

Editorial



Generative AI has silently become a companion in the engineering education for educators and students both. From code generation and simulation support to report writing, debugging, enhancement of teaching and many more tasks are being supported by GenAI, GenAI tools now accompany engineering graduates as they transition from campus to corporate life. However, a -critical question deserves attention: What does GenAI mean for the well-being of engineering graduates?

For fresh graduates, navigating steep learning curves from entering engineering education to their corporate life GenAI not only helps in reducing their cognitive overload, but also acts as an ever available friend and tutor, clarifying concepts, offering multiple solution pathways, and accelerating learning. The fear of “not knowing enough” becomes reduced, when instant help is available. For them, GenAI functions as a buffer against early-career anxiety and burnout providing confidence.

The process creates a slow decline in learning-related well-being through its implementation. Their excessive dependency on GenAI results in a severe loss of three essential components which drive their academic and professional success. The instant availability of solutions results in

decreased satisfaction which people experience when they solve problems, which ultimately affects their motivation and belief in their abilities. People achieve well-being through two essential components which include their ability to create meaning and develop themselves and exercise control over their life choices. The challenge for institutions and employers are critical. Organizations need to develop intentional well-being frameworks which should accompany their GenAI implementation efforts. The engineering profession needs to shift from its current emphasis on tool proficiency, to teach students how to use AI responsibly because they need to learn when to trust GenAI and when to doubt it and when to use it. Ethical discussions about technology use, mental balance and mental strength should receive equal importance as technical education.

GenAI functions as both a solution and a danger because it operates independently. The impact of technology on engineering graduates will determine its effects through educational systems and corporate cultures. Future-ready engineers need AI competencies that enable them to use technology while maintaining their confidence and curiosity and well-being throughout their work.

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