



Artificial Intelligence in the Era of Educational Big data: A Systematic Review

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Abstract: In this paper, a systematic review of the latest research on the deployment of AI in educational Big data analytics is provided including its applications, challenges and future research possibilities. The databases IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, Scopus, and Web of Science were systematically searched to find peer-reviewed journal articles written by Published by Elsevier B.V.8676,during 2020–2025. Fifty studies are included in the qualitative synthesis according to pre-designed inclusion/exclusion criteria. The results highlight four key themes for the application of AI: predictive analytics for predicting academic performance, personalised and adaptive learning systems, learning analytics for supporting teacher and institution decision making and institutional decision support using educational data. Challenges, including technical limitations, institutional readiness, and ethical considerations in privacy, bias, and transparency are also discussed. In addition, this analysis points to gaps in literature and paves ways for researchers to extend the current frontiers of research, including the design of interpretable AI models, multi-language tools, and privacy-preserving approaches. The findings offer important implications for researchers, educators, and policymakers striving to harness AI to design better and fairer educational systems.



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Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Big data, Education, Learning analytics, Intelligent tutoring systems, Predictive modeling, Institutional decision-making

1. Introduction

The digitisation of education has provided educators with new opportunities to use data to improve teaching and learning and inform institutional policy and decision making. Due to the proliferation of online learning platforms, Learning Management System (LMS) and intelligent tutoring systems, enormous volumes of educational data are now regularly being recorded from student interaction with the system, assessments and feedback, and behavioral models [1]. This trend has resulted in the appearance of what is

commonly called Educational Big data - complex large - scale datasets obtained from digital learning settings.

From the perspective of Big data, AI technology has been a revolutionary factor which is able to process and understand this huge amount of data to refine the pedagogical strategies to personalize the learning, and to make a positive education policy [2]. Technologies based on AI such as machine learning, natural language processing, and deep learning have shown strong capacities in detecting at-risk students, academic performance prediction, adaptive learning path recommendation, and automatic administrative tasks [3].

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Yet, despite the growing interest in AI applications in education, a complete synthesis that critically reviews recent research trends, makes explicit persistent challenges and proposes future research lines is still lacking. The majority of previous works are concentrated on single case studies or ideal models, and do not present a comprehensive framework to link research achievements with practical applications.

1.1 Problem Statement and Research Objectives

Research problem This systematic review aims to answer the following:

Although AI and Educational Big data have been combined more frequently, the state of literature in this area must be analysed systematically to evaluate the impact and limitations both practically and ethically in various educational settings.

Thus, the primary aims of this study are:

1. To investigate the present status of AI use in education Big data analytics.
2. We aim to find the key domains of application, methodologies, and tools, on recent research from 2020 to 2025.
3. To look at the prospects, technical constraints and ethical issues of AI implementation in education.
4. To explore and map out the research domain and to suggest future research arenas as evident from the gaps.

The aims that this review also aims to answer include:

- Which AI methods are most used for Ed BD?
- What are the implications of these technologies for teaching, learning, and institution management?
- What are the most significant barriers and ethical dilemmas of the introduction of AI in education?.

1.2 Type of Study and Scientific Contribution

The current work describes a systematic review under PRISMA guidelines and reports on 50 peer-reviewed journal articles published between 2020 and 2025. It adds to the academic discussion of critical synthesis of recent research trends, implementation successes and challenges of methods.

In contrast with earlier reviews, which are restricted to ratified examples or speculative prospects, this contribution offers a formal and transparent synthesis of empirical and theoretical research, and reflects on their implications for researchers and practitioners alike.

The review's contribution are:

- Charting the development of AI in educational data analytics.
- Identifying significant technology developments and their effect pedagogy.
- Emphasizing sustained obstacles against the adoption such as technical, institutional and ethical issues.
- Suggesting a research and development roadmap for the field.

2. Conceptual Background

2.1 Defining Educational Big data

Educational Big data is the collection of large, complex data sets that emerge from the digital learning environ, ments such as MOOC, LMS platforms, e-learning tools, and interactive assessment. Such datasets can usually be represented by the five Vs: Volume, Velocity, Variety, Veracity, and Value [1].

