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Artificial Intelligence, Law and Justice

Session 34

AI in Legal Education

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AI, Law, and Justice: Session 34 In this session, we will be looking at AI in legal education, which is a very important topic for obvious reasons.



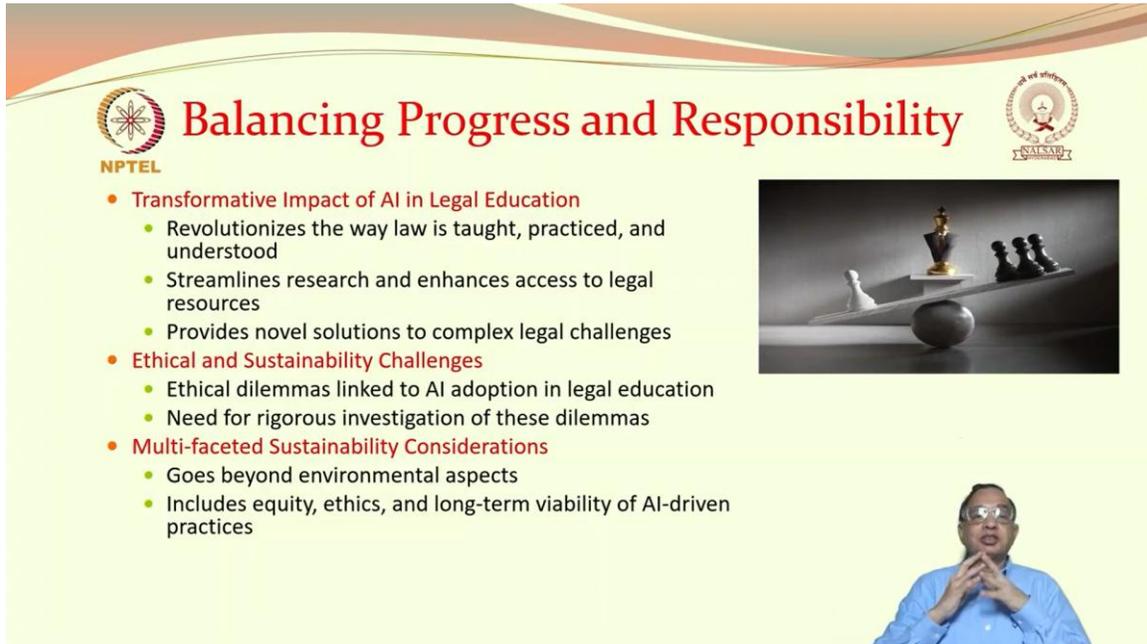
Recap

- In the last session we discussed how AI can impact human rights positively and negatively
- We also pointed out some innovations in AI can be banned or
- Their use restricted on account of implications for human rights
- Moreover it was emphasized that AI and Human Rights should
- Have a role in governance of AI



So let us do a recap of the previous session. In the previous sessions, we looked at how

AI can impact human rights positively and negatively. We also pointed out how innovations in AI can be banned or their use can be restricted on account of implications for human rights. Moreover, it was also emphasized that AI and human rights should have a greater role in the governance of AI. In this session, we will look at a very important topic: how AI can impact legal education and what the implications of deploying AI in legal education are.



The slide features a title "Balancing Progress and Responsibility" in red text. On the left is the NPTEL logo, and on the right is the NALSAR logo. The main content is a bulleted list:

- **Transformative Impact of AI in Legal Education**
 - Revolutionizes the way law is taught, practiced, and understood
 - Streamlines research and enhances access to legal resources
 - Provides novel solutions to complex legal challenges
- **Ethical and Sustainability Challenges**
 - Ethical dilemmas linked to AI adoption in legal education
 - Need for rigorous investigation of these dilemmas
- **Multi-faceted Sustainability Considerations**
 - Goes beyond environmental aspects
 - Includes equity, ethics, and long-term viability of AI-driven practices

There are two images: one of chess pieces on a board and another of a man in a blue shirt speaking.

So, if we take AI's role in legal education as a progressive one, we need to balance progress and responsibility because AI has huge, huge potential to revolutionize the way law is taught, practiced, and understood. We have seen many examples of this before. More importantly, AI can streamline research, enhance access to legal education, and provide legal resources; it offers novel solutions for complex legal challenges. We have seen this earlier, but there are significant ethical and sustainable challenges when we talk about AI and legal education, which we will deal with in detail in this class. There is also a need to conduct some rigorous investigations into these challenges and dilemmas because when we talk about sustainability, we need to think beyond mere environmental concerns; we need to bring in ethics, equity, and the long-term viability of AI-driven practices. Why? Because AI is not just a technology; AI is also a technology that has long-term implications in terms of resource utilization, ethics, equity, and other factors. So, ethical standards and sustainability should go together.



