Special Needs Education for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

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(Abstract)

In the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), technological advancements are blurring the lines between physical, digital, and biological worlds. Technologies in the physical world such as robots, the digital world such as cryptocurrencies, and the biological world such as synthetic biology are offering educational affordances that have never been possible. Yet, as educationists tap into these affordances in design of more effective learning environments for normal learners, special needs learners are left behind. As such learners require personalization of teaching and learning to be tailored according to their special needs, this calls for an urgent discussion on tapping into the potential of 4IR for reorientation of special education, specifically in the context of increased independence of children with special needs, as the theme of the conference. Hence, the keynote will address this issues with focusing on design of 4IR learning approaches and interventions for special education, development of 4IR special personalized learning environments as well as 4IR special education assessment strategy and policy development in moving special education towards the fourth industrial revolution.