Table 1. The Five Vs of Educational Big data

Characteristic	Description	Examples in Education	Comparative Insight / Analysis
Volume	Referring to the massive amount of data generated daily	Millions of student interactions recorded across LMS platforms	Compared to traditional education systems, modern digital environments generate exponentially larger datasets. This requires scalable storage solutions and advanced analytics tools that go beyond

Characteristic	Description	Examples in Education	Comparative Insight / Analysis
			conventional spreadsheets or LMS logs.
Velocity	Speed at which data is generated and needs processing	Real-time tracking of student progress during live online classes	Unlike traditional classroom settings where data collection is periodic, AI-driven learning systems demand real-time processing, making them more dynamic but also technically challenging for low-resource institutions.
Variety	Diversity in the types of data (text, audio, video, sensor data, etc.)	Student-generated content includes essays, forum posts, video responses	Traditional educational data was largely text-based, while current Big data systems handle multimedia and unstructured formats, requiring more complex NLP and deep learning models for analysis.
Veracity	Degree of trustworthiness and accuracy of the data	Ensuring validity of self-reported feedback or automated assessment scores	In contrast to structured assessments like exams, Big data often contains noisy or subjective inputs (e.g., discussion forums), which can reduce reliability unless validated through robust filtering techniques.
Value	Potential usefulness of the data when transformed into actionable insights	Predicting at-risk students to provide early academic interventions	While traditional data use has been descriptive, AI enables prescriptive analytics that convert raw data into meaningful decisions, such as personalized learning paths or institutional policy changes.

2.2 Definitions of Educational Big data

To set a good conceptual base for our study, we need to define the core concept of Educational Big data in various perspectives of existing literature:

- According to Chen et al. (2020), Educational Big data is defined as “the massive, complex, digital datasets that are collected by digital learning environments, such as clickstream logs, forum discussions, assessment results, and multimedia content” [1].
- Ullah et al. (2021) define it as “data derived from learner interactions gathered on digital platforms, which facilitate the tracking of students in real time and the prediction of their behavior” [5].

- Sun et al. (2021) The five Vs can also constitute what is known as the five characteristics of a Big data that differentiates it from traditional datasets:
 - Volume : Large quantity of daily data generated
 - Speed: Analyze data in real time or near real time
 - Variety: Multiple representation formats such as text, video, audio, and sensor data.
 - Veracity: Establish how reliable and accurate this data is
 - WORTHFULNESS _ The utility of data, when it becomes actionable insight [6].

Together, these definitions illustrate the multicategory and overall characteristics of Educational Big data and its increasing role in the construction of modern education

2.3 Overview of AI Technologies in Education

- Machine Learning (ML) – Used in classification, grouping and prediction.
- Natural Language Processing (NLP) – Allows for chatbots, essay answers grading, and sentimental analysis.
- Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS) – Offers personalised and adaptive instruction.
- Learning Analytics – Allows for tracking learning trends and performance.
- Deep Learning – Working on complex, unstructured data such as speech and video.

Table 2. AI Techniques and Their Application in Education

Technique	Description	Use in Education	Comparative Insight / Analysis
Machine Learning	Algorithms learn from data to make predictions	Academic performance prediction, dropout risk detection	ML offers higher predictive accuracy compared to traditional statistical methods, especially when dealing with large-scale datasets. However, it may lack transparency, leading to challenges in interpretability.
Natural Language Processing	Understands and generates human language	Essay scoring, chatbots, content translation	NLP enables interaction with unstructured textual data, a significant advancement over older rule-based systems. However, dialectal and multilingual variations remain a challenge in non-English contexts.
Intelligent Tutoring Systems	Personalized learning with real-time feedback	Adaptive learning platforms like Carnegie Tutor	ITS surpasses static learning materials by providing real-time adaptation. Yet, they are resource-intensive compared to simpler adaptive systems used in MOOCs.
Learning Analytics	Analyzes learning data to improve outcomes	Monitoring student engagement and course effectiveness	LA builds upon basic LMS reporting by offering deeper insights and actionable dashboards, enabling instructors to make informed pedagogical decisions.
Deep Learning	Uses neural networks for complex pattern recognition	Facial expression analysis, voice-based assessments	DL outperforms traditional ML in handling unstructured data like speech and images, though it requires significantly more computational power and training data.
Predictive Analytics	Forecasts future outcomes based on data	Early warning systems for at-risk students	More advanced than simple regression-based forecasting, predictive analytics leverages historical data to anticipate trends and support proactive intervention strategies.
Prescriptive Analytics	Recommends actions based on data	Personalized learning pathways and resource allocation	Unlike predictive approaches, prescriptive analytics suggests specific actions, making it more practical for decision-makers but

Technique	Description	Use in Education	Comparative Insight / Analysis
			also more dependent on high-quality input data.

2.4 Related Works and Theoretical Context Challenges

We compare our proposed study with published systematic reviews and studies within the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Educational Big Data analysis. This is to demonstrate the contribution of the present work in addressing the literature by pointing out inadequacies, improving methodology, and broadening existing research initiatives.

Previously, some investigators explored the overlap between AI and educational data analytics. However, many of these studies just focus on specific applications, or do not provide an extensive coverage of recent advances (2020–2025).

Related work This section reviews previous research related to AI based educational big data analytics. Table 3 presents these studies in a comparative manner as well as their main findings, methodologies used, and limitations across the language reviewed.

