

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Study: Malaysian Youth Embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Selangor, October 23, 2023 - Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping our world, introducing transformative changes across various sectors. Among the younger generation in Malaysia, there is a growing enthusiasm for integrating AI into daily life and education.

A recent study was conducted by the Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Social & Policy Studies (TCLC) to explore the perceptions of 285 respondents, including secondary school students, tertiary institution students, and graduates, on the utilization of AI tools, particularly in educational contexts. The research employed a quantitative approach, with data gathered through a questionnaire distributed via Google Forms.

The questionnaire, meticulously designed by experts with extensive experience in education and social issues research, covered several dimensions of AI usage, including respondents' familiarity with AI tools and their attitudes towards adopting new AI technologies for academic purposes.

The study's demographics reveal a diverse respondent pool, with 169 males (59.3%) and 116 females (40.7%). Age distribution includes 210 respondents aged 16 to 20 (secondary school students and early undergraduates), 61 aged 21 to 25 (senior undergraduates), and 14 aged 26 to 30 (recent graduates).

The findings indicate a highly positive attitude among young Malaysians towards integrating AI into education. 68.73% of the respondents (see Figure 1) use AI-powered tools and applications to assist them in their studies. More than half of them (58%) are found to be familiar with AI. These findings reveal the fact that Malaysian youth are heading towards the direction of making AI a necessity.

Figure 1: Using AI-powered Tools and Applications for Academic Purposes.

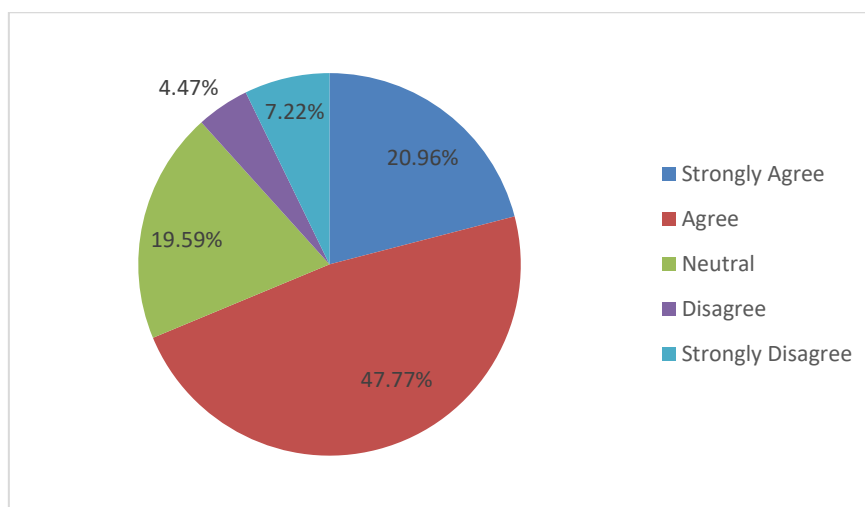
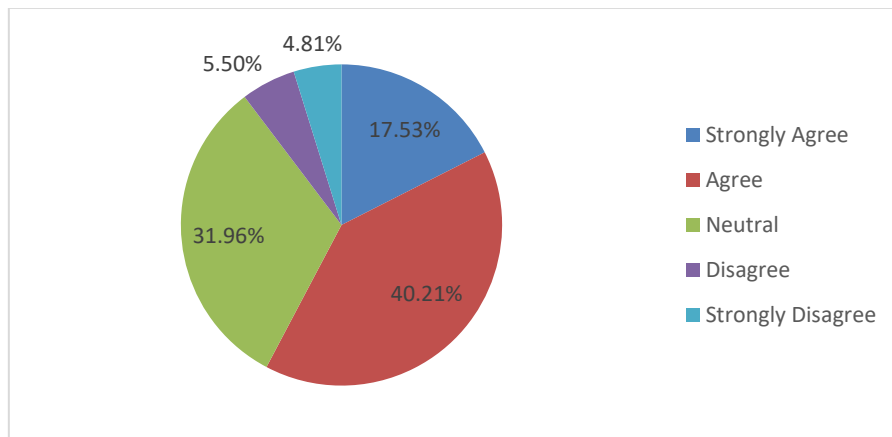


Figure 2 Familiar with AI Tools and Applications



Most youths tend to think that using AI is a necessity since this technology enhances their efficiency in producing good quality works. Approximately 70% of the respondents (see Figure 3) believe utilizing AI will improve their efficiency in completing their academic tasks. Similar percentage of the respondents (Figure 4) also think that the utilization of AI enhances their learning experience.

