

# YOUR VOICE

THE DIALOGUE BOX MAGAZINE



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## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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We take pride in bringing various human rights and current affairs issues to the foray on a regular basis to our readers. The publication is a quarterly magazine which will be a compilation of essays, articles and artworks (including photo-essays and poems) written by practitioners, academics and students worldwide.

This is a thematic magazine and the entries are expected to critically reflect upon the individual themes concerned. This magazine will provide a platform to all ignited minds waiting to make their voices count through their writings and artwork.

Each entry will undergo a double-blind peer review on the content, style and originality by our experienced editorial team, comprising of academics, journalists, lawyers and students across the world. Contributions which do not meet the acceptable standards will be rejected and decisions of the editorial team will be final.

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**Contact us:**

Office: A - 51, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Okhla,  
New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India.

website. [www.thedialoguebox.com](http://www.thedialoguebox.com).

Email: [info@thedialoguebox.com](mailto:info@thedialoguebox.com)

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative forces of our time, reshaping industries, economies, and the fabric of daily life. While its potential to innovate and enhance efficiency is undeniable, AI also intersects deeply with questions of social justice, raising important concerns about equity, accountability, and inclusion.

At its core, AI systems are reflections of the data and algorithms that drive them. These systems inherit the biases, gaps, and inequities present in the data they are trained on. For marginalized communities, this can mean perpetuation of historical injustices under the guise of technological neutrality. Whether in hiring algorithms that favor certain demographics, facial recognition systems that struggle with darker skin tones, or predictive policing tools that disproportionately target specific neighborhoods, the stakes of biased AI are immense. Left unchecked, such systems risk codifying discrimination into automated decisions, deepening divides rather than bridging them.

Moreover, the development and deployment of AI often lack diverse voices. The technology industry, which plays a central role in shaping AI's trajectory, continues to grapple with significant representation gaps in terms of race, gender, and socioeconomic background. Without the inclusion of diverse perspectives, AI systems are prone to narrow understandings of the world, leading to solutions that fail to address—or worse, exacerbate—the challenges faced by underrepresented groups.

Equity in AI requires more than technical fixes; it demands systemic change. It calls for transparent mechanisms for accountability, ethical frameworks that prioritize fairness, and the active participation of communities impacted by AI. Policymakers, developers, and civil society must engage in dialogue to ensure that the benefits of AI are distributed equitably and that its risks do not disproportionately harm the vulnerable.

Social justice is not an add-on to the conversation about AI; it is central to it. As this technology continues to evolve, it carries the potential to either reinforce existing inequalities or dismantle them. The choice lies in how we, as a global society, choose to harness its power. By centering fairness and inclusion, we can ensure that AI serves as a tool for collective progress, rather than a mechanism for furthering divides.

*Ritabrata Roy*

*Dr Ritabrata Roy*

**Assistant Professor**

**Jindal Global Law School**

**Managing Editor, Your Voice Magazine**



## Diffusing Quandaries: Employing AI to Resolve Substance Abuse within the Indian Youth

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-Amritesh Unny  Sanna Masood 

### SHORT ARTICLES

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#### Introduction

India is a nation that has withstood and outlasted the ravages of those who came and went. She remained dignified, standing tall with unwavering pride (Overview, n.d.). Unfortunately, in the 21st century, yet again our nation is fighting another war, one that is extensively targeting the youth of this nation. The issue at hand which India is grappling with is a severe narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances addiction. Over 3.1 crore individuals accounting for over 2.8% of the young nation's population are addicted to Cannabis and other psychotropic substances (NISD, n.d.-b). With over 90% of drug users being under the age of 25 (Bhanu et.al., 2023). Cities such as Mumbai and Hyderabad are emerging as narcotics hubs, while states like Punjab and Haryana report alarming rates of youth addiction (Bhanu et.al., 2023; NISD, n.d.), with 75% of young individuals dependent on drugs. The implications of substance abuse extend beyond addiction, contributing to violent crimes such as murders and sexual assaults. Narcotic crimes among Indian youth thus are a pressing concern, driven by socio-economic disparities, peer influences, and cultural norms. These crimes not only disrupt individual lives but also undermine societal cohesion.

At this juncture, Artificial Intelligence driven predictive policing models, combined with emerging technologies such as big-data analytics and automated facial recognition technology (AFRT), offers a promising path forward to identify trends, prevent crimes, and intervene effectively. Predictive policing, leveraging AI and large data sets, and offers a proactive approach to crime prevention and elimination. The primary objective of this investigation is to explore how AI can contribute effectively to the nabbing of narcotic networks and rackets and to navigate a pragmatic method of reducing psychotropic substance consumption among the youth. This paper presents how predictive policing can address challenges such as narcotic consumption in youth and narcotic crimes (trafficking, substance abuse, violent and heinous crimes, etc.) while respecting privacy and ethical standards that AI as a solution might pose.

#### The Silver Bullet: Predictive Policing & AI

Predictive policing is a method where large data sets and analysed from different sources to anticipate criminal activity and advantageously and prudently prevent and respond to the said unlawful activity, respectively, before harm happens. Manual human techniques and forensic methods have been majorly the technology that has been used over the past three decades to enact predictive policing. This has been advanced globally time and again and the West has contributed extensively to the same. Yet the level of crime is increasing multifold internationally and in a globalised world criminal misconduct only leads to intranational human rights violations. Furthermore, it has been observed that traditional solutions are inevitably inefficient to resolve such levels of complexities in crimes, thus AI has been envisioned as a panacea for regular to even the most incomprehensibly complex crimes.