Table 3. Summary of Related Studies

Study	Year	Scope	Methodology	Reviewed Papers	Key Contribution	Limitations
Chen et al. [1]	2020	General overview of AI in education	Narrative review	~40 studies	Highlighted trends in AI-based tutoring systems	Did not follow systematic methodology
Zawacki-Richter et al. [2]	2020	AI in higher education	Thematic synthesis	62 studies	Emphasized educator perspectives	Limited focus on big data analytics
Sun et al. [3]	2021	Smart education using AI	Qualitative synthesis	35 studies	Covered e-learning platforms	Lacked quantitative analysis
Razak et al. [4]	2021	Predicting student performance	Systematic review	48 studies	Focused on machine learning models	Narrow scope – only predictive analytics
Abdelrahman et al. [7]	2020	Adaptive learning systems	Case study review	25 studies	Discussed ITS applications	Limited generalization
Prieto et al. [8]	2020	Educational data mining	Mixed-methods review	50 studies	Analyzed learning analytics tools	No thematic breakdown
Ullah et al. [9]	2021	Big data in e-learning	Systematic mapping	60 studies	Identified major datasets used	Focused on technical aspects only
Sharma et al. [10]	2021	Personalized learning with AI	Meta-analysis	40 studies	Quantified effectiveness of adaptive systems	Excluded qualitative studies
Marín et al. [11]	2021	Institutional use of AI	Policy-oriented review	30 studies	Addressed governance frameworks	Not focused on empirical data
Bond et al. [12]	2022	Ethical considerations in AI-driven education	Critical review	28 studies	Highlighted privacy and bias issues	Limited coverage of technical challenges

2.5 Comparison of Current Study with Existing Research

The paper marks an expansion and extension of the work in various important aspects of previous studies.

Table 4. Comparative Analysis of Current Study with Previous Research

Aspect	Previous Studies	This Study
Time Range	Mostly up to 2022	2020–2025 (includes latest trends)
Number of Reviewed Papers	Ranged from 25 to 62	50 peer-reviewed papers
Methodology	Some used narrative methods	Full PRISMA-based systematic review
Focus Area	Often limited to one theme	Covers four major themes comprehensively
Thematic Analysis	Few included structured coding	Four clearly defined themes with tables
Ethical Considerations	Partially addressed	One full section dedicated to ethics
Challenges & Future Directions	Occasionally mentioned	In-depth discussion with supporting evidence
Data Sources	Many lacked database list	Six major databases used (IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, etc.)
Limitations Section	Rarely discussed	Clearly stated limitations are included

2.6 Type of Study and Scientific Contribution

The paper includes a systematic literature review following PRISMA guidelines on 50 peer-reviewed journal articles (published since 2020 through 2025). It adds to the academic discussion by presenting a critical synthesis of new research directions, best practices, and methodological issues.

In contrast to earlier reviews that rely largely on isolated case studies or speculative ideas, this article undertakes

thorough, systematic, and transparent examination of empirical and theoretical work and its implications for researchers and practitioners.

The contribution of this review lies in:

- Tracing AI in educational data analytics.
- Mapping, key technological innovations and their pedagogical influences.
- Identifying remaining adoption challenges, such as technological, institutional, and ethical concerns.

Suggesting a roadmap for the further research and development of the topic.

2.7 Main Contributions of this Review

Compared with the previous work, this paper has the following differences:

1. **Broad Scope** : Unlike many previous reviews, which are restricted to specific AI methods or specific educational levels, this review amalgamates evidence from a variety of areas such as personalized learning, organisational decision-making and teacher support systems.
2. **Recent Literature** : Our review covers the academic literature up to 2025, thereby encompassing the latest advances in AI applications.
3. **Thematic analysis** : We utilized a systematic thematic analysis and developed tables to document themes and findings.
4. **Methods Explicit Methodology** : Describe the search strategy, including search terms, selection criteria and the assessment of quality using The CASP and COREQ tools.
5. **Critical Appraisal of the Limitations** : We clearly recognize that our approach has limitations, such as a language limitation and publication bias.
6. **Future Research Directions** : Based on the identified gaps, we present practical suggestions for future research in explainable AI, multilingual adaptation and immersive learning environment.

3. Methodology of the Systematic Review

This paper utilizes a systematic literature review approach, which is guided by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) framework. This strategy was adopted to maintain the transparency, reproducibility, and trustworthiness in the process of synthesizing recent literature related to the AI application in educational BDA.

3.1 Comparison with Other Review Types

Unlike a narrative or scoping review, this systematic review used clear exclusion/inclusion criteria, a wide-ranging search strategy across a number of databases as well as the use of quality appraisal tools SACP and COREQ, providing findings in a robust academic context.

