



AI AND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The Role of AI in the Effort to Provide Inclusive, Equitable Access to Higher Education for the Most Marginalized

In partnership with:

Qatar Fund for Development
International Institute of Higher Education
Education Above All

Date: September 15th, 2023

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: IIE, NY

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Session Overview

This session brings together representatives from the education and development sector to discuss the intersection of AI and access to higher education for marginalized youth, specifically the role of AI in the selection process for scholarships and other inclusion and equity initiatives. There are a myriad of obstacles that youth face to even taking the first step towards higher education, with access to information, attitude and mindset, language barriers, and documentation just a few among them. While AI has the ability to expediate the process of information dissemination, data

review and filtering, concerns arise as AI is increasingly used to analyse applicants. Bias often inadvertently enters AI algorithms because they are largely based on human training data and historical data, two sources which are themselves are inherently biased. Therefore, it is imperative that we take the initiative to define the role of AI in the student selection process, identifying where it can improve on the traditional, human decision-making process, and where the “human touch” is still needed.

Session Objectives

- 1- To examine the role AI currently plays in the scholarship application and selection process.
- 2- To discuss the unique circumstances surrounding scholarship applicants from conflict-affected and least-developed countries.
- 3- To highlight the differences in criteria for scholarships aimed at marginalized youth.
- 4- To identify the place of technology, specifically AI, in defining and mitigating beneficiary vulnerability.
- 5- To address ethical challenges such as potential biases, decision-making dilemmas, and the dehumanization of scholarship selection process.

Keynotes & Panelists

- Keynote speeches by QFFD and IIE
- Master of Ceremonies: Khalid Al-Kawari, EAA Youth Advocate
- Moderator: Hana Elshehaby, EAA Youth Advocate
- Jennifer Dwyer, Senior Technical Manager, EAA
- Dr. Olga Mariño Drews, Associate Professor, Universidad de Los Andes
- Jonah Kokodyniak, Senior Vice President, International Institute of Education (IIE)
- Elías Sánchez Hanno, Manager, Research and Impact, Schmidt Futures
- Dr. Lauren Goodlad, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Rutgers University



IIE has been a world leader in international education since 1919. IIE works to build more peaceful and equitable societies by advancing scholarship, building economies and promoting access to opportunity. As a not-for-profit with 18 offices and affiliates worldwide, IIE collaborates with a range of corporate, government and foundation partners across the globe to design and manage scholarship, study abroad, workforce training and leadership development programs.



QFFD is a public development institution committed, on behalf of the State of Qatar, to implement external aid projects under Law No. 19 of 2002 and its amendments. It has provided aid to several countries around the world to achieve the international cooperation goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030. QFFD's main goal is to achieve inclusive & sustainable development, by addressing priority issues of education, health and economic empowerment.



Education Above All Foundation (EAA) is a global education foundation established in 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser. EAA aims to transform lives through education. EAA believes education is the single most effective means of reducing poverty, generating economic growth and creating peaceful and just societies thereby bringing hope and real opportunity to the lives of children, youth and women, especially those in poverty, conflict situations, and natural disasters.