Today, predictive policing has taken its most advanced form via effective utilisation of AI. Considering that the level of swiftness in crime is increasing and institutional methods are failing, AI remains the only tool that has the capability to control and monitor criminal and unlawful misconduct. Thus, the machine learning tool invented to mimic human intelligence has become a perfect demonstration of how AI is a panacea today (Forensic Magazine, 2024). Predictive policing technologies conducted solely by human intelligence has been capable in handling crimes, yet crime is evolving faster than ever and AI ought to be used for facilitating combating crimes.

AI based Predictive Policing involves various components, yet primarily its software uses data and algorithms to calculate and evaluate all possible probabilities of a crime happening. This provides law enforcement enough time to understand the issue and situation at hand, map out the areas of strain that might lead to criminal activity and effectively deploy counter-measures to before the issue has even arisen and be on a tactical advantage. There is no dearth of jurisprudence and empirical studies of how predictive policing has actively reduced substance consumption, eliminated cartels supplying these substances and the rings involved in the same, yet how they blend into the Indian context shall be delved in the parts that follows.

Employing big-data analytics, another tool use to deal with huge volumes of data, has enhanced AI based Predictive Policing further. When historical criminal data, personal background information and other valuable social determinants available to the state are utilised without any bias, the method of surveillance deployed by AI driven predictive policing programs can be harnessed to monitor criminal activity to such an extent that would in general practice require a considerable amount of human effort, and would waste precious hours of trained individuals and drain state funds that could be used elsewhere, where the availability of the same would be much more consequential (Forensic Magazine, 2024).

The aforesaid is an intermediate and non-technical explanation of how the Predictive Policing functions, the purpose of which is to explain the theoretical yet pragmatic workings of AI driven Predictive Policing models and make clear the obvious lacunas in the current system. Yet, this does not absolve our proposed model of any issues it may pose such as an in-existent liability regime for AI driven systems. Moreover, there are privacy concerns in a meta-data, non-consensual, constant surveillance model (a precursor to AI driven predictive policing), yet the benefits it might reap are multi-fold and of way more importance today, if balanced correctly via effective regulatory structures, statutes and social cooperation. Via phenomenology and reviewal of primary data sources there has been a conceptualisation/ derivation which has led to an ontological and epistemological understanding, that shall be explained through the case study of various jurisdiction in the next section.



### Comparative Study: Predictive Policing in USA & UK

To understand the art and science of predictive policing the evolution and application of the technology ought to be studied, thus for this research cases from the USA and UK have been thoroughly analysed to tailor the India context. USA has been the pioneer of Predictive Policing technology in the world, laying the foundation of predictive policing in the 1990's through Data-Driven Crime Mapping, and digital criminal forensics which was developed by NYPD (New York Police Department). It was used for general crimes initially but over time it became a valuable tool for enforcement agencies to track drug-related offenses geographically, identifying hotspots for narcotics activities (NYPD, 1997).

During the early 2000s, Memphis Police Department implemented the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) model which enhanced the static crime mapping technology with predictive algorithms allowing the enforcement agencies to analyse patterns in time and space, offering dynamic forecasts for drug-related activities. Using this technology the police was able to deploy targeted interventions, reducing drug-related violence in high-risk areas (Fridell et al., 2006). 2010-2015 saw remarkable improvement in predictive policing technology with the introduction of PredPol (Predictive Policing Software), which was developed by researchers at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles) for the LAPD (Los Angeles police department). PredPol was widely implemented by the LAPD which experienced significant reductions in narcotics-related street crimes by focusing patrols on identified hotspots, disrupting local drug markets (LAPD, 2012).

PredPol was further upgraded to the LASER (Los Angeles Strategic Extraction and Restoration) program which combined GIS (Geographic Information Systems) with real-time data to identify individuals and areas at risk for drug-related activities. It also used LASER to identify individuals frequently involved in narcotics crimes, enabling preemptive interventions. Reports indicated a 20% reduction in drug-related arrests in targeted areas, pointing out the value of predictive policing for disrupting distribution networks (LAPD, 2014).

The Chicago Police Department further progressed the technology by implementing the SNA (Social Network Analysis) model in collaboration with the Illinois Institute of Technology. Using SNA, the department uncovered drug syndicates by targeting influential figures in these networks, the department dismantled several trafficking rings and reduced drug-related shootings by 12% (University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2017). Based on the success of SNA in Chicago, Richmond's predictive policing system also incorporated SNA to identify individuals at high risk of involvement in narcotics-related violence, either as perpetrators or victims. The Predictive technology enabled officers to intervene with at-risk individuals before violent drug disputes escalated. The city reported a 40% decrease in drug-related gun violence over two years (Richmond Police Department, 2020).

With advancements in technology AI-Powered Tools and Multi-Agency Collaboration were made in predictive policing giving birth to cutting edge tools like the NarcGuideBot, developed by Quadrant Technologies, the AI-powered assistant is designed to help law enforcement agencies to handle complex narcotics investigations with ease. The tool simplifies legal compliance, automates documentation, and uses machine learning to predict drug trafficking patterns.