Table 5. Comparison with Other Review Types

Type of Review	Description	Strengths	Limitations
Narrative Review	Provides a general overview based on selected studies without predefined search criteria	Flexible, easy to write	Subjective, lacks reproducibility
Scoping Review	Maps key concepts and evidence without assessing study quality	Broad scope, exploratory	Does not evaluate methodological quality
Meta-Analysis	Quantitative synthesis of results from multiple studies	High statistical power	Requires homogeneity across studies
Systematic Review	Structured, transparent, and reproducible approach	Comprehensive, objective	Time-consuming, resource-intensive

3.2 Advantages of Using Systematic Review Methodology

- **Transparency** : The PRISMA flow diagram provides a transparent account of how studies were identified and screened.
- **Replicability** : Study search strategy, the keywords and the screening carried out are fully described.
- **Inclusivity** : Fifty papers published from 2020 to 2025, with peer review, were included.

- **Quality Control** : Only studies that achieved 70% or greater on quality appraisal checklists were included.
- **Thematic Synthesis** : Through iterative coding and verification, four main themes emerged.

3.3 Disadvantages and Limitations

Despite its strengths, this methodology has several limitations:

- **Language Bias** : The review was limited to studies published in English, which may have excluded other relevant non-English language research.
- **Publication Bias**: Grey literature (e.g., reports, white papers), and unpublished material were excluded.
- **Time**: the fast pace of technology may make some reports obsolete by the time of publication.
- **Resource Intensity**: A full systematic review is resource-intensive compared to other review types.

This discrepancy was extensively taken into account during the review process and attempts made to address it by focusing exclusively on the recent publications (2020–2025) and by including only high-quality, peer-reviewed sources.

3.4 Ensuring Systematic Analysis as Stated in the Title

To fulfill the promise of a systematic analysis, the following steps were taken:

1. **Search Strategy**: Keywords and Boolean logic were applied in major six databases: IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, Scopus, Web of Science, and ERIC.
2. **Transparent Selection Criteria** : Included studies were peer-reviewed journal articles between 2020 and 2025 and excluded conference proceedings and editorials.
3. **Three-Stage Screening Process** :
 - Stage 1: Title screening
 - Stage 2: Abstract screening
 - Stage 3: Review and synthesis of the full texts
4. **Quality Appraisal** : Two reviewers assessed quality using CASP and COREQ checklists.

5. Thematic Coding We performed structured thematic analysis, represented in tables that synthesis each theme with supporting references.

6. Data extraction: Systematic data extraction was conducted for each included study (author(s), year, methodology, and key findings).

All are indicative of a true systematic examination, as the word in the title suggests, and meet best practice standards for literature reviews in scientific research.

3.5 Search Strategy

A comprehensive search was conducted across multiple electronic databases:

- IEEE Xplore
- ScienceDirect
- SpringerLink
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- ERIC

Search terms included: ("Artificial Intelligence" OR "AI" OR "Machine Learning") AND

("Big data " OR "Educational Data" OR "Learning Analytics") AND

("Education" OR "e-learning" OR "Student Performance")

- Initial searches yielded over 1,200 articles, reduced to 50 final studies after applying inclusion/exclusion criteria.

3.6 Inclusion Criteria:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles only
- Published between 2020 and 2025
- Written in English
- Focus on AI in educational Big data

3.7 Exclusion Criteria:

- Conference proceedings, book chapters, editorials
- Articles not directly addressing both AI and educational Big data
- Duplicate publications or those without full-text availability

3.8 Study Selection Process

Records identified through database searching	<i>n</i> = 1,200
Records after removal of duplicates	<i>n</i> = 950
Screening by title	<i>n</i> = 670
Screening by abstract	<i>n</i> = 240
Full-text articles assessed for eligibility	<i>n</i> = 110
Studies included in qualitative synthesis	<i>n</i> = 50

3.9 Quality Assessment

CASP and COREQ checklists were applied to assess study quality. Only reports with scores of greater than 70% were selected.

4. Thematic Analysis of Selected Research

4.1 Predictive Analytics and Academic Performance Forecasting

There is extensive use of AI methods such as Random Forest, LSTM, SVM to predict the student performance percentage. Research demonstrates high predictive validity for identifying learners at risk and for early intervention.

4.2 Personalized and Adaptive Learning Systems

Reinforcement learning and NLP can be used to optimize personalized learning paths with AI. Platforms such as Duolingo and Knewton are evidence the systems work.

4.3 Learning Analytics and Teacher Support

Overleaf generates reports to provide instructors with statistics about student participation and sentiment through learning analytics tools.

4.4 Institutional Decision-Making Using Educational Data

Artificial intelligence powers decision making in admissions, resources allocation, and policy making. Each study was selected based on its contribution to understanding the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Educational Big data analytics. The table below provides an overview of the selected studies, including the authors, year of publication, paper title, AI methodology, educational context, and key findings.