Ethical Standards and Sustainability



- **Ethical Standards in Sustainability**
 - Fostering a protective relationship toward the environment and humanity
 - Considering long-term ethical implications of actions and policies
- **Complexity of Sustainability Ethics**
 - Beyond protecting the environment or reducing resource consumption
 - Intersection with various domains like technology, education, and law
- **Importance in AI Adoption**
 - Decisions made today impact future generations



We should bring a sense of sustainability when we talk about AI. So, a productive relationship between the environment and humanity should be part of legal education, where we also discuss the long-term implications of actions and policies, including AI. So, sustainability ethics can inform and then be integrated into legal education, particularly in the context of AI. Because we need to think in terms of various domains like education, law, and technology, and then see whether we can address these sustainable, complex issues and sustainability through them. And the decisions we make today regarding AI, in the sense of large-scale AI adoption, have a significant impact on future generations and also on the future use of resources.



Long-term Implications of AI Adoption



- **Impact on Future Legal Professionals**
 - Long-term effects on privacy and equity
 - Increased prevalence of AI in legal education and practice
- **Need for Sustainability Ethics**
 - Embedding ethics in institutional decision-making
 - Influence on curriculum development and resource allocation
- **Ethical Implications of AI Adoption**
 - Potential biases in AI algorithms
 - Strategies to promote fairness and inclusivity
- **Resource Allocation Strategies**
 - Optimizing investments in AI
- **Sustainable Faculty Training**



So, what are the long-term implications of AI adoption, particularly in legal education? It will have long-term implications for privacy and equity. The increased prevalence of AI in legal education practice is also going to have a heavy impact. We need to bring in sustainability and integrate it so that it becomes part of the institutionalized decision-making. And this should also inform the development of the curriculum and resource allocation. We have seen the various issues related to biases in AI algorithms. We have also seen how fairness and inclusivity need to be promoted as part of responsible AI and ethical AI. We have also seen that certain issues related to AI need long-term thinking. So, when we think in terms of AI's long-term impacts, including resource allocation, we need to identify what the resources and investments that would be needed for AI in legal education are, and then how we optimize them. So, there is a need to train the faculty. There's also a need to bring in the whole idea of sustainability that goes beyond mere thinking in terms of environmental resources.



Importance of Sustainability in Legal Education



- **Importance of Sustainability in Legal Education**
 - Meeting present needs without compromising future generations
 - Preparing lawyers to address environmental issues
- **Incorporating Environmental Sustainability in Law Curriculum**
 - Highlighted in universities in England
 - Growing importance of environmental sustainability issues
 - Need for legal professionals to be well-versed in this field
- **Environmental Law as a Specialized Field**
 - Focuses on legal aspects of environmental protection
 - Conservation and sustainable resource management
 - Law schools offer courses and programs in environmental law



So, if we consider sustainability as meeting today's needs without compromising future generations, then lawyers should be trained to address some of these issues. Of course, lawyers have been trained. Almost all law schools have a curriculum related to environmental law, environmental treaties, and other subjects as part of the regular coursework. Many law schools and universities have specialized centres for environmental law or environmental education. So, the lawyer's understanding of environmental issues is very important. But then AI brings in one more layer because of its impact on the environment, and how AI's long-term implications have serious environmental repercussions is something to which a lot of attention is also being paid. Integrating environmental sustainability into the law curriculum is done in many universities in England. And then, environmental law itself has emerged as a very specialized field. So, integrating AI into environmental law will again need a lot of groundwork to be covered in both.



Role of Legal Education in Advancing Sustainability



- **Significance of Sustainability in Legal Education**
 - Advancing sustainability principles across social, economic, and cultural dimensions
- **Law Schools and Ethical Decision-Making**
 - Sustainability as a framework for guiding ethical decisions
 - Application across various legal disciplines, not just environmental law
- **Global Goal of Sustainable Development**
 - Legal professionals shaping policies and regulations
 - Inclusion of international law, trade law, and human rights law in coursework
- **Impact of Businesses on Sustainability**
- **Emerging Trends in Legal Profession**



Having said that, we should also look at how a legal education can advance sustainability by finding the right practices and principles across social, economic, and cultural dimensions, using sustainability as a framework to guide ethical decisions, and applying it across various legal domains, including practices not just limited to environmental law. Or, put it another way, environmental sustainability should go beyond thinking about it in environmental law class alone. It should be something that is part and parcel of each and every law course, covering different legal disciplines, so we need the goal of sustainable development goals to be approved and accepted by everyone. Therefore, how the legal profession can bring some of these into the discussion on AI and environmental law, or AI in legal education, is equally important; we need to discuss that. So, when we see this, we need to bring in international law, trade law, and human rights law in the coursework, particularly in the context of their implications for AI.



