States employs adaptive learning platforms like Dream Box and Carnegie Learning, which analyse student data to provide customized content and address individual learning needs. Similarly, Finland uses AI to personalize teacher training and education through initiatives such as the "Elements of AI" course, which promotes digital literacy among educators and citizens. Japan applies AI in vocational training with tools like Smart Mentor, offering real-time feedback to learners in technical fields. Singapore, through its Student Learning Space (SLS), personalizes STEM education by adapting content based on student performance, ensuring mastery of critical concepts.

In terms of efficiency, AI has significantly reduced the administrative burden on educators. Automated grading systems like Grade scope in the United States streamline assessment processes, allowing teachers to focus more on instruction. Finland uses AI-driven classroom management tools to improve efficiency in lesson planning and resource allocation. In Japan, virtual assistants handle administrative tasks such as attendance tracking and query management, while Singapore's Skills Future platform uses AI to recommend personalized learning pathways for adult learners, supporting workforce adaptability.

AI also plays a crucial role in promoting inclusion, supporting diverse learners across these countries. In the United States, assistive technologies such as speech-to-text and predictive typing tools help students with disabilities participate in educational activities. Finland uses AI tools to support multilingual learning environments, catering to students from diverse backgrounds. Japan fosters inclusivity through AI-powered cultural adaptation tools, which assist international students in navigating educational settings. Similarly, Singapore employs AI to bridge language and cultural barriers, enabling non-native speakers and diverse learners to access educational resources effectively.

Despite these strengths, equity of access remains a significant challenge across all four countries. In the United States, a digital divide disproportionately affects low-income and rural schools, limiting their ability to implement AI technologies. Finland and Japan face similar challenges in rural areas, where schools often lack the infrastructure needed for AI adoption. Singapore's centralized education system, while efficient, sometimes struggles to adapt to the diverse needs of its students, particularly those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

Ethical concerns surrounding AI in education are another shared challenge. In the United States, compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and mitigating algorithmic bias in AI tools are critical concerns. Finland's focus is on ensuring GDPR compliance and promoting ethical AI usage in schools. Japan faces cultural resistance to AI adoption, with fears that AI might replace traditional teaching methods or even human teachers altogether. In Singapore, the emphasis is on ensuring fairness in data usage and addressing biases in AI systems to maintain trust and inclusivity.

Overall, while these countries demonstrate significant progress in integrating AI into education, they also highlight the importance of addressing challenges such as equity and ethical considerations. Their experiences provide valuable insights into leveraging AI's potential to transform education systems globally while ensuring inclusivity, fairness, and accessibility. Each country's unique approach reflects its cultural, social, and economic priorities, offering diverse lessons for the future of AI in education.

Table 1: comparative analysis of AI integration into education across four developed countries—United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore.

No.	Strengths /Challenges	United States	Finland	Japan	Singapore
1.	Personalization	Widely used adaptive learning platform like Dreambox and Carnegie Learning	Personalized teacher training programs and 'Elements of AI' course	AI in vocational training with tools like Smart Mentor	Student Learning Space (SLS) for STEM education
2.	Efficiency	Automated grading systems like Grade scope	AI-driven tools to streamline classroom management	Virtual assistants for administrative tasks	AI for administrative efficiency and SkillsFuture platform
3.	Inclusion	Assistive technologies for diverse learners	Tools supporting multilingual and inclusive learning	Cultural adaptation tools for inclusivity	AI tools bridging language and cultural barriers
4.	Equity of Access	Digital divide in low-income schools	Rural schools lack access to AI infrastructure	Rural schools face adoption challenges	Limited adaptability in centralized system
5.	Ethical Concerns	Concerns over FERPA compliance and algorithmic bias	GDPR compliance and ethical AI usage	Concerns over teacher replacement by AI	Ensuring fairness in data usage and inclusion

CONCLUSION

The United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore illustrate the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, offering valuable insights into both innovative practices and shared challenges. These countries demonstrate how AI can be leveraged to enhance personalized learning, streamline administrative processes, and promote inclusivity, making education more effective and accessible. However, the successful integration of AI in education requires addressing significant challenges, including equity, ethics, and cultural resistance, to ensure that these technologies benefit all learners equitably.

AI's potential to revolutionize education lies in its ability to deliver tailored learning experiences. In the United States, adaptive learning platforms such as Dream Box and Carnegie Learning enable students to progress at their own pace, addressing unique learning needs (Holmes et al., 2022). Similarly, Finland's "Elements of AI" initiative highlights the importance of equipping citizens and educators with the knowledge to effectively use AI, fostering a culture of lifelong learning (University of Helsinki, 2023). In Japan, AI-driven vocational training tools like Smart Mentor prepare students for real-world challenges, while Singapore's Student Learning Space (SLS) exemplifies how AI can adapt STEM education to individual performance levels (OECD, 2021; Ministry of Education Singapore, 2023). These examples underscore AI's ability to provide dynamic, data-driven solutions that improve learning outcomes.

While AI offers immense opportunities, challenges related to equity remain a pressing concern. Access to AI technologies often reflects broader socioeconomic disparities, with rural and underfunded schools in countries

like the United States and Finland facing significant barriers to implementation (OECD, 2021). Japan and Singapore, despite their advanced infrastructures, also contend with issues of equitable access, particularly in rural or socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. Bridging these gaps will require targeted investments in infrastructure, training, and resource allocation to ensure that all learners, regardless of their location or background, can benefit from AI-powered education.

Ethical considerations further complicate the deployment of AI in education. Concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and transparency are universal across all four countries. For instance, the United States must navigate compliance with FERPA, while Finland adheres to GDPR regulations to protect student data (U.S. Department of Education, 2022; OECD, 2021). Additionally, biases inherent in AI algorithms may inadvertently reinforce existing inequalities, necessitating ongoing audits and the use of diverse datasets during AI development (Broussard, 2020). Establishing robust ethical frameworks and fostering trust among stakeholders will be critical to addressing these concerns.

Cultural resistance to AI adoption is another challenge, particularly in countries like Japan, where traditional teaching methods are highly valued. Many educators fear that AI may diminish the role of human interaction in education or even replace teachers altogether (Holmes et al., 2022). Overcoming these barriers will require clear communication about AI's role as a supportive, rather than replacement, tool for educators. Engaging teachers and communities in the design and implementation of AI technologies can help build trust and encourage adoption.

Collaboration between policymakers, educators, and technology developers is essential to addressing these challenges and maximizing AI's potential in education. Policymakers must establish clear guidelines and incentives to promote equitable and ethical AI usage, while educators should be empowered with training and resources to integrate AI effectively into their classrooms. Technology developers, in turn, must prioritize transparency, inclusivity, and user-centric design in creating AI tools. By fostering partnerships among these stakeholders, countries can ensure that AI enhances educational outcomes while addressing concerns about equity, ethics, and cultural fit.

As the global education landscape continues to evolve, the experiences of the United States, Finland, Japan, and Singapore offer valuable lessons for other nations. Their efforts demonstrate that while AI has the power to transform education, its success depends on addressing systemic challenges and promoting collaboration at all levels. By learning from these examples, countries can harness AI to create more inclusive, equitable, and impactful educational systems.

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