Letter to the Editor

Exploring the Role of ChatGPT in Traditional Medicine: A Friend or Foe?

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Dear Editor,

Traditional medicine is not an exception when it comes to the new opportunities presented by cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI) technology like ChatGPT [1]. But even as we welcome this new era of technology, it is vital to consider how it might affect the practice of traditional medicine. Traditional medicine has been a significant resource for healthcare all across the world for ages since it is firmly founded in cultural customs and historic wisdom. This domain's integration of ChatGPT presents both potential and difficulties. On the one hand, ChatGPT has the potential to be a useful resource for preserving and distributing traditional medical knowledge [1]. ChatGPT can assist in digitizing old documents, translating languages, and making traditional medical knowledge more available to a larger audience by giving access to a massive store of information.

ChatGPT can help medical professionals make diagnoses and provide treatments based on symptom descriptions, which might improve patient care [2]. This support can be especially helpful in isolated locations with limited access to knowledgeable traditional healers. By mimicking patient-practitioner interactions, ChatGPT can also help with teaching and training by enabling students to develop their abilities in a virtual setting.

Professionals in traditional medicine and ChatGPT are interacting in a unique way that combines age-old methods and cutting-edge technology. A number of ethical questions are raised as these professionals use AI-driven platforms to search for informational insights [3]. It is unclear how to preserve traditional authenticity, accurately translate ideas that are firmly ingrained in particular languages and remove potential biases that AI systems can unintentionally create as a result of the merger of ancient wisdom and modern knowledge. It is crucial to strike a balance between utilizing AI's enormous database and taking into account the subtleties of traditional methods. In this perspective, using AI responsibly entails not just taking advantage of its potential for information sharing but also preserving the integrity of many cultural legacies and knowledge systems.

The limitations of ChatGPT are acknowledged by OpenAI. It can generate false information, exhibit bias, and even follow dangerous orders. Although there are guardrails, users have managed to get through them. Relying on people to report issues has come under fire because errors could affect marginalized groups and be carried over to subsequent versions. The multilingual capabilities of ChatGPT may democratize information sharing, but its inaccuracies may unintentionally propagate false information [4].

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There are several issues that demand cautious thought. The integration of AI into traditional medicine runs the risk of oversimplifying or distorting intricate traditional medical procedures. Traditional medicine has a close relationship with cultural contexts and holistic medical practices. Relying entirely on AI can ignore these complex factors and lead to a reductionist strategy. Additionally, the incorporation of ChatGPT can unintentionally result in the marginalization of traditional practitioners and the deterioration of conventional medical practices. Moreover, integration of modern medicine with traditional medicine has been propagated in Indian vigorously for more holistic management, but there are no sound scientific evidences. Striking a balance between utilizing technology and upholding the integrity of conventional processes is crucial.

Collaboration is necessary to ensure seamless integration. To address the issues and potential related to ChatGPT in traditional medicine, practitioners from the field of traditional medicine, AI developers and researchers must have open discussions. This can entail creating AI systems that take cultural quirks into account, giving practitioners proper training in how to use AI tools, and making sure that patients are aware of how AI is used in their healthcare [5]. In addition, the potential of ChatGPT can be harnessed in renewing the traditional and ancient medical texts and medical journals in traditional medicine.

In conclusion, the fusion of ChatGPT with traditional medicine presents a double-edged sword. It can surely be a useful tool for maintaining, sharing, and advancing traditional medical knowledge. To avoid oversimplifying or distorting complex traditional processes, care must be taken. We may travel this journey wisely and prudently by embracing a collaborative mindset and recognizing the distinctive qualities of both traditional thinking and AI technology.

Conflict of Interests
None.

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