Sustainability in Legal Operations



- **Green Initiatives and Carbon Footprint Reduction**
 - Emphasis on sustainability in legal operations
- **Promoting Social Responsibility and Ethical Governance**
 - Growing importance in legal practices
- **Empowering Future Lawyers**
 - Advocacy for sustainability and environmental protection
- **Environmental Law Clinics and Advocacy Programs**
 - Practical experience for students in environmental causes
- **Lawyers' Role in Sustainability**
 - Drafting, interpreting, and enforcing sustainability regulations
- **Legal Education for Government and Policy Advising**
 - Preparing students for roles in government agencies and as legal advisers



Then many large firms, including legal universities and law schools, have developed their own sustainability footprints and assessments, resource optimizations, resource minimization, recycling, reuse, or adopted the 3R formula. So, promoting socially responsible ethical governance as part of the greening of the law school's curriculum or the law school's day-to-day practices is gaining currency. And then future lawyers should be all the more sensitized to these things so that they are very well aware of them. And then lawyers have a greater role in drafting, interpreting, and following sustainable regulations both within their institutions and elsewhere. So, when we prepare students to be trained in government agencies or to face the world as lawyers, bureaucrats, or civil servants, we need to repeatedly tell them that sustainability in legal operations or a sustainability framework should be part and parcel of their core thinking.



Interdisciplinary Collaboration for Sustainability



- **Importance of Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
 - Engages students through practical case studies and experiential learning
 - Encourages collaboration with fields like environmental science, engineering, and economics
- **Ethical Dimensions of Sustainability**
 - Involves questions of equity, justice, and future well-being
 - Encourages students to consider ethical aspects in their practice
- **Contribution of Legal Academics and Researchers**
 - Conduct research on legal frameworks, case studies, and policy evaluations
- **Significance of Sustainability in Legal Education**
 - Equips future lawyers to address environmental, social, and economic challenges
 - Promotes engagement with broader societal issues



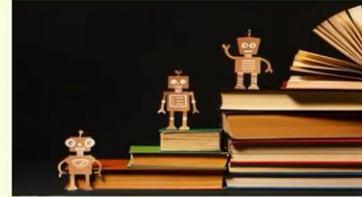
But sustainability also needs a lot of interdisciplinary collaboration, where we need to identify other areas like economics, engineering, history, politics, and sociology, so that we can gain a comprehensive interdisciplinary understanding of environmental sustainability from a legal perspective. And, of course, there are inevitably ethical issues, environmental justice issues, particularly in the context of climate change, as well as equity and the future well-being of generations. So, these things need to be taken into account. And more importantly, when we say sustainability in legal education, we do not think in terms of two years, three years, one semester course, two semester courses, or one five-year course. We need to have a longer vision and a broader idea of how sustainability can be integrated into all the work we do in law institutions.



Integration of AI in Legal Curricula



- Integration of AI in Legal Curriculum
 - Courses on AI and the law
 - Legal tech and data privacy
- AI-Assisted Legal Research
 - Innovative tools for research
- Practice Simulations
- Legal Tech Competitions
- Ethical Considerations
- Research Opportunities
- AI in Legal Clinics
- Continuing Legal Education
- AI and Access to Justice



Now comes the challenge of integrating AI into the legal curriculum. One easy way to begin is to offer courses on AI and law, particularly those that provide comprehensive coverage of legal tech and data privacy. Of course, we have discussed how AI is also doing a lot of innovative things in AI-assisted legal research. That should be part and parcel of it. So, practice simulations can be performed. Legal tech hackathons and competitions can be held. Some law schools are also becoming hubs for legal tech companies. So, they can also become innovation hubs, and then ethical considerations need to be brought in; more importantly, research opportunities in law, ethics, and AI should be expanded. AI can be part and parcel of legal clinics, whether it is done as part of an outreach or part of any other initiative. Then, in both continuing legal education, which is also called CLE or distance education, and other approximate legal education, environmental sustainability is already there; however, we need to bring AI into that as well, so AI can facilitate access to justice. Therefore, when law schools conduct programs on access to justice, they should inevitably incorporate AI as a new tool that can promote access to justice.



AI-Assisted Legal Research and Practice Simulations



- **AI Tools in Legal Education**
 - Law schools provide training on AI tools for research and document review
 - Incorporation of AI-based practice simulations in programs
 - Competitions related to legal technology and AI foster innovation
- **Ethical and Regulatory Concerns**
 - Addressing ethical implications of AI in legal practice
 - Guidance on navigating AI-related challenges
- **Research and Practical Exposure**
 - Opportunities for AI-related research in law schools
 - Legal clinics using AI tools to improve efficiency and access
- **Continuing Legal Education (CLE)**
 - Courses on AI relevance to legal practice




And of course, AI-assisted tools and legal research practice simulations are already there. Many of the law schools now mandate that students undergo training in AI tools and data analytics or at least in one of the AI tools. Of course, students themselves are using a lot of legal AI tools. Even faculty are using many of them, which are much more than just ChatGPT or Canva. AI-based practice simulation programs, AI-based simulation programs, and other AI-based tools are also being used in law institutions. But these things, when brought into legal education, particularly in the university-level framework, require us to consider some ethical and regulatory concerns. Governance for ethical and regulatory frameworks needs to be brought in. And then students should be taught how to navigate these AI-related technologies and the challenges, particularly hallucinations, fake data, and the ethics of using AI-generated materials, and how to deal with AI in an ethical way. And more importantly, students should be sensitized to AI-related research, the pluses and minuses of that, and then the opportunities and challenges they will face when they rely more and more on it. So, this again should be part of not just the regular coursework or regular legal education, but also the continuing education and other legal programs.