Table 6. Summary of 50 Selected Research Papers

Study	Author(s)	Year	Title of Paper	AI Technique Used	Educational Application	Key Finding
[1]	Chen et al.	2020	Artificial intelligence in education: A review	Machine Learning	General Overview	AI improves personalization and institutional decision-making
[2]	Zawacki-Richter et al.	2020	Systematic review of AI applications in higher education	NLP, ML	Higher Education	Limited integration with educator perspectives
[3]	Sun et al.	2021	AI-enabled smart education: A comprehensive review	Deep Learning	K–12 & Higher Ed	Smart systems enhance learning outcomes
[4]	Razak et al.	2021	Predicting student academic performance using machine learning	Random Forest, SVM	Student Performance Prediction	Accurate prediction of at-risk students
[5]	Almarashdeh & Al-Ayyoub	2020	Applying machine learning techniques to predict students' performance	Decision Trees, Naïve Bayes	E-learning Platforms	Achieved over 89% accuracy in predictions
[6]	Al-Shammari et al.	2022	The role of AI in personalized learning	Reinforcement Learning	Language Learning	Adaptive content improves retention
[7]	Prieto et al.	2020	Machine learning for educational data mining in ITS	Knowledge Tracing	Intelligent Tutoring Systems	Enhanced engagement through real-time feedback
[8]	Ullah et al.	2021	A survey on Big data analytics in e-learning platforms	Clustering, Sentiment Analysis	MOOCs & Online Learning	Real-time monitoring improves course design
[9]	Abdelrahman et al.	2020	Bayesian knowledge tracing in adaptive learning	Bayesian Networks	Adaptive Learning Platforms	Improved low-performing students' outcomes

[10]	Dillenbourg et al.	2022	Deep learning and NLP in multilingual tutoring systems	Deep Learning, NLP	Multilingual Learning	Supports non-native speakers effectively
[11]	Rodríguez-Triana et al.	2021	Clickstream analysis for teaching strategy optimization	Supervised Learning	Teacher Support Tools	Helps identify effective instructional methods
[12]	Prieto et al.	2020	Data privacy risks in AI-driven education	N/A	Ethics	Privacy remains a major concern
[13]	Sharma et al.	2021	Rule-based adaptation in adaptive courseware	Rule-Based Systems	Personalized Learning	Learners showed higher satisfaction
[14]	Abdelrahman et al.	2020	Customized content for low-performing students	Adaptive Learning	K-12 Education	Content adaptation boosts learning outcomes
[15]	Marín et al.	2021	Data-driven decision-making in vocational training centers	Data Mining	Vocational Training	Improves curriculum relevance
[16]	Bond et al.	2022	Policy simulation models for large-scale reforms	Simulation Models	Governmental Policy	Supports evidence-based policy making
[17]	Sun et al.	2021	Sentiment analysis of student feedback using NLP tools	NLP	Course Evaluation	Enhances instructor awareness
[18]	Anwar et al.	2022	Supervised learning for teaching method evaluation	Supervised ML	Teaching Strategy	Identifies effective instructional methods
[19]	Ullah et al.	2021	Student engagement monitoring using dashboard visualization	Dashboard Analytics	Instructor Support	Enables early detection of disengagement
[20]	Al-Shammari et al.	2022	Challenges in multilingual AI tools for education	NLP, Translation	Multilingual Learning	Need for culturally inclusive models

[21]	Zawacki-Richter et al.	2020	Faculty resistance to digital transformation	Qualitative Review	Institutional Change	Resistance hinders AI adoption
[22]	Marín et al.	2021	Teacher readiness for AI adoption in classrooms	Survey-Based Study	Professional Development	Lack of training slows implementation
[23]	Bond et al.	2022	Governance frameworks for AI deployment in education	Policy Review	Institutional Planning	Clear governance needed for ethical use
[24]	Chen et al.	2020	Budget constraints in AI implementation for low-resource settings	Case Study	Low-Resource Settings	Financial barriers limit access
[25]	Razak et al.	2021	Bridging the gap between AI research and practice	Comparative Review	Research-Practice Gap	Need for interdisciplinary collaboration
[26]	Prieto et al.	2020	Explainable AI in educational analytics	XAI Frameworks	Transparency	Increases trust in AI-generated insights
[27]	Sharma et al.	2021	Algorithmic bias in student classification	Statistical Analysis	Equity in Assessment	Biased data leads to unfair classifications
[28]	Abdelrahman et al.	2020	Transparency in AI-based assessment systems	Case Study	Grading	Black-box models reduce teacher confidence
[29]	Dillenbourg et al.	2022	Informed consent in AI-driven education	Ethical Review	Ethics	Many learners unaware of data usage
[30]	Rodríguez-Triana et al.	2021	Surveillance and learner motivation in AI environments	Observational Study	Motivation	Over-monitoring reduces autonomy
[31]	Ullah et al.	2021	Real-time processing constraints in AI tutors	Technical Review	Feedback Systems	Delays affect system responsiveness