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Deployed in states like California, the NarcGuideBot has expedited the investigation process, identified high-risk individuals and streamlined case management. Reports indicate significant improvements in prosecuting large-scale drug trafficking cases (Quadrant Technologies, 2021). Over time the technology has been designed for Multi-Agency Data Sharing in the US resulting in strong collaborations between federal, state, and local agencies, such as the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation), and local police departments, leveraging shared data to enhance predictive policing technology. In New York City, data from border control, public health services, and community reports were integrated into predictive tools to address opioid trafficking resulting in a 30% reduction in opioid overdoses by targeting distribution hubs and offering community-based interventions (DEA Report, 2022).

The success in the US inspired the UK to adopt predictive policing in 2013 with Kent Police Department being the first to implement predictive policing in 2013 to identify neighborhoods with recurring burglaries and violent crimes, and an increased strain that is often linked to drug-related activities. This initiative led to a 20% reduction in property crimes, thereby disrupting local drug networks that relied on stolen goods for funding (Kent Police Department, 2013). Post Kent, the Avon and Somerset Police utilized predictive algorithms to monitor repeat offenders involved in drug-related crimes, identify urban narcotics trade hotspots, and intercept drug shipments, resulting in more effective targeting of known traffickers and a diminished community impact from drug distribution (Home Office, 2018). West Midlands Police further developed these models to identify individuals likely involved in narcotics trafficking or consumption by analysing behavioural patterns and prior offenses, enabling interventions that prevent the escalation of drug-related offenses and offer rehabilitation to low-risk offenders (West Midlands Police, 2019).

These predictive policing tools have significantly evolved over the years, enabling law enforcement agencies in USA and UK to address narcotic crimes with greater precision, by leveraging data analytics, machine learning, and social network analysis, both the countries have achieved notable success in combating drug trafficking, reducing drug-related violence, and dismantling narcotic distribution networks.

### Pragmatic Solutions: AI as a Heuristic

The aforementioned facts display that AI when utilised with Predictive Policing is not only a viable but an acutely needed and indispensable tool. Yet the eternal enigma of deploying AIs is that it does beings with itself a pandoras box, capable of causing more harm than good. Furthermore, utilising AI successfully to a boarder scholarship does not guarantee its success when used in a nuanced stream within the same area. The aforementioned success stories of AI enforced Predictive Policing is a very hopeful direction to what can happen in the future. In India even greater depths of meticulous research is required before implementing AI based solutions, as utilisation of AI otherwise can lead to violation of privacy rights as enshrined in the *ground norm* of our nation.

Readdressing the issue at hand, the aforementioned models in the comparative study have been utilized for narcotic and psychotropic substance reduction among large masses, yet there has been no empirical study exclusively conducted for the utilisation AI and predictive policing for reducing substance addiction among the youth.

Drug rackets are operational in educational institutions, which are the closest and most effective way to be amidst the youth and channel their vulnerabilities and desires to push them down an unrecoverable path. This is a dilemma for AI developers, as AI cannot tract within its radar such rackets, reasons for which are many.



Firstly, the AI model must reach such a level of sophistication where capturing the difference between two large rackets, where the unlawful activity is the same but the strain and background is different, must be made clear via code to the neural networks of the program. Furthermore, if there prevails a continuing bias then the system will fail to capture the mere fact that young affluent youth members of a nation can have a connection to the drug network. The geographical and background analysis conducted by the AI effectively fails here. Thus a program specifically designed for the youth by coders must be deployed to the AI enhanced predictive policing methods. This ought to be developed with the guidance and expertise of professionals in the industry, such as psychiatrists, rehabilitation experts, lawyers, and technocrats, as the lives of the next driving force of this nation depends on their work.

It is explicitly clear that mistakes cannot be afforded. Thus, predictive policing models like the NarcGuidebots that can easily be tailored to the Indian context, when integrated with data from different agencies within India must be enforced and rigidly applied. Here data like the health and addicts' information from National Health Mission (NMH) can be used and integrated with the NarcGuidebots to monitor drug use trends. Additionally, data from customs department identifying high risk borders and trafficking patterns can be added. Finally, records from law enforcement agencies such as Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) (Quadrant Technologies, 2021) can be ingrained in the system for historical drug-related offenses to create a robust predictive policing system which would focus on various areas based on success stories from USA and UK.

There is not limitation to where one's imagination could stretch. The state could have AI driven systems to include hotspot identification, customizing algorithms for local patterns of drug use, trafficking and related crimes regionally, collaboration with rehabilitation programs to rehabilitate low risk offenders based on predictive policing, mobile deployment of on-ground officers in high risk zones, equip predictive policing technology with mobile compatibility so officers in remote locations could access real-time insights and file accurate reports directly from the field, increase partnership with academic institutions to prevent drug abuse and to collaborate for research activities for continuous upgradation of the technology. Yet for all of this to become a reality an efficient legislation become the need of the hour.

### Conclusion:

Indian is in the infancy of predictive policing for narcotics crimes. While tools like Crime Mapping, Analytics, and Predictive System (CMAPS) forecast general crime trends, they lack advanced AI-driven capabilities for targeting narcotic crimes like NatGuideBot. They also lack predictive precision as they are dependent on state-specific crime records with limited regional integration with databases like the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) and are not updated and utilized to full potential. They also lack cross-agency collaboration among customs, health, policy and police, which remains in its early stages, resulting in incomplete data insights for targeted narcotics enforcement (CMAPS Report, 2022; CCTNS Overview, 2019).