Figure 3 Utilizing AI technologies enhance efficiency in completing academic tasks.

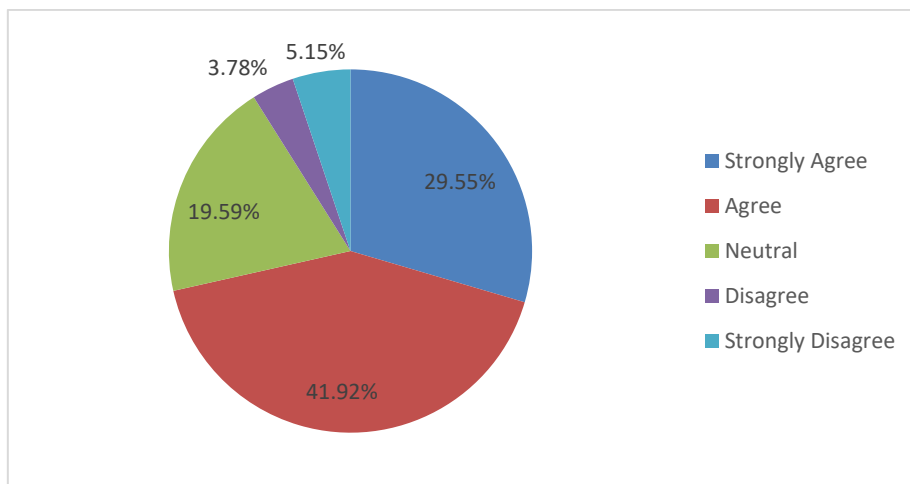
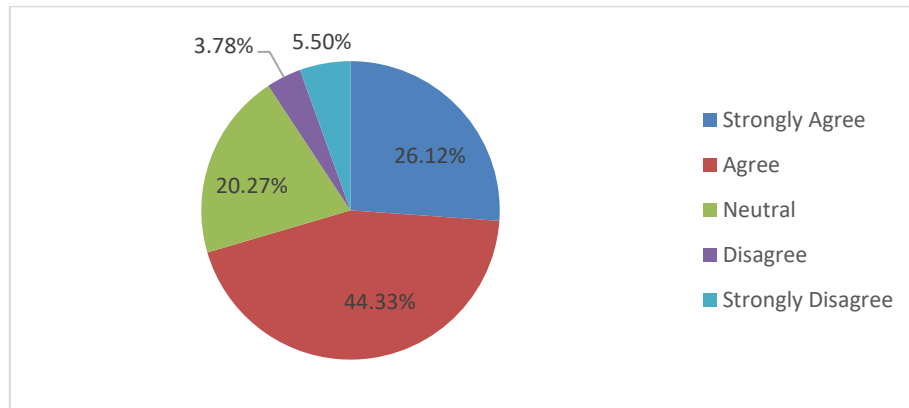
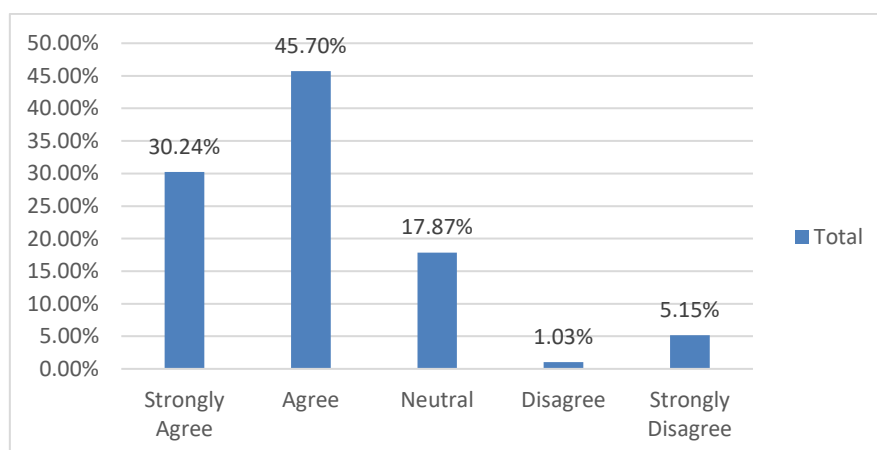