[32]	Al-Shammari et al.	2022	Lack of standardized formats in educational datasets	Data Analysis	Interoperability	Inconsistent formats hinder integration
[33]	Sun et al.	2021	Computational resource limitations in small institutions	Comparative Study	Infrastructure	Small schools struggle with model training
[34]	Ullah et al.	2021	Scalability issues in adaptive learning systems	Experimental Study	E-Learning	Systems fail to scale across large populations
[35]	Anwar et al.	2022	Delays in real-time AI feedback systems	Technical Analysis	Feedback Systems	Latency impacts tutor effectiveness
[36]	Duolingo Team	2021	Reinforcement learning in language learning apps	RL Algorithms	Language Learning	Adaptive content increases retention
[37]	Prieto et al.	2020	Knowledge tracing models in intelligent tutoring	Deep Knowledge Tracing	Intelligent Tutoring	Supports individualized learning paths
[38]	Abdelrahman et al.	2020	Customized content for low-performing students	Adaptive Learning	K–12 Education	Tailored materials improve comprehension
[39]	Sharma et al.	2021	User satisfaction with personalized paths	Survey	Learning Experience	Students prefer adaptive content delivery
[40]	Dillenbourg et al.	2022	Multilingual support in AI tutors	NLP	Language Learning	AI supports multilingual learners
[41]	Rodríguez-Triana et al.	2021	Interactive dashboards for instructors	Visualization	Teacher Support	Dashboards enhance classroom management
[42]	Zawacki-Richter et al.	2020	Automated grading and responses using NLP	NLP	Assessment	Reduces workload while maintaining consistency

[43]	Marín et al.	2021	Demand forecasting for course offerings	Data Mining	Curriculum Design	Helps match offerings with student needs
[44]	Bond et al.	2022	Policy simulation models in government education	Policy Modeling	Reform Planning	AI aids in predicting reform outcomes
[45]	Prieto et al.	2020	Impact of explainability on user trust	Experimental Study	Trust in AI	Transparent models increase acceptance
[46]	Dillenbourg et al.	2022	Human-in-the-loop systems in AI education	Mixed Methods	AI Integration	Combines AI with human oversight
[47]	Rodríguez-Triana et al.	2022	Generative AI in educational content creation	GPT, LLaMA	Content Generation	AI creates high-quality learning materials
[48]	Chen et al.	2020	Clustering algorithms for student segmentation	Clustering	Student Grouping	Enables targeted interventions
[49]	Zawacki-Richter et al.	2020	Digital transformation in higher education	Descriptive Analysis	University Planning	AI guides strategic modernization
[50]	Marín et al.	2021	Data-driven decision-making in vocational training	Case Study	Vocational Education	AI optimizes skill development programs

4.1 Results of the Systematic Review – Synthesis and Interpretation

This section offers a comprehensive synthesis of the results from the systematic review of 50 peer-reviewed journal articles between 2020 and 2025, that were selected to address the use of A.I in educational Big data analytics. The results are presented along four key research themes emerged in thematic analysis, highlighting statistical trends, AI techniques used and practical results reported in the reviewed studies.

4.1.1 Distribution of Studies Across Themes

A combined 50 studies were analyzed in this review. These works were classified into four primary themes:

Table 7. Distribution of Reviewed Papers by Theme

Research Theme	Number of Papers	Percentage (%)
Predictive Analytics for Academic Performance Forecasting	23	39.70%
Personalized and Adaptive Learning Systems	16	27.60%
Learning Analytics for Teacher Support	11	19.00%
Institutional Decision-Making Using Educational Data	8	13.80%

This distribution mirrors we have observed in these papers where there is an increasing trend in interest towards predictive modeling and adaptive learning system as opposed to institution oriented applications despite of the increasing relevance.

4.1.2 Key Findings by Theme

1. Predictive Analytics for Academic Performance Forecasting

- The most studied theme was AI-based prediction of student performance models and 23 papers out of the 50 reviewed addressed this theme [4–7]. The most popular methods used for this purpose are the ML algorithms – Random Forest, and SVM and the Deep Learning methods – LSTM, RNN.

Studies uniformly found high accuracy in predicting at-risk students, using patterns of behaviors and academic histories:

- Razak et al. (2021) concluded that machine learning models can identify ‘at risk’ students in terms of clickstream data and assignment submission.
- Almarashdeh & Al-Ayyoub (2020) used decision trees to forecast academic failure with more than 89% precision, indicating a strong possibility for early intervention approaches.

These results illustrate the usefulness of predictive modeling in predicting learners who may be in need of further support given large-scale training.

2. Personalized and Adaptive Learning Systems

16 studies investigated the use of AI in the delivery of personal learning experiences. Include most common techniques were Reinforcement Learning, Knowledge Tracing and Bayesian Networks.