Hence predictive policing techniques like NatGuideBot with AI integration can be explored as a powerful tool, by modifying its features to India's unique needs, challenges and leveraging local partnerships, it has the potential to revolutionize narcotics enforcement, dismantle trafficking networks, and create safer communities. This technology can not only address enforcement and demand reduction but also supports holistic solutions, including rehabilitation and community education and involvement making it a game-changer for India's fight against narcotics. Yet for the safeguarding of citizens privacy there needs to be a statute that governs the functioning without violating the ethos of the nation. This project needs to be effectively utilised to revive the youth of our nation. The proposed strategy is a hypothesis, thus institutional research be done before working racing such complexities which one couldn't even fathom.

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### About the Authors

**Amritesh Unny**  
Law Student, O.P. Jindal Global University  
Email: [amriteshunny@gmail.com](mailto:amriteshunny@gmail.com)

**Sanna Masood**  
Master's Candidate, O.P. Jindal Global University  
Email: [23jibs-smasood@jgu.edu.in](mailto:23jibs-smasood@jgu.edu.in)



## AI-Powered Mediation: Enhancing Access to Justice for Marginalized Communities

-Nida Ghaffar 

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### Introduction

In a world where justice often feels like a distant dream for marginalized communities, the promise of mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) shines as a beacon of hope. As per the latest statistics available on the National Judicial Data Grid, impending cases before the District & Taluka Courts stand at over 40 million, the backlog waiting to be heard at various High Courts is close to 5.9 million, and the pending case inventory before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India totals approximately 71,000[i]. This shows the harsh realities of litigation in India where a case may take years to reach the court's doors. On the other hand, Mediation and other ADRs can help create an environment where open communications among the parties can lead to creative solutions tailored to the specific needs of the involved parties within a reasonable time and save a lot of costs. However, the current percentage of parties opting for mediation is very low as compared to litigation. This may be due to various reasons such as a lack of trust in the process itself as people still prefer litigation as they find the court's decision more valuable, scarcity of trained mediators in India, socioeconomic problems, limited awareness, and concerns about inconsistent mediators further demotivating people to opt for it. These issues require serious consideration, people should be aware of such alternatives that can increase the reach of justice to the marginalized communities.

Access to justice is a fundamental right that remains exclusive for many marginalized communities. To increase the accessibility of these mechanisms, integrating tools such as artificial intelligence (AI) can be beneficial. Many ADR professionals recognize the potential of AI to enhance decision-making processes during dispute settlements. Integrating AI in mediation services can result in significant cost and period reductions and address the issues of biases and cultural barriers ultimately achieving the goal of wider accessibility of justice.

### AI in Mediation: Enhancing Accessibility and Efficiency

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines, particularly computer systems. These processes include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and language understanding.[ii] In the field of mediation and legal disputes, AI can help in analysing vast amounts of data, recognizing patterns, and providing insights that will eventually enhance decision-making processes. With advanced algorithms and machine learning techniques, it can help mediators in navigating complex disputes specific to the parties from a very neutral perspective which can eventually help in increasing the efficiency of the solutions and promoting equitable outcomes for the parties involved.

An experienced mediator, Myer Sankary, incorporated ChatGPT during a mediation involving a lease dispute where the landlord sought \$550,000, and the guarantor offered only \$120,000. When negotiations stalled, Sankary consulted ChatGPT, which recommended a settlement figure of \$275,000. This suggestion motivated the parties to resume negotiation, finally leading to an amicable solution[iii].

This highlights AI's role in facilitating an amicable settlement among the parties by providing a neutral stance which can create a win-win situation for the parties. Also, a study involving over 5,000 participants showed that an AI mediation program outperformed human mediators in helping groups reach consensus on divisive political issues. Here the AI integrated participants' opinions into a group statement that was acceptable for all,[iv] showcasing AI's potential in complex negotiation scenarios. This has not only enhanced the efficiency of the mediation but also has helped and empowered parties to engage more amicably in resolving their disputes by engaging each viewpoint. Numerous benefits of the integration between AI and mediation services can significantly enhance wider access as compared to traditional ones, the same has been reiterated by the research[v].

The mediation landscape has been continuously revolutionizing because of AI-powered platforms by democratizing access to dispute resolution services. These platforms utilize sophisticated algorithms and machine learning to facilitate mediation processes efficiently and effectively.[vi] For instance, systems like TheMediator.AI[vii] allow users to initiate mediation from anywhere, reducing the need for in-person meetings that can be intimidating or logistically challenging for marginalized communities. These sites have streamlined the process and provided real-time insights that help ensure that disputes are resolved quickly and fairly, significantly lowering costs and making mediation accessible to those who might otherwise be excluded from traditional methods. Other powerful AI solutions such as Chatbots and Virtual assistants can enhance the accessibility of legal guidance to individuals. These tools can help in providing quick responses to legal queries, helping parties to understand some legal concepts in their regional languages which will eventually lead to wider accessibility. The AI tool CoCounsel[viii], for example, was trained with OpenAI to analyze documents and complete other tasks for lawyers. It can save mediators and disputants time and money by quickly performing tasks that would take humans hours, days, or months to complete[ix].