Ethical Considerations in AI Adoption



- **Benefits of AI in Legal Education**
 - Improves efficiency in legal tasks
 - Assists in complex legal tasks
- **Concerns About AI Reliance**
 - Potential compromise of essential legal skills
 - Critical thinking and analytical reasoning development
- **Governance and Oversight Challenges**
 - Adapting to unknown challenges introduced by AI
 - Ensuring effective human oversight mechanisms
- **Need for Balance in Legal Education**
 - Ensuring students develop essential legal skills
 - Careful integration of AI tools



So, legal education AI can do wonders. It can improve efficiency in legal tasks. It can also help in understanding complex tasks. Then there is also the problem that increased AI reliance may result in compromising essential legal skills, as people may tend to delegate some of those tasks to AI tools and then think that AI tools can take care of everything, we won't need not to do that. But this can result in some of the essential legal skills not being honed or fully utilized. Then critical thinking and analytical reasoning are part and parcel of the law school's curriculum, where students are taught in depth on both critical thinking and analytical reasoning. This is anyway what they would do when they practice law, so this again should not be compromised for the simple reason that AI tools in the future will do a lot of very similar work, or there should be no compromise on inculcating critical thinking and analytical reasoning development among the law students.

But we have also noticed, in fact, we have discussed that there are a lot of new challenges introduced by AI, and then how do we ensure that wherever AI is used, there is always human oversight, that a human is in the loop, and that AI-use does not simply go unregulated? More importantly, in the context of legal education, students should develop legal skills in such a way that they are able to gain a holistic understanding of AI's utilization, merits, as well as limitations. So careful integration of AI tools without the need to diminish essential skills is equally important.



AI and Access to Justice



- **AI and Legal Education**
 - AI raises questions about ethics and regulation
 - Legal education can help develop policies and guidelines
- **Enhancing Access to Justice**
 - AI automates routine legal tasks
 - Provides affordable legal assistance
- **Adaptation and Assimilation**
 - AI technologies are becoming relevant to the legal profession
 - Legal education institutions are incorporating AI-related topics
- **Fostering Innovation and Improving Legal Services**
 - Ensures law students and lawyers are prepared for the changing landscape
 - Addresses ethical and regulatory challenges associated with AI



We have also discussed, particularly in the context of AI, law, and justice in India, that access to AI legal tools is not something that is available to all; therefore, there is a huge disparity, just like the digital divide, and the same thing is equally applicable to AI in legal education, because not all law schools or universities are well-endowed to adopt AI, and not all schools have been fully digitized to implement AI in a simple way. So legal education can very well develop policy and guidelines, but the divide among institutions that impart legal education in terms of AI capacity should not be there in the sense that, similar to the digital divide, this divide should not be allowed to expand. It should be contained, if not totally controlled. Which means that while AI can enhance access to justice, legal schools that are part of the AI revolution should also try to ensure that access to such tools is also being made available. Law schools and law universities should identify the right legal tools so that they can be introduced to the legal profession. Otherwise, there is a proliferation of legal tools, and then legal-based AI solutions and applications. Mindless application of them can result in harmful or unintended consequences. A careful assessment of their relevance should be done, and only then should they be brought into the curriculum or for practice.

As of now, they are also incorporating AI-related topics either as an optional course or as part of the regular courses. But then, more emphasis should be placed on integrating AI into the regular coursework framework, where students should be able to critically assess and understand how AI can transform different disciplines in law. And, more importantly, law universities should also anchor and promote legal innovations where students can play a major role. So, lawyers should be prepared for a changing landscape where AI-based innovation is going to play a major role. Again, all of this comes with ethical regulatory challenges.



Trends in AI Integration



- Adoption of AI Technologies in Legal Education
 - 33% of institutions regularly use generative AI tools
- AI-Driven Research Tools and Virtual Assistants
 - Support for student activities and enhanced learning platforms
- Collaborations with Legal Tech Companies
 - Incorporation of AI-driven solutions into curriculum and research
 - Access to cutting-edge AI technologies and expertise
- AI-Powered Adaptive Learning Platforms
 - Personalised learning experiences tailored to individual needs
 - Use of ML algorithms to analyse student performance data



Now, according to one survey, 33% of the institutions regularly use generative AI tools in the UK. In the Indian context, we do not have any specific studies, but I can say from my own experience and from many others that students are using more and more AI tools than ever before. So is the case with faculty, and this is generally true for many people who are using AI tools. But AI-driven research tools and virtual assistants have not been fully developed or made available in India, although many students are using them, and some law firms are using them to a great extent. So, there is a need for students to get support from them, and they should also ensure that they know exactly what they are trying to derive from them so that they do not become overly optimistic, stating that they can rely entirely on them, nor should they be fearful of them.