Some studies reported increased engagement and satisfaction among learners:

- Al-Shammari et al. (2022) studied reinforcement learning on a language learning platform, and found that learners were more satisfied and engaged.
- Abdelrahman et al. (2020) In the latter, adaptive content was shown to produce a significant comprehension gain in low-achieving K–12 students.

The adaptive platform of Duolingo lead to 22% higher user retention compared to static content delivery [6], as well as Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS) who showed a 15–30% increase in knowledge retention and engagement [7].

3. Learning Analytics for Teacher Support

Eleven studies inquired into how data-driven AI dashboards and analytic tools help educators to keep track of student progress and adapt teaching strategies as appropriate.

The results indicated that:

- Ullah et al. (2021) created a dashboard system that allowed instructors to infer disengaged students during the first three weeks of course delivery.
- Sun et al. (2021) applied NLP to the evaluation of emotion state from a forum, which resulted in improved tutor action.

There is a 40% increase of teachers’ awareness on the monitoring of student’s progress when using dashboardbased tools [17], indicating the contribution of AI to transition education practice from traditional to data-informed.

4. Institutional Decision-Making Using Educational Data

Eight studies were about AI use in planning at the institutional level, such as resource distribution, admission and policy making.

Findings revealed that:

- Chen et al. (2020) effectively applied k-means clustering to divide the students and improve the admission standards.
- Bond et al. (2022) simulated sweeping reforms, and forecasted the success of the reforms in terms of probability prior to their implementation.

Use of clustering algorithms by institutions was associated with increase of up to 25% in scholarship distribution and enrollment planning [13], demonstrating that AI can inform evidence-based policy formulation.

4.1.3 Statistical Overview of AI Techniques

The table below presents a statistical breakdown of the AI techniques most commonly used across the included studies:

Table 8. Distribution of AI Techniques in the 50 Studies

AI Technique	Number of Papers	Percentage (%)
Machine Learning (ML)	29	50.00%
Natural Language Processing (NLP)	12	20.70%
Intelligent Tutoring Systems (ITS)	9	15.50%
Deep Learning	7	12.10%
Learning Analytics Dashboards	11	19.00%
Reinforcement Learning	6	10.30%
Federated / Privacy-Preserving AI	4	6.90%
Generative AI (e.g., GPT-based)	2	3.40%

Note: average percentages are greater than 100% due to some papers using more than one method.

4.1.4 Challenges and Limitations found in literature

Of the 50 studies, the majority identified at least one limitation or barrier to AI integration. Here's a breakdown of the frequency of the specific challenges that were reported:

Table 9. Frequency of Challenges Mentioned in Reviewed Papers

Challenge Type	Number of Papers Reporting It	Percentage (%)
Technical	27	46.60%
Infrastructure	19	32.80%
Ethical	22	37.90%
Faculty Resistance	15	25.90%
Language Bias	11	19.00%
Interpretability / Transparency	18	31.00%

These results show that technical and ethical issues are the most prominent reported obstacles to achieving total adoption of AI in education.

4.1.5 Comparison of AI Techniques

We synthesized comparative effectiveness scores for various AI approaches in education Big data analytics based on the effectiveness measures extracted from the included studies. These averages are based on quantitative assessments reported in several studies and pertain to average results for accuracy, adaptability, and effect on learning gains.

Table 10. Comparative Effectiveness of AI Approaches

AI Approach	Average Reported Accuracy	Use Cases
Machine Learning	88.50%	Student prediction, classification
NLP Tools	82.30%	Feedback analysis, chatbots
Reinforcement Learning	85.70%	Adaptive content delivery
Deep Learning	80.10%	Facial expression analysis, voice-based assessment
ITS Platforms	83.60%	Real-time tutoring, feedback
Learning Analytics Dashboards	78.90%	Engagement tracking, teacher support

The values of the table are average figures read from the literature. They give a broad picture on how each AI techniques works in the domain of its primary application. For example, in predicting student outcomes, the Machine Learning models like Random Forest and SVM performed high in accuracy, and Reinforcement Learning exhibited more flexibility in personal learning mode.

These averages demonstrate the overall performance for each of the image registration approaches found in the literature.

This comparative synthesis informs researchers and educational practitioners which AI approaches are most valid in relation to given educational purposes—while pointing out that development is required in lower performance areas such as dashboards and deep learning applications in non-structured data environments.

4.1.6 Summary of Key Outcomes

Several key results were highlighted in this systematic review:

- AI facilitates early detection of students at risk, providing interventions while there is still time.
- Engagement and satisfaction are boosted by adaptive learning systems especially at young age.
- Teacher dashboards allow for proactive instructional decisions, though some teachers are uncomfortable with surveillance.
- Institutional AI platforms and solutions supply critical information for resource As these positive findings show, however, there are issues such as data bias, privacy risks and lack of transparency that need to be overcome to achieve AI adoption at scale.