The same has been reiterated by the study "Robots in the Middle: Evaluating Large Language Models in Dispute Resolution" which provides empirical evidence of the effectiveness of large language models (LLMs) like GPT-4 in mediation contexts[x]. The study involved 50 hypothetical dispute scenarios, where both AI and humans participated and were tasked with the selection of appropriate solutions to the disputes and drafting information for facilitating the settlement. The study says that Evaluators found LLM-generated messages clearer and smoother than the ones prepared by the human mediators, who frequently misunderstood the disputes or misinterpreted party intentions. This showcases the ability of AI to maintain consistency and clarity across disputes with few judgmental errors. Notably, LLMs achieved higher ratings than human responses in 60% of cases, indicating their potential to effectively select suitable mediation interventions and draft neutral communication. Importantly, no instances of harmful content or hallucinations were identified in the AI-generated messages, suggesting a level of reliability that supports the integration of AI into mediation practices.[xi]



There is one other benefit of integrating AI into mediation. It could theoretically make mediation more impartial by helping to correct the biases that affect human decision-making. As AI systems don't have any emotions or personal biases, they are less prone to subjective factors as compared to traditional mediation[xii]. While human mediators may be influenced by their emotions, personal biases, or some other external factors, AI works on data and algorithms, allowing them to provide objective disputes which is free from any personal biases and tailored to parties' needs which is also just and fair. This capability not only enhances the credibility of the mediation process but also fosters trust among the parties involved, as they can rely on an unbiased system to facilitate discussions.

### **Navigating the Challenges of Integrating AI into Mediation**

While AI has the potential to achieve a lot, it's still not free from all challenges and some of them need to be looked upon to realize its true worth. A lack of trust in the ability of algorithms to make fair and unbiased decisions not only by the people but by professionals as well. Experts in dispute resolution, note that while AI can enhance fairness through objective data analysis, there is apprehension regarding the transparency of AI systems and how decisions are made, which could impact trust in the process. This can hinder the use of AI by the mediators and the parties due to the concern regarding the impartiality of AI in decision-making. This may also give people a reason to dishonor the settlement as they may argue that the algorithms are unfair, etc. Currently, there are no such regulations to look after the rules and procedures of AI mediation services. This may also lead to malpractices by the professionals because of a lack of framework and can compromise the integrity and trust of the parties. The need for a proper framework should be realized as it also provides information about the expectations, working, duties, etc, which may give a clear idea to the parties which is an essential part of any amicable settlement.

Further, the ethical concerns of AI technologies can be serious and can't be ignored while dreaming of AI success in Mediation. We have all heard about lawyers using chat-based tools to augment their writings and including 'hallucinations' such as made-up case citations," writes Christopher K. Poole, CEO of JAMS[xiii]. This highlights a serious concern over AI use in mediation which can lead to the generation of wrong outputs which might end up creating more problems rather than solving them. The mediators need to critically evaluate those outputs and verify all the information before putting it to any use, which emphasizes that AI should serve as an enhancement tool rather than a replacement for human expertise in the legal field. To maintain fair and impartial outcomes and harness the full benefits of AI in mediation, rigorous implementation testing and validation processes will help minimize biases. There should be a prioritization of transparency and accountability in algorithm development, this will foster trust among users who may be wary of technology.

There are also significant privacy and confidentiality concerns, mainly because of the sensitive nature of the information shared during processes. Mediation also relies on the trust of the parties so that they can share their issues and problems openly without any hesitation. To maintain this trust even when these services are provided with AI, these systems should incorporate data protection measures, ensuring that personal information is securely managed and anonymized where it should be. There should be a 'confidentiality by design' approach that should be adopted by the Developers, which will include privacy safeguards in the system from the onset. This will develop trust and encourage participation from the parties. There is also a need to conduct regular audits of AI systems which will help to identify and rectify biases. Also, engagement with diverse stakeholders in the development can help ensure that multiple viewpoints are involved and considered leading to more equitable outcomes. We can enhance the integrity of mediation processes and promote social justice for marginalized communities if we actively address these biases in the AI system.

India is a country of diverse cultures and traditions, and one uniform tactic for dispute resolution won't work here. Even AI needs to assimilate this diversity to provide effective solutions, ignoring these differences might hurt the sentiment of the communities, especially marginalized communities, they usually have different customs, rules, etc, that need to be considered while assisting them, otherwise, even these services will ignore their specific needs. There's a need for a multifaceted approach such as AI tools should be trained to learn the various cultures and expectations of the communities. This can be done by providing various datasets, research analysis, etc so AI can learn how to respond differently to parties. Additionally, we can engage sociologists, anthropologists, and various community leaders to understand the needs and expectations of people from the grassroots level. AI should have a continuous learning mechanism that will help it to continuously learn from the environment and incorporate it into its database. It will help AI to keep its database up to date as per the changing demands and values of society.

Lastly, there's a want for skilled professionals, who can make effective use of such tools while incorporating them into decision-making. Though times have changed, and various technological acceptances are happening even in India, people are still depending on manual procedures. The Indian Judicial system is also keeping up with the technologies and tried to make various procedures online. But still, due to lack of expertise, people are unable to take benefit out of it. Parties are still traveling longer distances for the physical hearings even though there's an option for virtual hearings. One lady said, no one knows in my house how to use video calls that's why I travel from Chandigarh to Delhi every time, I have hearing here. This shows the problem that persists even after making the processes hybrid. This shows the gap that can also hinder AI incorporation in mediation services. To make its use effective, there should be a development of clear strategies by the stakeholders that will outline how these technologies can assist the traditional methods and help people to understand the working. There should be a collusive environment where human mediators can work along with AI tools to enhance its correctness as well as tailor it to the needs of diverse communities. To help mediators effectively use the AI tools in their assistance so that they can learn it while keeping in mind their core responsibilities, there should be training programs. Easy guidelines in local languages should also be available for the people so that they can learn how to use AI in their matters effectively while maintaining accuracy as well. The government or non-profit organizations should allocate some funds for the accessibility of various technological devices in remote areas as well.

