



## Bharatiya Gyan Parampara and Artificial Intelligence: A Sociological Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

The rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transformed various aspects of human life, including communication, governance, education, and economy. While AI is often associated with modern technological advancement, its philosophical and ethical dimensions resonate with ancient knowledge systems. Bharatiya Gyan Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) represents a rich intellectual heritage rooted in philosophical inquiry, ethical reflection, and holistic understanding of knowledge. This paper examines the relationship between Bharatiya Gyan Parampara and Artificial Intelligence from a sociological perspective. It explores how traditional Indian epistemology, ethics, and holistic thinking can contribute to contemporary debates on AI development, governance, and ethical use. The study argues that integrating the principles of Indian knowledge traditions such as interconnectedness, ethical responsibility, and knowledge as a tool for social welfare can provide a culturally rooted framework for responsible AI development in India and beyond.

### KEY WORDS

Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, Artificial Intelligence, Sociology.

### INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence has become one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century. It refers to the development of machines and computer systems capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, decision-making, and problem solving. AI is now widely used in healthcare, education, governance, finance, and social media. However, along with technological advancement, AI has also raised several social and ethical concerns, including privacy, bias, inequality, and the changing nature of work.

At the same time, India possesses a long-standing intellectual tradition known as Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, which includes philosophical systems, scientific knowledge, ethical principles, and social values developed over thousands of years. This tradition encompasses texts such as the Vedas, Upanishads, Arthashastra, Ayurveda, Yoga, and various schools of philosophy like Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, and Vedanta.

From a sociological perspective, knowledge systems are not merely collections of ideas but are deeply connected to culture, social institutions, and values. The Indian knowledge tradition emphasizes harmony between human beings, society, nature, and knowledge. Therefore, examining AI through the lens of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara can provide valuable insights into how technological development can align with ethical and social welfare principles.

This paper aims to analyze the relationship between Indian knowledge traditions and Artificial Intelligence from a sociological viewpoint. It explores the philosophical foundations of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, the social implications of AI, and the potential integration of traditional wisdom with modern technological innovation.

### Concept of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara

Bharatiya Gyan Parampara refers to the traditional knowledge system of India that evolved through centuries of intellectual and cultural development. It is not limited to religious teachings but includes philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, linguistics, logic, and social thought.

The Indian knowledge tradition is characterized by several key features:

- **Holistic Approach to Knowledge:** Unlike modern disciplinary divisions, Indian knowledge systems emphasize an integrated understanding of reality. Knowledge is viewed as interconnected, where philosophy, science, ethics, and spirituality are closely related.
- **Knowledge as a Means of Social Welfare:** Indian philosophy emphasizes that knowledge should contribute to the well-being of society. The concept of “Lokasangraha” found in the Bhagavad Gita highlights the importance of knowledge and action for collective welfare.
- **Ethical Orientation:** Ethical principles such as Dharma, Ahimsa, Satya, and Seva play a central role in Bharatiya Gyan Parampara. These principles guide human behavior and social organization.
- **Emphasis on Rational Inquiry:** Contrary to the misconception that traditional knowledge is purely spiritual, many Indian philosophical schools emphasize logic and reasoning. The Nyaya school, for example, developed sophisticated methods of logical analysis and epistemology.

These characteristics make Bharatiya Gyan Parampara relevant to contemporary discussions about ethical technology and responsible innovation.

### Artificial Intelligence: Concept and Social Implications

Artificial Intelligence refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think, learn, and perform complex tasks. Modern AI technologies include machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, and computer vision.

AI has significant sociological implications because it affects various aspects of social life.

- **Transformation of Work:** Automation and AI technologies are reshaping the labor market. Many routine tasks are being replaced by machines, leading to concerns about unemployment and the need for new skills.
- **Digital Inequality:** Access to AI technologies is unevenly distributed across societies. This creates new forms of digital divide between technologically advanced and less developed communities.
- **Ethical Issues:** AI systems may reproduce social biases present in the data used to train them. This can lead to discrimination in areas such as hiring, policing, and credit allocation.
- **Surveillance and Privacy:** AI technologies enable large-scale data collection and surveillance, raising concerns about privacy, individual autonomy, and democratic governance.

From a sociological perspective, these issues highlight the need for ethical frameworks that guide technological development in socially responsible ways.

## Sociological Relevance of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara in the Age of AI

The integration of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara with AI can provide a culturally rooted approach to addressing the social challenges associated with technological development.

