

Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Law & Society (CAILS)

ETHICS -AN INTEGRAL PART OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

I. A brief background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently being used for government and non-government processes. It is used in police departments to prevent cybercrimes, income tax department, smart cities and biometrics. And in future it is expected to be used in manufacturing, agriculture and farming, document management in government departments, development of rural area, government hospitals, education and construction. The widespread use of AI reflects its advantages and increased importance in the coming future.¹

This is one side of the coin. The other side of the coin is regarding the ethical concern of this technology. AI is a machine learning system, it learns from human behavior and their pattern. This makes the persistent discriminatory racial, caste and gender biases a part of AI.² As a result this technology can endanger human dignity and personhood. Manipulation of information for getting conducive results in elections is another pertinent concern. Biggest democracies of the world like U.S.A and India have borne the brunt of spiking the elections.³

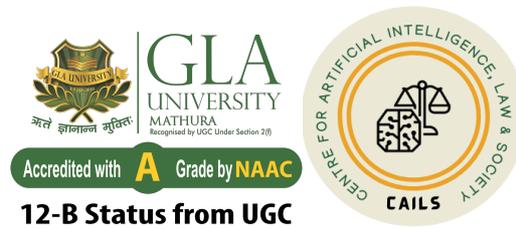
So when we introduce AI in any sector it should be with a set of ethics. Ethics is concomitant to the use of AI. The development of ethics and AI should be simultaneous as integrating it later in the system would make the implementation of this technology half-baked and will have grave effects on privacy, transparency and efficacy.⁴

¹ Akshay Toshniwal, 'How India can make use of Artificial Intelligence in Sectors that are Unexplored?,' <<https://indiaai.gov.in/article/how-india-can-make-use-of-artificial-intelligence-in-sectors-that-are-unexplored>> accessed on 24 June 2022

² Ethics and Human Rights, <<https://indiaai.gov.in/ai-standards/ethics-and-human-rights>> accessed on 24 June 2022

³ 'Involvement in India will be investigated: Cambridge Analytica' (*The Hindu*, 1st December 2021) <<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/internet/involvement-in-india-will-be-investigated-cambridge-analytica/article61863131.ece>> as accessed on 25th June 2021

⁴ AI in India: A Policy Agenda, <<https://cis-india.org/internet-governance/files/ai-in-india-a-policy-agenda>> accessed on 24 June 2022



II. Ethical concerns in Artificial Intelligence

Ethical concerns do arise after the usage of AI but it is a real danger. AI is going to have pervasive effect on the world, if ethics framework are delayed it might end up deeply affecting the structure of society.⁵ The adjacent question to this issue is what moral framework will guide us or what will be the ideal set of moral principles for AI regulation? What will be the extent of automation?

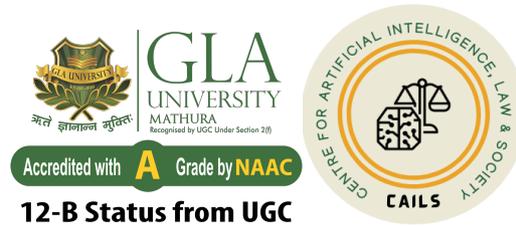
In India we have ethics code for different sectors. For instance, we have Indian Medical Council (Professional conduct, Etiquette & Ethics) Regulation, 2002 for medicine. But when it comes to AI, the ethics code is often conflated with information code. Recently the government introduced the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021⁶ for regulating the online content, the source of information and social intermediaries. And the other one is the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Notification (2021)⁷ for digital media and news. There is no doubt about the fact that AI is being extensively used by a lot of digital platforms and therefore it needs to be regulated. But that covers only one area in which an AI ethics code is required.

This kind of myopic approach towards the ethics code leaves the other area unregulated and their ethical standards is left unchecked. To frame a comprehensive Ethics code one should be aware about the developments of different sectors as well. It will not only consider their specific needs but reduce the chances of loopholes in the code. A multi-disciplinary approach is needed for framing of the ethics code.

⁵ Artificial Intelligence in Society, < <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/communities/sites/jrccties/files/eedfee77-en.pdf>> as accessed on 25th June 2022

⁶ The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 <<https://prsindia.org/billtrack/the-information-technology-intermediary-guidelines-and-digital-media-ethics-code-rules-2021>> accessed on 24 June 2022

⁷ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Notification New Delhi, the 25th February, 2021 < https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Intermediary_Guidelines_and_Digital_Media_Ethics_Code_Rules-2021.pdf> accessed on 24 June 2022



III. Need for an Ethics Code within the realm of AI

The World Economic Forum (WEF) lists nine ethical concerns pertaining to AI. It talks about the aftereffects of AI on unemployment, inequality, humanity, artificial stupidity, security, eliminating AI bias, protection against unintended consequences, singularity, and also the rights of robots.⁸ This list shows that for framing Ethics Code for AI we have to closely observe its effect on the society, the behavioral change it brings in people, how it affects the identity of an individual and creating ethically aligned technologies.

For making AI a responsible technology, aspects such as fairness, transparency, black box problem, privacy and security should be worked on. We need ethics in the aforementioned five areas as they are until now the inexplicable and disadvantageous facets. We need to have an ethically designed AI for preventing its disadvantages that somewhat outweigh its advantages.

IV. Challenges in implementing AI

Additionally, there are also challenges arising from fairness, transparency (black box problem), privacy and security.

- (1) *Fairness* is essential in reaching a rational decision. When an AI integrated device deals with a diverse data the probability of bias increases. To prevent such instances the devices should be able to diagnose the in-built bias, gauge its impact and reduce such instances.
- (2) *Transparency* (black box problem) is one of the major disadvantage of using AI. As it is very difficult to fathom the process between the input and the result known as factors. This means that no one can be held accountable.
- (3) *Privacy* is the most concerned issue when it comes to AI. Many companies across the globe are amassing huge number of data through unfair means to get an insight in to

⁸ Julia Bossmann, Top 9 ethical issues in artificial intelligence, (*The World Economic Forum*, 21 October 2016) <<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/10/top-10-ethical-issues-in-artificial-intelligence/>> as accessed on 25th June 2022.



the life of customers, for predicting their choices and for getting a competitive edge raising many ethical concerns.

- (4) *Security* seems almost absent in today's AI driven gadgets as one is unable to fix the accountability. Lack of transparency puts security in danger makes the machine and manufacturing non-labile.⁹

These technical issues have to be fixed for making AI an ethically fit technology. AI presents a hopeful future ahead us which has less burdened health system, productive education system and sustainable agriculture. An unethical AI will create more problems than solving. Imbibing ethics in this technology will ensure that it does not lose the human essence while making decisions and does not wipe away the human presence altogether. It is time that we integrate ethics with AI to unlock a developed future.

Disclaimer: *The Blog is written as part of the knowledge series initiative of Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Law & Society (CAILS), ILSR, GLA University, with legal inputs from Prof. (Dr.) Avinash Dadhich, Director (CAILS), Nidhi Singh, Deputy Director (CAILS) and Jayanti Jaya, Research Fellow (CAILS).*

⁹ National Strategy of Artificial Intelligence 2018, < [NationalStrategy-for-AI-Discussion-Paper.pdf](#) > as accessed on 25th June 2022