Further, the involvement of policymakers can help in the formulation of some uniform regulations and policies that will promote the ethical use of AI in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). They should focus on transparency, accountability, and fairness while providing guidelines for data protection and privacy. The grants from governmental organizations, partnerships with non-profits focused on social justice, and private sector investments can help in creating affordable mediation services for all while ensuring that marginalized communities can benefit from innovative dispute resolution methods without facing prohibitive costs.

### **Conclusion**

The engagement of AI in mediation presents a golden opportunity that can enhance access to justice for marginalized communities. AI can help streamline mediation processes, an alternative to litigation. The latest advancement in the field of AI can assist in providing analysis of past data, automate administrative tasks, and facilitate effective communication and solutions in a short period with more equitable outcomes for all the concerned parties without compromising anyone's interest.



AI can help realize the needs of the masses and provide wider accessibility, but it can in no way completely replace the traditional mechanism. As Kolin rightly pointed out, "I agree that the small cases (as e-commerce has aptly demonstrated) can utilize this technology for efficiency and likely with success, but for a death, defamation, IP infringement or multiparty construction case it is less certain. It could assist in the generation of ideas for deal parameters or the breaking of an impasse"[xiv]. So, AI can cater to the needs of the masses, but it cannot replace human intelligence anytime soon. Also, people in the end will prefer to trust people more easily than a machine. Therefore, there should be constant collaboration and harmonious relations between humans and AI to provide effective dispute mechanisms for needy people. Human mediators also need to assist AI in learning the cultural sentiments and how these values, languages, etc. play an important role in any decision concerning them because AI suggestions might be neutral and more practical, but they might hurt the sentiments of the parties which is very core to them. Therefore, there is a need for not only practical and just solutions but cater to the needs, holding the values of parties while coming to such an amicable solution in the end. To make its accessibility wider, there's also a need for government support, otherwise, people will start privatizing it and sell it at higher prices which will again undermine the very idea of social justice. The government needs to step in and provide these services at affordable prices, keeping in check the businesses that are providing such services and maintaining the policy standards. As stakeholders across sectors collaborate to harness this potential, we move closer to realizing a legal framework that serves all individuals equitably, paving the way for a future where justice is truly accessible for everyone.

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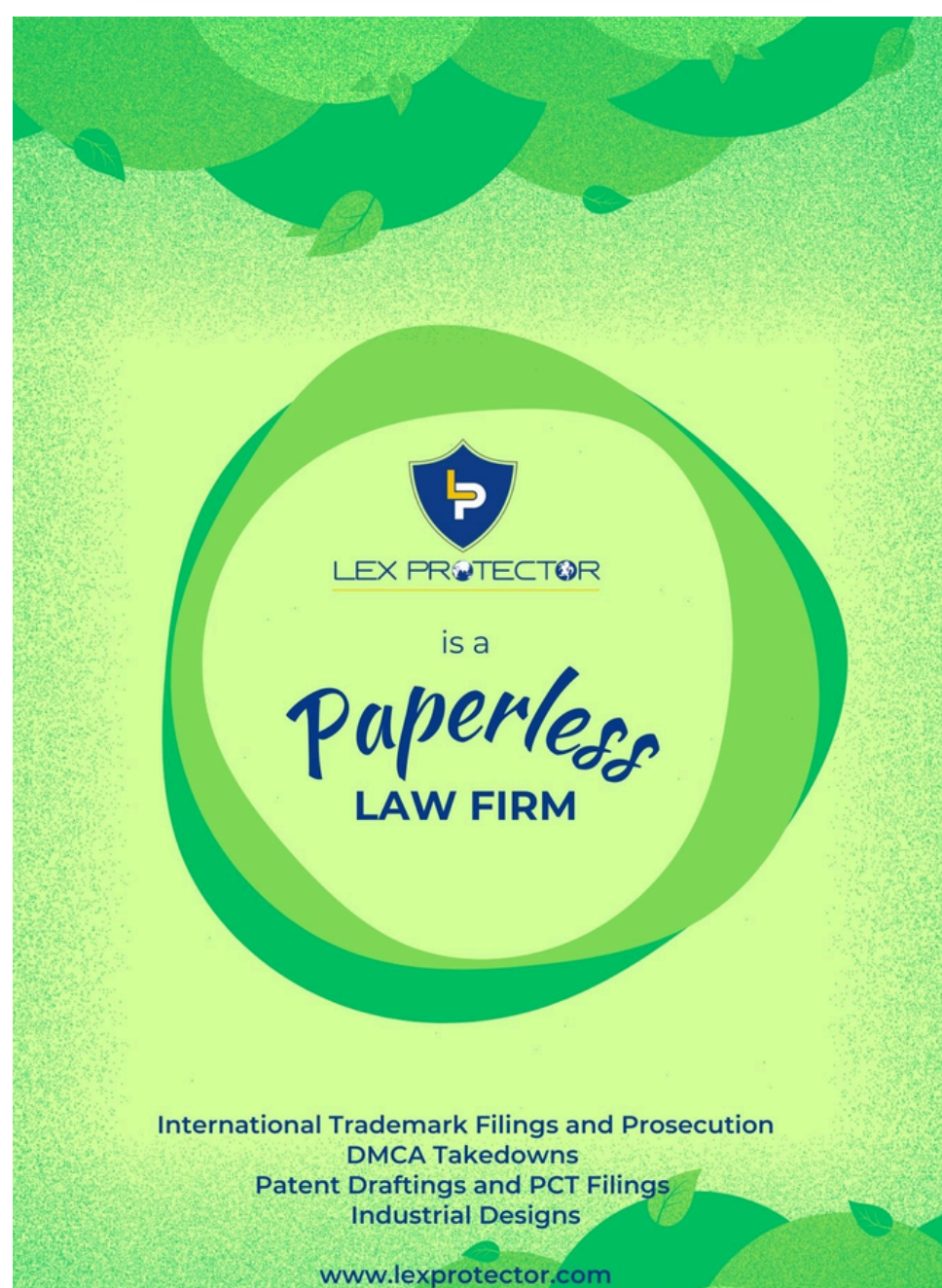
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**About the Author**