Figure 4 Utilization of AI enhances learning experience



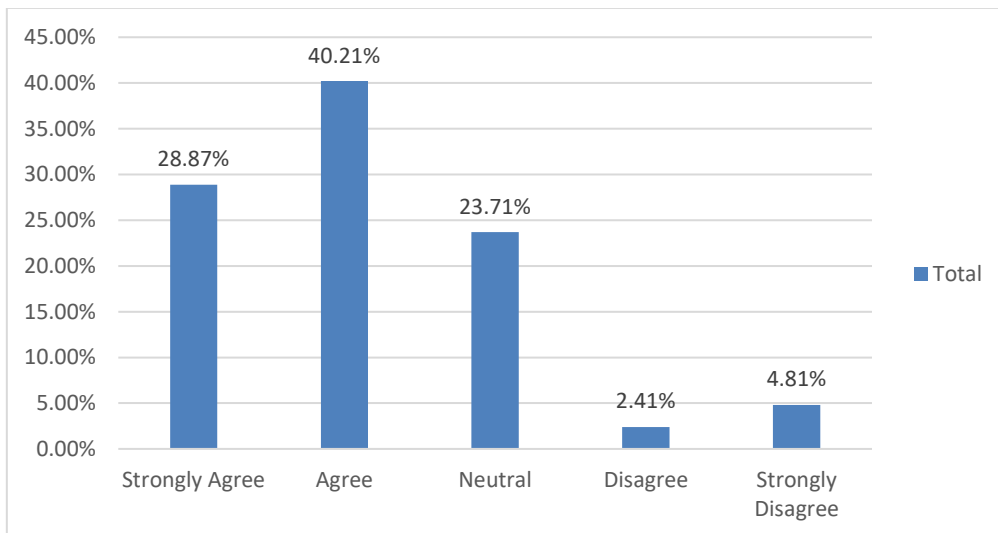
Their positive attitude towards AI may also be caused by their openness towards learning and adopting new technologies, a characteristic commonly associated with Generation Z. They welcome changes in technology and are able to adapt well. Figure 5 shows 75.94% of the respondents agree to adopt new technology that can enhance their learning experience.

Figure 5 Willingness to Adopt new Technology that can Enhance Learning Experience



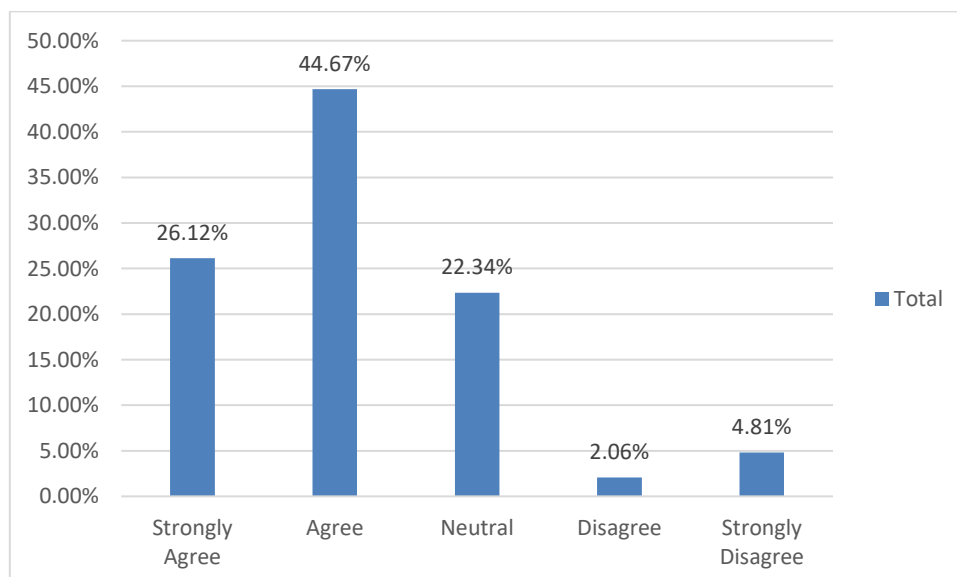
However, since AI is still relatively new, efforts should be made to ensure Malaysians are familiar with it. To ensure Malaysians get to know AI, intervention from the government is needed. Relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Education must initiate programs that introduce AI to school children.

Figure 6 Offer more training programs related to AI



69% of the respondents (see Figure 6) expect the government to introduce more training programs that can enhance their skills in using AI. Most respondents (70.79%) also hope the government will introduce AI-related subjects in the national education curriculum.