So, the collaboration with legal tech companies can drive many things in a positive direction so that students, law universities, and legal education imparting institutions can benefit. More importantly, the engagement of these institutions can also benefit the development and deployment of appropriate and relevant AI tools in the context of India. And then there can be, in fact, AI-powered adaptive learning platforms that are being developed or are partially in use. So, these can be suited for individual needs, specific coursework, or to make certain things easy to understand and comprehend. So, we can also go one step further and say that machine learning algorithms can be used to assess students' performance or for other proactive engagement in legal education.



Promising AI Tools and Platforms



- **AI-Powered Research Platforms**
 - Westlaw Edge and Lex Machina scan vast legal databases
 - Identify relevant cases and statutes with high accuracy
- **Document Review Tools**
 - Kira and eDiscovery sift through large amounts of documentation
 - Highlight key clauses and extract vital information
 - Identify inconsistencies
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Online Platforms**
 - Modria simulates online negotiation environments
- **Personalised Learning Platforms**
- **Virtual Assistants**
- **Impact on Legal Profession**



There are lots of promising tools and platforms that are in vogue now. Some of the examples from the UK include Westlaw's Edge and Lex Machina. They scan vast quantities of large databases. They can identify the relevant cases and then, with legal accuracy and statutes, try to build a pattern or alignment of different cases with different rationales. And then Kira and eDiscovery can also go through a lot of documentation. They can pick up key clauses, identify key parameters, and then extract vital information, particularly regarding the financial nature. They can also identify inconsistencies within documents or between documents. This is very important when a law firm, a legal professional, a lawyer, or a student has to deal with an enormous quantity of documents, particularly commercial documents. Some of the available software also stimulates online negotiation environments so that online alternative dispute resolution mechanisms can be put into practice, and then the simulation will give an idea without really getting into the picture as to how developments can happen, what if this party makes this a compromise proposal, and what options are available to the other party. And if the other party does this, what are the other options available to the first party that came up with a compromise proposal? So, simulations will give a better idea about the opportunities available, the challenges, and the risks, but then simulation is not a substitute for real action.

Personalized learning platforms can be developed. Virtual assistants, some of which are already available in different countries, are not yet in law. Of course, we have seen one or two examples in the earlier sessions. So, they can make legal education much more interesting and much more interactive for students. And then all these things are going to significantly impact legal education in the long run. To begin with, in the short term, we may see some small incremental steps, but then they will leapfrog after a few years.



Equitable Access to AI Tools



- Equitable Access to AI Technologies
 - Limited access to technology
 - Digital literacy barriers
 - Potential to exacerbate existing disparities
- Data Privacy and Security Concerns
 - Need for robust safeguards
 - Protection of sensitive student data
 - Adherence to data protection regulations
- Ethical Considerations
 - Algorithmic bias
 - Transparency and accountability
 - Ethical use of AI-generated content



But ensuring that there is equitable access to all the AI tools is important. Right now, this is a major barrier, particularly among law universities and legal educational institutions. So, this should be addressed. Then there are issues such as data privacy and security. So sufficient safeguards should be implemented there. Sensitive student data should not be exposed to AI systems without prior informed consent, nor should AI systems be used to analyse them for developing machine learning systems, algorithms, or other test data purposes. So, algorithmic biases, algorithmic issues, transparency and accountability, and, more importantly, the ethical use of AI-generated content should be present. Otherwise, we need to strictly bring in responsible AI principles and ethical AI guidelines when incorporating AI into the legal educational framework.




AI's Potential in Legal Education

- **Immersive Learning Experiences**
 - AI-powered simulations and case studies
 - Interactive tutorials enhancing learning
- **Fostering Critical Thinking Skills**
 - Real-time feedback to students
- **Streamlining Administrative Tasks**
 - Grading and document review
 - Research assistance
- **Innovation in Teaching Methods**
 - Experimentation with new pedagogical approaches
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
 - Opportunities for collaboration between legal and AI fields




Then we have discussed all the potential positive impacts. AI can stimulate a lot of things, can help people to understand certain things better, and can enhance their capacity to do certain things much more efficiently.




Sustainability Ethics in Legal Education

- **Principles and Values of Sustainability Ethics**
 - Promotes long-term well-being and equity
 - Encourages environmental stewardship for present and future generations
- **Role in Legal Education**
 - Shapes curriculum and institutional practices
 - Defines ethical responsibilities of law schools
- **Challenges in AI and Data Management**
 - Collection and processing of sensitive data
 - Risks of data breaches and unauthorized access
 - Legal, ethical, and reputational consequences
- **Data Protection Regulations**
- **Biases in AI Tools**




We have already discussed sustainability.