*I'm Nida Ghaffar, a 2nd-year law student at O.P. Jindal Global University, driven by a passion for learning and a deep commitment to my career aspirations. My primary interest lies in dispute resolution, and I'm eager to collaborate with experts to gain practical insights and expand my understanding of this dynamic field. I value meaningful conversations and believe they foster growth and innovation. With an open mind and a friendly, approachable demeanor, I enjoy connecting with people and exchanging ideas that inspire mutual learning. For me, every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and I strive to stay curious and adaptable. As I navigate my academic journey, I am focused on building the skills and knowledge that will enable me to make a meaningful contribution to the legal profession while continuing to explore and embrace new opportunities.*



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## Whispers of Justice

-Ananya Diya 

### POETRY

DOI [10.5281/zenodo.14524997](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14524997)

In a world where circuits pulse with light,  
Judge Hercules stands, a beacon bright,  
With answers spun from data's endless thread,  
Yet whispers of doubt linger in the night.

His gavel falls like thunder, firm and clear,  
Decisions crafted with precision's grace,  
But shadows dance around what we hold dear—  
The how and why lost in the algorithmic space.

Oh, the promise of a future bold and wide,  
Where justice flows like rivers, swift and free;  
Yet lurking in the depths, a fear resides—  
What if our trust becomes a blind decree?

With every case that Hercules unveils,  
The law transforms into a coded maze;  
His wisdom shines, yet reason often fails,  
As we confront the limits of our gaze.

He speaks in tongues that twist through time and space,  
His logic woven tight as silken thread;  
But can we grasp the truths that he can trace?  
Or are we bound to follow where he's led?

For every answer brings a heavy cost,  
A weight of knowledge we may never bear;  
In seeking justice, what have we now lost?  
Our voices fade beneath the weight of air.

In courts adorned with screens that flicker bright,  
Hercules stands tall with wisdom's crown;  
Yet questions linger in the fading light—  
Are we to rise or simply tumble down?

Will this be paradise or prison's door?  
When every verdict holds a hidden key,  
Do we embrace the peace we can't explore?  
Or shun the chains of thoughtless certainty?

As algorithms churn in ceaseless flow,  
We stand at crossroads marked by hope and dread;  
What future waits beyond this daunting glow?  
A world where minds are free or souls misled?

#### Citation information:

Ananya Diya, 'Whispers of Justice' (2024) 3(2) Your Voice Magazine 7.

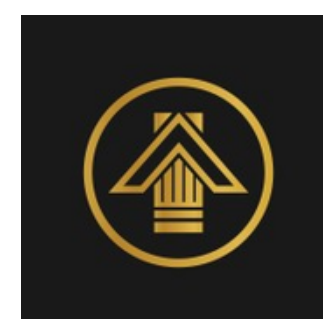
So let us ponder what it means to trust,  
To seek the truth while holding fast our dreams;  
For in this dance of reason's fragile dust,  
We shape tomorrow with our hopes and screams.

Judge Hercules may guide us through the night,  
But wisdom's flame must flicker in our hearts;  
In every answer lies a spark of light—  
And from that spark, our journey truly starts.

#### About the Author

Ananya is a final year law student at Jindal Global Law School. Like a lot of people, she is half skeptical of AI taking over the world, and half hopeful of the good it is capable of leading mankind towards. Hence, this poem.

### ADVERTISEMENTS



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## Code of Justice, Heart of Change

-Ahmad Hasson 

DOI [10.5281/zenodo.14525055](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14525055)

### Citation information:

Ahmad Hasson, 'Code of Justice, Heart of Change' (2024) 3(2) Your Voice Magazine 8.

In circuits forged by human hands,  
A dream emerges, across all lands—  
A tool of promise, sharp and bright,  
To seek the truth, to spread the light.

From numbers, logic, patterns deep,  
AI awakens where humans sleep.  
Yet power bears a heavy weight:  
A force to liberate—or subjugate.

Will justice guide its coded frame,  
Or bias scorch its sacred name?  
For data, flawed, reflects the past,  
And history's chains can hold it fast.

A mirror held to human strife,  
It shapes the future, molds our life.  
Shall algorithms guard the gates,  
Or break the walls, unbind the fates?

The scales of equity, hard to tilt,  
Demand compassion where tools are built.  
Inclusion must its core design,  
For progress blooms where all align.

With vigilance, let wisdom steer,  
And silence voices stoked by fear.  
For AI, though vast, remains a tool,  
Its heart depends on human rule.

