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AI, Society and future of legal education

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Abstract

It is clear that AI has transformed the way we live in today's world. Artificial intelligence is transforming how legal system, professional roles and educational systems works. AI is making easy for lawyers to complete their work by making research faster and legal services more approachable . So that future lawyers can have both legal knowledge with strong technological and critical thinking skills.

This research paper looks at joining of AI, society and legal education by focusing on opportunities, challenges and the need for favourable reforms. It argues that adaptation of AI is necessary for legal education to shape lawyers who can confidently use technology with strong ethical values and be sensitive to their role in society.

Introduction

The fusion of Artificial Intelligence into society is affecting various professions, including law. Earlier, legal education focused mostly on learning legal principles, studying cases, and advocacy skills. However, AI technologies like machine learning and natural language processing are now taking tasks like legal research, drafting documents and predicting case judgments which were once traditionally performed by lawyers and legal researchers.

AI and its impact on Society

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the way society operates in many ways. It helps by making tasks quicker and more efficient, and it supports decision making across different sectors. Governments use AI to build smarter systems for economic development, personalized services and digital tools. However, it also brings serious concerns, such as possibility of job losses, and the risk that AI can reflect biased outcomes.

Many scholars believe that AI is evolving much faster than the laws designed to control it.

Because of this, it creates a gap between technological progress and the whether the AI systems are fair, transparent and who is accountable if any mistake happens.

These concerns are become more important in the legal field, where law is responsible in regulating new technologies and in protecting the people's rights. Because of this, the impact of AI on society challenges the law to keep justice, fairness and accountability.

Societal challenges and risks

1. Algorithmic bias happens when AI learns from human history and end up repeating those patterns of inequalities in their decisions. As a result, it leads to unfair outcomes, often disadvantaging other groups. Even though AI seem neutral and objective, it is shaped by human data and experience.
2. Privacy concerns in AI come from the fact these systems collect and analyse large amount of data. This can include sensitive information like what people search, their location, how they communicate online, what they buy, their online activity. If it is not properly protected, the data can be misused, leaked or exposed leading to people feeling watched and loosing control on privacy.

Use of AI in the legal profession

- Mechanisation of Legal Tasks
- Legal research and document analysis
- Transitioning role of lawyers
- Risks and limitations
- Online dispute resolution

Legal research and drafting - AI tools can interpret massive collections of legal documents in seconds, something that would normally take a long time.

This not only saves time but also lawyers find accurate information much faster.

Predictive analytics - Such tools give an idea of how a case might turn out, making it easier for lawyers to build better strategies.

Client services - Chatbots and AI assistants provide instant response to simple legal questions, helping clients stay more connected and involved.

Impact of AI on legal education

1. By adapting different methods of teaching, AI helps students to grasp legal concepts in a better, clearer and more practical way.
2. AI helps students to complete legal research faster, and gain a clearer understanding of legal issues.
3. Since AI tools become more common, old exams style struggle to show how students actually think.

The future of legal education

1. Law schools should train students to use AI and legal technology in real practice.
2. Future lawyers will need to balance traditional law training with awareness of tech, ethics and policy.
3. As AI manage routine tasks, the lawyer's role is to focus more on thinking critically, advocacy and making fair judgments.
4. Since technology is changing quickly, people will need to constantly learn new skills to stay updated.

Risks in legal education

1. Students are relying on AI tools for almost everything from writing answers to forming legal arguments without working on the problems themselves. Because of this, they reduce their ability of critical thinking and their ability to identify legal issues on their own. Gradually they may start

start to rely on AI even for basic questions which slowly reduce their confidence in applying legal principles on their own.

2. Over time, excessive use AI can weaken the basic law skills which a law student must have. When students rely on AI to write answers, it affects their ability to structure arguments and develop clear ideas. Relying on case summaries instead of reading full judgments, they miss the details, legal reasoning and logic behind the decisions. In the end, this can gradually affect their ability to think like lawyers - mainly when it comes to build arguments, deal with complex issues and analysing situations on their own.

Changing Professional Identity of Lawyers

The role of lawyer is gradually changing with the rise of AI. Earlier they used to focus mainly on studying law and arguing the cases. But now lawyers are expected to work with AI tools. Their job includes generating drafts, summaries judgments and suggesting arguments. AI can be fast, but they cannot blindly depend on it. They have a responsibility to check whether there is a fairness and ethical use of technology in legal work.

Case studies

1. AI Misuse in Legal Practice (United States, 2026)

In 2026, a U.S. court exposed a cautionary moment facing the legal profession. A lawyer who was working under pressure and just to save time, drafted a legal file using the AI tool. AI gave a complete finished polished work, but there was a critical flaw which turned into a professional lapse.

When the case came before the court, the issue became impossible to ignore. The judge's reaction was on point and firm. The court did not focus on the failure of the technology, instead focused on the failure of the lawyers responsibility. The message was very clear from the court that no matter how advanced the technology is, it cannot shift lawyer's responsibility onto a tool. It is a lawyer's duty to verify before the submission in front of a court.

This case highlights that AI can't be trusted blindly, as it cannot replace human judgments and responsibility which can lead to serious professional consequences.

2. Integration of AI in Indian Legal Education

To have modernisation in education, University of Lucknow decided to introduced Artificial Intelligence as an optional subject for the law students.

The aim was to train law students how to use AI for legal research, case analysis and legal drafting, while still relying on traditional legal study. This helps to understand both the positive and negative effects of technology in legal work.

Overall, it reflects a gradual change in legal education, where future lawyers are expected to combine traditional legal practice with technology.

3. AI in Judicial Systems – China's "Smart Courts"

China's "Smart Courts" use Artificial Intelligence to make the justice system work faster and less overload by paper work. Instead of Judges and staff handling the work, AI helps with filing cases, sorting out the documents, reviewing evidence and even suggesting relevant past judgments for the similar cases.

For many people, it can lead to faster access to justice. But there is also some consequences, because recommendations given by AI is not fully transparent, which makes it hard to understand. There is also a worry that judges will rely too much on technology which could affect human judgements.

For legal education, law students must understand the importance of law but also the technology influence the court decisions.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is transforming society and the legal profession in ways we have never seen before. While it offers clear benefits like faster work, accessibility, and new innovation but it also raises serious ethical and legal concerns that cannot be ignored. This means legal education has to evolve and cannot stick to old methods anymore. Future lawyers must be trained in law, technology, and ethics not just traditional legal subjects.

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