Balancing AI Implementation with Sustainability Initiatives



- **Integrating Environmental Law and Sustainability Principles**
 - Equip students with knowledge and skills to address environmental challenges
 - Advocate for sustainable practices in legal practice
- **Balancing Costs of AI Implementation**
 - Complex task to balance with other sustainability initiatives
 - Reducing energy consumption and supporting diversity and inclusion
- **Preparing Faculty and Staff**
 - Resource intensive and time consuming
 - Sustainable professional development programmers needed
- **Integrating Ethical Considerations**
 - Prepare students for complex ethical dilemmas in legal practice
- **Embedding Sustainability Ethics**



So, when we say, "Why are we talking about AI and sustainability?" there are two major concerns here; one of them is not addressed in depth in this course because it is beyond the purview of the course. In the last few years, there has been much more concern about AI's environmental impact because all the data centres and large language models are very power-intensive in the sense that they consume lots of electricity. But data centres also need huge quantities of water. They need other material resources to be set up over there, and more importantly, some of the resources that are used for data centres are also critical raw minerals, the extraction and use of which have a huge geopolitical slugfest going on. So, the idea is that using AI more and more will require more and more electricity and other resources, which could result in not just resource constraints but also conflicts over resource utilization, particularly in contexts where AI data centres are set up in water-starved areas or areas where water is not fully available for human consumption. This is the first dimension where we talk about the AI's environmental impact and the data centre's environmental impact.

The second thing comes in a different way because when we talk about AI sustainability, we need to bring in the factors that go beyond the first factor, which means equity; we also need to bring in the long-term sustainability perspective. Additionally, we need to consider whether unbridled AI consumption, increasing it beyond all costs for all purposes, is really necessary and desirable, especially when AI training, developing, and deploying AI materials is very resource-intensive and time-consuming. Professionals should also think about what exactly their professional commitments are in terms of sustainability. Should they become enthusiastic AI advocates for AI at all costs, irrespective of the environmental cost? Or should they try to look at AI developments through a sustainability lens? Then, we have already seen about incorporating ethical considerations. So, embedding sustainability ethics in the broader deployment and use of

AI is important. Understanding the environmental sustainability issues in the broader development of AI, as well as related developments like data centres, is also equally important.



Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in AI Adoption



- Promoting Diversity and Inclusion
 - Strive for diversity in law schools
 - Ensure access to legal education for all students
- Creating Inclusive Learning Environments
 - Provide financial aid and support services
 - Address systemic barriers to participation
- Challenges of AI Adoption
 - Exacerbation of the digital divide
 - Ensure equal access to AI-driven resources
- Ethical Implications of AI
 - Align AI use with ethical principles



Then we need to bring in diversity in AI adoption, particularly in law schools where diversity is a major issue, so that students, irrespective of their caste, class, or gender, are given access to AI tools and are also trained well in AI tools. Inclusive learning frameworks are important because we know that AI has a huge bias and discrimination problem, particularly gender discrimination. To avoid that, we should ensure that all the legal frameworks and AI frameworks that are put to use in law schools and law universities are devoid of these biases and discriminations. And then, what are the systematic barriers that prevent different segments of the students and faculty from utilizing training and then putting into practice AI tools that need to be identified? And then AI tools, when deployed carelessly or without paying attention to the digital divide, can actually make the divide worse. So, equitable access to AI-driven resources should be ensured, and more importantly, the ethical implications of AI should be taken into account to align AI only with ethical principles.



Ensuring Equitable Access to AI-Driven Tools



- **Link between Equity and Sustainability in AI**
 - Equitable access contributes to long-term viability of AI
 - Without equity, AI implementation could worsen existing inequalities
- **Impact on Marginalised Groups**
 - Disproportionate access to AI resources could widen educational gap
 - Essential for producing competent and socially responsible legal professionals
- **Ensuring Equal Access**
 - Maintains long-term relevance and fairness of legal education
 - Fosters a legal profession that serves all segments of society
- **Sustainability Ethics in Legal Education**
 - Promotes environmental sustainability, social justice, and ethical decision-making
- **Comprehensive AI Strategies**




And then we have seen equitable access to AI tools, which is equally important.



