Bridging the Gap: TVET, AI, and Collaborative Care in the Future of Mental Health

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Abstract

The rapidly evolving fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and technology-enabled education, particularly Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), are revolutionizing mental health care by offering new pathways for accessible, efficient, and holistic support systems. This paper explores the potential of bridging TVET, AI, and collaborative care to address the growing global mental health crisis. It examines how these elements can converge to create an integrated framework that improves care delivery, enhances workforce readiness, and ensures equitable access to mental health services. TVET plays a critical role in equipping professionals with the practical skills needed to address mental health challenges in diverse contexts. By incorporating AI-focused modules into TVET curricula, practitioners can gain the technical proficiency required to utilize AI-driven tools, such as predictive analytics, virtual therapy platforms, and personalized treatment planning. The integration of AI not only enhances the diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities of mental health providers but also alleviates systemic inefficiencies by automating administrative tasks, thereby allowing professionals to focus on patient-centered care. Additionally, this paper highlights the importance of collaborative care models, which leverage interdisciplinary teams to provide comprehensive mental health services. AI serves as a catalyst for effective collaboration by facilitating seamless communication, real-time data sharing, and coordinated care plans among healthcare providers. These advancements have the potential to improve outcomes for individuals with complex needs, particularly in underserved populations. Through case studies and emerging research, this paper demonstrates how the intersection of TVET, AI, and collaborative care can transform the future of mental health by fostering innovation, enhancing workforce capability, and ensuring sustainable, culturally responsive care. Bridging these elements provides a promising pathway to address mental health disparities and create systems that prioritize inclusivity and efficacy in a rapidly changing world.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Technology-Enabled Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Mental Health Care, Collaborative Care, Workforce Readiness, Predictive Analytics, Virtual Therapy Platforms, Personalized Treatment Planning, AI-Driven Tools, Diagnostic Enhancement, Systemic Inefficiencies, Patient Centered Care, Interdisciplinary Teams, Real-Time Data Sharing, Coordinated Care Plans, Underserved Populations, Innovation, Sustainable Care, Culturally Responsive Care, Mental Health Disparities.