- **Concept of Interconnectedness:** Indian philosophy emphasizes the interconnected nature of reality. The idea that humans, society, and nature are interdependent encourages responsible technological development that does not harm social or ecological systems.  
In the context of AI, this perspective suggests that technological innovation should consider its broader impact on society and the environment.
- **Ethical Governance of Technology:** The concept of Dharma can serve as a moral guideline for AI development and governance. Dharma emphasizes duty, responsibility, and ethical conduct. Applying this principle to AI could encourage developers and policymakers to prioritize fairness, transparency, and social welfare.
- **Knowledge and Responsibility:** Indian knowledge traditions emphasize that knowledge carries ethical responsibility. In the case of AI, this means that technological power should be accompanied by accountability and moral awareness.
- **Human-Centered Technology:** Bharatiya Gyan Parampara views human well-being as the ultimate goal of knowledge. Therefore, technological systems should enhance human capabilities rather than replace human values and relationships.

## Indian Philosophical Insights Relevant to Artificial Intelligence

Several Indian philosophical traditions provide concepts that can enrich contemporary discussions about AI.

- **Nyaya Philosophy and Logical Reasoning:** The Nyaya school of philosophy focuses on logic and epistemology. Its emphasis on rational analysis and evidence-based knowledge parallels modern computational reasoning and algorithmic thinking.
- **Samkhya Philosophy and Cognitive Processes:** Samkhya philosophy explains the functioning of mind and consciousness through the interaction of different elements such as intellect (buddhi), ego (ahamkara), and mind (manas). This framework offers interesting parallels with modern cognitive science and AI models of information processing.
- **Yoga Philosophy and Self-Awareness:** Yoga philosophy emphasizes self-awareness and mental discipline. In the context of AI ethics, it reminds us that technological development should not overshadow the importance of human consciousness and moral reflection.
- **Buddhist and Jain Ethical Principles:** The principles of Ahimsa (non-violence) and compassion found in Buddhist and Jain traditions highlight the ethical responsibility of humans in using knowledge and power. These values can guide the ethical design of AI systems that minimize harm and promote social justice.

## AI and Social Transformation in India

India is increasingly adopting AI technologies in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance. For example:

- AI-based diagnostic tools are improving healthcare accessibility.
- Agricultural AI systems help farmers predict weather patterns and crop productivity.
- Educational technologies are enabling personalized learning experiences.

However, these developments also raise sociological questions about accessibility, inequality, and ethical governance. Integrating Bharatiya Gyan Parampara into technological development can help ensure that AI benefits society as a whole.

## Challenges in Integrating Traditional Knowledge with AI

Although the integration of traditional knowledge and modern technology is promising, several challenges exist.

- **Epistemological Differences:** Modern science and traditional knowledge systems often use different methods and frameworks of knowledge production. Bridging these differences requires interdisciplinary research.
- **Risk of Cultural Misinterpretation:** There is a risk that ancient knowledge traditions may be oversimplified or misinterpreted when applied to modern technological contexts.
- **Institutional Barriers:** Educational and research institutions often separate humanities and technology disciplines, making collaboration difficult.

Despite these challenges, interdisciplinary dialogue between sociologists, technologists, philosophers, and policymakers can help create a balanced approach.

## Towards an Ethical Framework for AI Based on Indian Knowledge Traditions

Drawing from Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, an ethical framework for AI could include the following principles:

- **Dharma (Ethical Responsibility):** AI development should prioritize fairness, accountability, and transparency.
- **Ahimsa (Non-Harm):** AI systems should minimize harm to individuals, communities, and the environment.
- **Lokasangraha (Social Welfare):** Technological innovation should contribute to collective well-being.
- **Sustainability:** AI should support ecological balance and long-term social stability.
- **Human Dignity:** Technology should respect human autonomy and cultural values.

These principles can help guide the responsible development and use of AI in India and globally.

## CONCLUSION

Artificial Intelligence represents a powerful technological advancement that is transforming modern society. However, its rapid development has also created significant social and ethical challenges. From a sociological perspective, addressing these challenges requires not only technical expertise but also cultural and ethical insight.

Bharatiya Gyan Parampara offers a rich intellectual framework that emphasizes holistic knowledge, ethical responsibility, and social welfare. Integrating these principles with modern AI development can help create a more balanced and human-centered technological future.

The dialogue between traditional knowledge systems and modern technological innovation should not be viewed as a conflict between the past and the future. Instead, it represents an opportunity to combine ancient wisdom with contemporary scientific progress. By drawing upon the ethical and philosophical insights of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara, society can develop Artificial Intelligence systems that promote justice, sustainability, and human well-being.

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