Theoretical Framework for Ethical AI Adoption



- **Importance of Ethical AI in Legal Education**
 - Connections among sustainability, ethics, and AI
 - Ethical questions related to bias, fairness, and transparency
- **Sustainable AI Practices**
 - Discussions on ethical implications in decision-making
 - Focus on sustainability and environmental justice
- **Integrating Sustainability and AI Ethics**
 - Cultivating ethical awareness and social responsibility
 - Promoting environmental stewardship among students and practitioners
- **Sustainability Ethics Principles**
 - Promoting long-term well-being of individuals, communities, and the environment
- **AI Ethics Principles**




So, to do all that we need to develop a framework so we connect the broad linkage between AI, sustainability, ethics as four things coming together. AI, sustainability, ethics and then we also need to bring in ethical issues related to bias and fairness. So, we have the four dimensions here. Of course, transparency is also a part of that. So, we have to think in terms of sustainable AI practices, focusing on ethical implications in AI-based decision-making and also the larger issues in environmental sustainability and then environmental justice in the context of AI, critical raw minerals, data centres, and the broader context of the increasing use of digitized or digitalized resources in society,

where we go for more and more use of digital media and digital resources. But this is not something that can be done easily because it needs to start with awareness, it needs to start with understanding, and more importantly, it needs to start with some good practices in incorporating them. So, sustainability AI principles have to be developed taking into account the long-term well-being of future generations to come and then the long-term implications of AI use on a massive scale across society, across the world in various sectors. So, the theoretical framework for ethical AI adoption has to be interdisciplinary and collaborative, where we think beyond the legal perspective on AI.

Tension Between AI Ethics and Sustainability

- **Conventional AI Ethics**
 - Focuses on fairness, transparency, accountability, and privacy
 - Addresses issues like algorithmic bias and discrimination
 - Aims to respect fundamental human rights and values
- **Sustainability in AI Development**
 - Considers environmental impact of AI technologies
 - Focuses on energy consumption, carbon emissions, and resource depletion
 - Aims to minimize environmental footprint throughout AI system lifecycle
- **Potential Conflict Between Ethics and Sustainability**
 - Ethical considerations may conflict with sustainability goals
 - Data protection and transparency may not align with energy efficiency and waste reduction as data protection and transparency

So, the tension between AI and sustainability arises because traditional AI ethics does not focus on the sustainability aspect. It focuses on fairness, equity, privacy, accountability, and responsibility. And it does take into account algorithmic bias and decision-making. Of course, human rights are also a part of that. But sustainability in AI takes into account the broader environmental impacts of AI technologies and the broader environmental impacts of AI development, particularly in the context of huge data centres, their resource utilization, resource constraints, and competing and multiple claims for access to resources; thus, the environmental justice perspective and climate justice perspective should inform this. When we talk of AI ethics from a narrow perspective, without sustainability, that does make sense, but it remains too narrow. Incorporating sustainability into the traditional AI ethics principles is important, but the ethical principles may not be fully compatible with sustainable goals, which could lead to differences.

For example, data protection transparency will require more and more AI capacity, as well as more and more AI algorithms in the sense that there should not just be black boxes but also large explainable AI model-related systems, which would again need more

consumption of power, water, and other resources. It can be hypothesized that when we talk about AI ethics, we are not going to restrict the use of AI. Rather, we would be demanding more and more use of AI resources in terms of LLMs, white boxes, and models that would do a lot of explainable AI that would meet the criteria for responsible AI. But this would again result in more and more consumption. From a sustainability perspective, how good this is for the environment needs to be investigated.

But we need not take the view that data protection and transparency should be given up at the cost of environmental protection or vice versa. The idea here is to identify that there is a potential tension, see how best this could be harmonized or how best this could be bridged, so data protection and transparency should not be compromised at the cost of environmental sustainability and vice versa; instead, the idea would be how resource utilization and resource optimization can be used to minimize the use of resources. For example, there's a whole movement towards about greening up AI in which Europe is also making a major contribution, and then at the Paris AI Summit, there was an initiative that was launched as part of the global frameworks on it, and many companies are developing or working towards AI systems that are not so power-intensive and resource-intensive. So, the idea of greening AI is to ensure that AI does not become a power-hungry monster that gobbles up all the available resources for its own sake. So, we need to bring in AI ethics along with sustainability, not just AI ethics alone or sustainability alone. We need to bring these two things together and then get them incorporated into legal education so that both future and current generations of lawyers are aware of these issues.

Data Privacy as a Sustainability Issue

- **Importance of Evaluating AI's Impact**
 - Environmental impact of technologies
 - Influence on societal structures and individual freedoms
- **Data Privacy as a Sustainability Issue**
 - Long-term implications of data usage
 - Consequences of failing to protect data privacy
- **Intersection of Social Justice and Environmental Sustainability**
 - Equity in access to technology
 - Long-term societal impacts of AI
- **Role of Data Privacy in Promoting Social Justice**
 - Marginalised groups affected by data misuse
- **Ethical Implications of Data Usage in AI**

So again, data usage, long-term implications, long-term need for so much capacity in terms of servers, and then all these things we need to think about. So, it's a question of

equity in access to technology. An idea here is that we do not balance in the name of another, and we do not talk of compromising in the name of one for the sake of the other; rather, we try to harmonize, identify the ticklish issues, and then try to resolve them amicably. Although there could be potential issues that could not be resolved amicably.