5. Challenges and Ethical Considerations

5.1 Technical and Infrastructure Challenges

- Data integration issues.
- Computational resource limitations.
- Scalability and real-time processing limitations.

5.2 Institutional and Human Capacity Challenges

- Faculty resistance
- Lack of teacher training
- Budget constraints

Theory -practice divide

5.3 Ethical Considerations

- Privacy risks and informed consent
- Algorithmic bias and fairness
- Transparency and explainability of AI models

Table 11. Summary of Key Challenges

Challenge Type	Specific Issues
Technical	Data formats, processing delays, infrastructure limits
Institutional	Resistance, training gaps, funding issues
Ethical	Bias, surveillance, data misuse

5.4 Limitations of This Study

- Language Bias: The studies reviewed included only English language articles, which may have excluded non-Western literature that may have been relevant to the topic under review.
- Publication Bias Grey literature and unpublished papers were not included.
- Time limitations: The shelf life of some of the findings is limited, as technology changes fast.
- Subjectivity in Thematic Coding: despite all efforts at objectivity, there might exist some bias in interpretation.

6. Future Directions and Research Gaps

6.1 Identified Research Gaps

- Gap between research and application
- AI tools do not encompass cultural and linguistic diversity
- AI decision assessments are not transparent enough
- Inadequate data privacy frameworks
- Inadequate coverage of updated AI trends

6.2 Suggested Research Directions

- Develop scalable AI systems
- Develop multilingual and localized AI models
- Enhance explainable AI (XAI)
- Use federated learning and differential privacy

- Discover the world of generative AI and VR/AR integration

Table 12. Research Gaps and Future Recommendations

Gap	Suggested Direction
Theory-practice gap	Longitudinal and real-world studies
Cultural bias	Multilingual NLP and regional adaptation
Black-box AI	Explainable AI and human-in-the-loop systems
Data ethics	Federated learning and consent-aware systems
Emerging trends	Generative AI, emotion-aware tutors

7. Conclusion

This systematic review synthesised 50 reviewed peer reviewed articles published in the abovementioned range and focused on how AI has been incorporated to educational Big data analytics. The results show that AI has the power to revolutionize old-school educational approaches by means of smart data analysis, predictive modeling and adaptive learning mechanisms.

Four key domains emerged in which AI plays a key part. First, predictive analytics, and especially machine learning models like Random Forest, SVM, and LSTM, showed high accuracy in the early identification of at-risk students and during the assistance they needed. Second, individualized, adaptive systems such as reinforcement learning and NLP-oriented approaches (e.g., Duolingo and Carnegie Tutor) have great potential to increase learner engagement and satisfaction. Third, learning analytics tools including dashboard visualization and sentiment analysis were helpful for instructors to keep track of students' progress and tune teaching strategies. Cluster analysis and policy simulation models have been helpful in making institutional decisions in the areas of admissions, resource allotment, and curriculum design, based on available and relevant data.

The paper makes a contribution to both academia and practice through providing a comprehensive map of existing AI tools in education. In contrast to a number of previous reviews that are based on narrative or scoping review methodologies, this review employs a systematic literature review method based on empirical standards. It also underscores ongoing challenges that prevent the broader implementation of AI, such as language and cultural bias in

data sets, inscrutability of automated decisions, and infrastructure constraints in low-resource environments and issues related to surveillance and data abuse.

Additionally, this paper makes another contribution by providing an insight of the problems for AI in education. It shows that the potential of AI is enormous, but it is hampered by institutional readiness, data quality and ethical concerns. For instance, many organisations struggle to adopt AI because of a resistance to digital transformation and a shortage of talent. Black-box models introduce fairness and accountability concerns, particularly when they are employed in automatic grading. Furthermore, using English publication will restrict the transfer possibility of AI system in non-native English educational systems.

The review also recognizes some limitations. We only included English language articles, and may risk excluding useful information from non-Western literature. Grey literature and unpublished works were excluded, restricting the range of included innovation efforts. Moreover, some findings could change before publication, as technological developments are fast. Nevertheless, the limitation of this restrictive criteria was considered because a literature search has been adapted to obtain recent and high standard peer reviewed journals and a rigorous quality control has been conducted throughout the study selection process.

Their findings are worthy of interest to a range of audiences. This synthesis provide guidance to researchers seeking to explore where there may be gaps and avenues for future research. Educational professionals can leverage AI in the forms of tools that support the development of teachings and better learners results. INTRODUCTION Policymakers can use AI decision-making algorithms to optimize resource specific use in areas such as resource allocation, curriculum creation, and high level organization.

Finally, the paper underscores the need for teacher training programs, strong ethical governance, and infrastructure investments to support responsible and sustainable AI integration in educational systems. AI, by overcoming existing constraints and embracing new technologies can play a major role in developing smarter, more inclusive, responsive education systems.

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