Figure 7 Incorporating AI related Topics into Education Curriculum



Although Malaysian youths tend to accept AI as an important tool to master, they are aware of the its negative implications, as the technology can be easily exploited. Hence, it has to be used ethically, particularly in the education sector.

AI tools and applications have been used to produce research reports and dissertations. Such acts will cause academic integrity and standards to be normalized.

54.98% of the respondents are worried that the above may happen while 33.68% are somewhat worried. Actions must be taken to prevent this and the best action is to abstain from abusing this technology. As shown in Figure 9, most Malaysian youth are aware of this matter. About 66% of them agree that they should adhere to certain ethical guidelines when using this technology.

Figure 8 Concerned about ethical implications when using AI

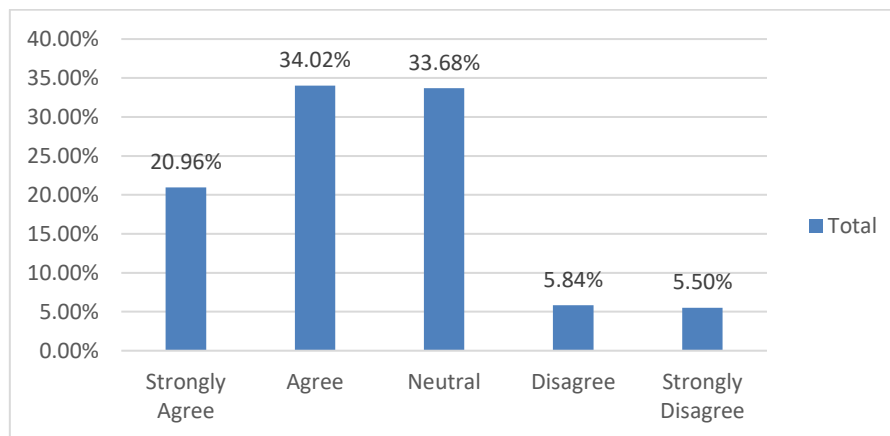
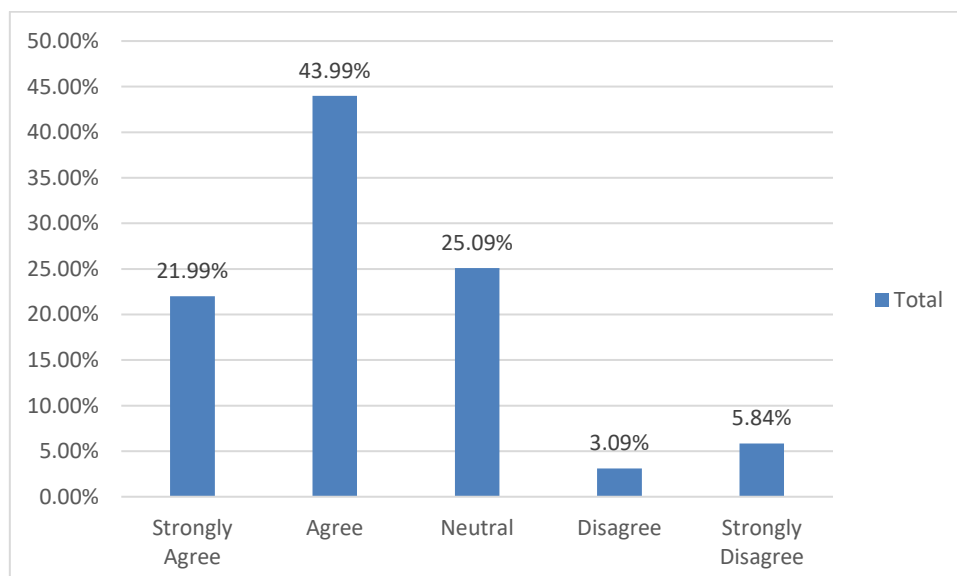


Figure 9 AI users should adhere to ethical guidelines



About TCLC's studies 敦陈祯禄社会与政策中心研究项目

This study is among TCLC's initiatives to understand various social phenomena occurring in Malaysia. Results of TCLC's studies are published on TCLC's website at <http://tclc.resources.utar.edu.my/Report.php>.

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Should there be any enquiry about the information in this news release, please feel free to contact TCLC Chairperson Dr. Chin Yee Mun at chinym@utar.edu.my.