The slide features a title 'Sustainable AI Development Strategies' in red text. On the left is the NPTEL logo, and on the right is the logo of the All India Institute of Legal Education. The main content is a bulleted list of strategies. To the right of the list is a graphic of a glowing lightbulb surrounded by various icons representing sustainability. In the bottom right corner, there is a small inset video of a man in a blue shirt speaking with his hands raised.

Sustainable AI Development Strategies

- **Interconnected Nature of Sustainability Issues**
 - Environmental, social, and economic aspects
 - Impact on legal education and societal dimensions
- **Decreasing Environmental Footprint**
 - Promoting energy efficiency
 - Leveraging AI for sustainable development
- **Social and Economic Sustainability**
 - Addressing digital divides
 - Promoting equitable access to AI technologies

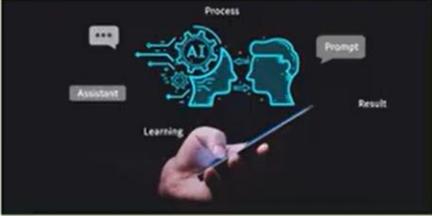
Which means that we need to develop AI tools, models and systems that have got sustainability as a core development principle. So, the development models should also be environmentally sound, and they should not be power-hungry. They should not be resource-hungry. And then increasing the environmental footprint is not something that should be the goal. Rather, decreasing the footprint by developing models that do not increase the footprint is more important. How AI can be leveraged for sustainable development is a huge topic. The good potential is that, in fact, AIs have a major role in achieving all 17 sustainable development goals. But that, again, we will not cover in this course. So, the digital divide, equitable access, and bringing sustainability into that— all these things can be part and parcel of legal education so that students, faculty, and others are also sensitized to some of these concerns.



Ethical Considerations in AI-Driven Pedagogy



- **Pedagogical Impact**
 - Influence on teaching methods
 - Changes in assessment practices
 - Effects on student engagement
- **Privacy Concerns**
 - Transparency of AI algorithms
 - Protection of student data
- **Equity Issues**
 - Potential to perpetuate inequalities
 - Access to education and resources
- **Sustainability Ethics**
- **Ethical AI Practices**




And then the AI-driven pedagogy should be sensitized to ethical considerations, including changes in assessment practices. Ensure that algorithms are transparent, and methods are transparent. There is no harm, no bias, and no inbuilt discrimination. More importantly, don't perpetuate or exacerbate the current inequalities. And then the access to educational resources should be on an equitable basis. So, AI in legal education is not simply about deploying AI in legal education. Rather, AI in legal education, broadly speaking, means incorporating ethical and sustainability considerations into the legal education framework as a core component.



Push and Pull Factors in AI Adoption



- **Importance of AI, Sustainability, and Law**
 - Law schools need to educate students on AI law, ethics, and sustainability
 - Knowledge and skills in AI are increasingly valued by legal employers
- **Push and Pull Factors for Law Schools**
 - Universities prioritize sustainability objectives
 - Law firms value AI literacy in graduates
 - Limited budgets and infrastructure can hinder AI adoption
- **Influence of External Factors**
 - Centralized decisions on cloud computing resources
 - Requirements from legal professional bodies
- **Strategies for Responsible AI Integration**
 - Collaboration and strategic leadership




Of course, there are push and pull factors in AI adoption that are obvious. I am not going

to talk much about them. So, AI integration and AI adoption should again be considered in terms of the longer perspective.



Strategies for Sustainable AI Integration

- **Holistic and Coordinated Approach**
 - Involves administrators, faculty, students, and external partners
 - Requires continuous monitoring and adaptation
- **Promoting Ethical AI Practices**
 - Aligns with sustainability goals and values
- **Addressing AI Biases**
 - Investigates sustainability implications
- **Mitigating the Digital Divide**
- **Sustainable Faculty Development**
- **Addressing Evolving Regulations**
- **Data Privacy and Security**
- **Long-term Viability of AI Solutions**



Think in terms of sustainable AI integration where we address the digital divide, the AI biases, promote ethical AI, and strive to optimize resource minimization. We also value certain principles in sustainable ethics, incorporating them as part of the core AI responsibility frameworks.



Literature

- **AI and Legal Education Anil Balan Routledge 2025**



And, more importantly, we should also be sensitive to the fact that in the future there could be issues that we might not have anticipated. So, AI in legal education should be an agile, forward-looking enterprise or a framework that incorporates AI ethics,

sustainability, harnessing AI in legal education. Or in other words, the challenges of AI for legal education are not merely those related to human resources or infrastructure. At their core lies the issue of AI and sustainability, then AI ethics, and then accountability.



Next

- AI and Constitution (Part 1 of 2)



In the next class, we will discuss AI and the constitution. That will be again in two sessions. The first part will be the next session where we will talk about AI and the constitution.