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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

-Sneha Gupta

ABSTRACT

“Today's most intelligent law student may not even have a roll number.”

Suppose you enter into your Law class, there may be students with Bare Acts, notebooks and highlighters surround you all hoping to master the complexities of the legal profession. One of them is another "student" — but this one has already read thousands of judgments, remembers all of the legal provisions, can draft legal documents and conduct research in seconds and never complains about deadlines. This student isn't studying for some tests or waiting for attendance to be taken. This is Artificial Intelligence.

Once it was a future idea, now is a common reality in legal education. From helping to break down tricky cases, brainstorm research concepts, interpret legal documents, to even prepare for exams with practice questions, AI tools have become a trusted ally for numerous law students. As they become more prominent, the question has arisen: Is AI aiding in the advancement of legal education or is it causing students to rely too heavily on technology?

CHANGING FACE OF LEGAL EDUCATION: ADVANTAGES

Accessibility is one of the biggest benefits of AI in legal education. Reading long judgments, grasping legal concepts, and decoding legal jargon is demanded in law. It can be a stressful experience for a first year student. AI fills this gap with easy explanations of complex concepts and summary of key cases. The students will start searching with a roadmap, and then search the original sources more effectively rather than spending hours to find a single precedent.

AI has also revolutionized learning by making it more personal. All students have their own unique learning style. Some like pictures, some like examples, some like quizzes. By

computing personal preferences, AI crafts tailored notes, mock exams, revision plans, and even more comprehensible explanations of difficult legal concepts. This flexibility enables students to learn at their own speed and gain confidence in areas that they previously felt daunting. The other major benefit is increased research efficiency. Research, analysis and interpretation are the foundations of legal education. Legal AI can instantly locate relevant judgments, contrast legal provisions, organise legal references and suggest early outlines of legal research. AI should not replace research, but it can minimize repetitive work, enabling students to focus on analyzing legal problems in a critical manner. In a way, Artificial Intelligence serves as a more effective research tool, rather than a replacement for learning, and always seems to be available at odd hours.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY: DISADVANTAGES

But with great power comes great responsibility – and AI is no different. The biggest risk is the most convenient way to be wrong. It's much easier to read a two-page summary of a judgment than a hundred-page judgment. However, law is not just about the final verdict, it is about the reasons, principles and interpretations that go into the decision. If a student reads and summarizes only, he might only be able to recall the result of a case, without capturing the legal reasoning that leads to the final verdict.

The other challenge is that of inaccurate or fabricated information. There are times when AI systems provide wrong interpretation of laws or quote unreferenced cases. If a student takes all AI answers as true, it is possible that they are misled to believe that the answers are correct when they are not. The accuracy of legal education is required, and even a minor fact that is incorrect can weaken legal arguments. Thus, AI should never be considered an end goal, but rather a beginning point.

With the rise in the use of AI, there are also concerns about academic honesty. The objective of legal education is defeated if the assignment, essay or research paper is created with little personal effort. Law schools are not looking for students who can regurgitate the information generated by an AI system. Law schools aren't about to educate students who can just copy and paste AI content. While tech can help but understanding requires curiosity, thinking and mental work.

One of the biggest drawbacks of AI is its inability to mimic the human traits, values, and characteristics that make up the profession of law. Lawyers are much more than document drafters or precedent readers. The profession involves listening to the client's perspective with

empathy, resolving conflicts and disputes, and advocating effectively before courts of law in an ethical manner. These skills are taught in the classroom, through moot courts, internships, and engaging with real-world problems, not with algorithms. While AI can provide answers to legal questions, it cannot grasp human emotions, social realities, or make value-based decisions as legal professionals do.

THE WAY AHEAD: CONCLUSION

The changing terrain puts not just the students, but also the law schools, in a position of responsibility. Rather than discouraging the use of AI, educational institutions should focus on teaching its responsible and ethical use. Students should be taught how to critically evaluate information created by AI, recognize the inherent limitations of AI and uphold their own and others' academic integrity. AI literacy could be as fundamental to legal practice as legal research itself in the near future.

While Artificial Intelligence is undoubtedly changing legal education, it is not to be confused with its purpose. Legal education is not about producing law graduates who can find answers quickly but think critically about the law, and apply it fairly and honestly. The future of the legal profession will be neither those who do not welcome AI, nor those who blindly rely on it. It will be part of the ones who know that any learning process can become faster with AI but meaning can be present only with human reasoning, ethical and compassion. After all, the smartest student in the classroom might be Artificial Intelligence, but the best lawyer will always be the one who knows when to rely at AI and when to rely on own thought.