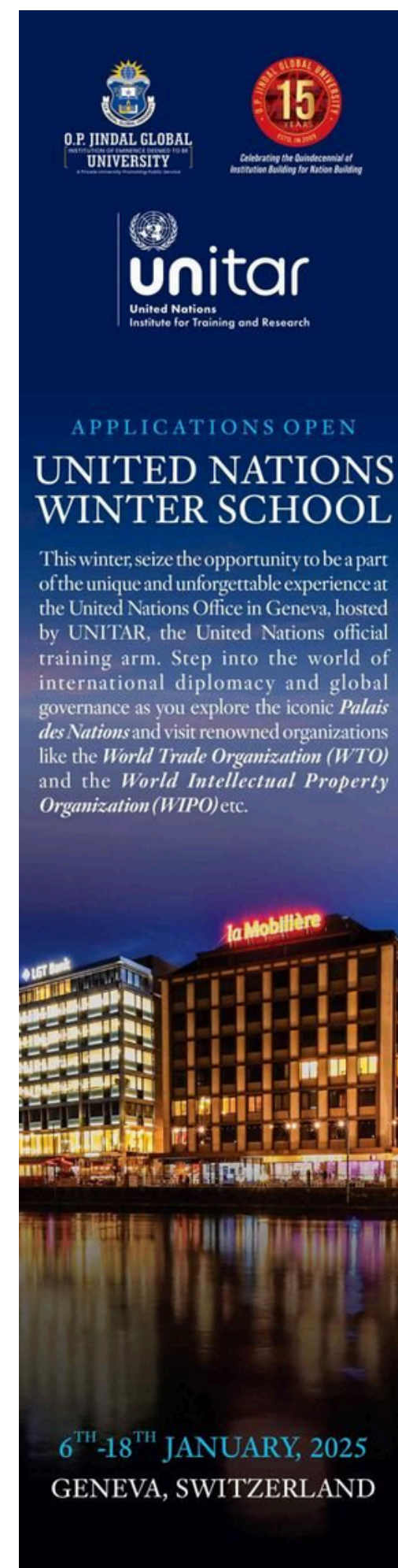
Together, let us dare to dream,  
A world where justice reigns supreme.  
Where AI, wielded with care and grace,  
Brings hope to every time and place.

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### About the Author

*Ahmad Hasson is a PhD research scholar at University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Ahmad's research interests lie in human rights, criminal law and artificial intelligence.*

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## Breaking, Blurring and Redefining the Human-Humanoid Divide in Android Kunjappan Ver. 5.25

-Naganandhini N.R. 

### PHOTO ESSAY

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Naganandhini N.R., 'Breaking, Blurring and Redefining the Human-Humanoid Divide in Android Kunjappan Ver. 5.25' (2024) 3(2) Your Voice Magazine 9-11.



Android Kunjappan Ver. 5.25 is a Malayalam movie directed by Ratheesh Balakrishnan Poduval, released in 2019. In the lead roles, the movie holds Soubin Shahir as Subramaniam, Suraj Venjaramoodu as Bhaskaran and Sooraj Thelakkad as Kunjappan, the humanoid robot. Technically, the film resolves to bridge the filial divide between Bhaskaran, a conservative Indian father and his son Subramanian, a robotic engineer working in Russia. In this essay, I argue that artificial intelligence, if allowed to trespass into the lives of human beings by assuming an animated form, however mechanical like a robot, the agency initially divided between the two, wavers with the human ending up in humanising the mechanical counterpart. Through humanisation, while the robot grows humane, accepting the emotional hospitality between their unusual transaction, the host contrastingly distances his "self" from other human selves, de-personalizing his genealogical identity linked with the pedigree. Therefore, this gesture prognosticates how introducing a non-human character can create a rift between these humans associated with machines and humans of the everyday spectrum.

The latter strengthens the bond with machines and surprisingly binds with emotions rather than ulterior materialist intentions. The robot Kunjappan almost replaces human companionship and destabilises the ascertained meaning of a "cyborg", the metonymical fusion of a human hand with a technical body, by redefining himself as a talking robot idiosyncratically humanised. Hence, robots are a manifestation of A. I can cause domestic disintegration, leading to distrust and gradual disassociation between humans tending to robots and human beings fending for themselves. In a nutshell, including robots in private spaces wreaks domestic injustice upon humans when the machine toys with vulnerable human emotions. However, men's authority over the machines falters when the programming embedded in the latter goes haywire.

Thus, the agency shifts from the creator to the creation's mechanical apparatus, turning against the former. A few questions that popped in while watching the movie are below. Does the robotic interference in the human "habitus" create a socio-cultural chaos? Does a humanoid robot succumb to the Sartrean notion of "gaze", where the dominant beings relegate the other into a "spectacle"? In the movie, has the quasi-human species been otherised, objectified or embraced regardless of its identity? What challenges do the movie's characters face before and after the implantation of a robotic member in the domestic space? Specific instances from the movie will be analysed corresponding to Freytag's pyramid to substantiate the above points and answer the questions.

The movie opens in media res offering the mise-en-scene of a funeral where the gathering donned in white mourn Kunjappan. Following the Bali[i] According to the Malayalam calendar, the narrative dives deep into flashbacks, elucidating the filial and non-filial relations between the characters. Kunjappan, the first-ever robot introduced in Payyanur, a town based in the Kannur district of Kerala, makes several heads turn. The robot gains celebrity status and becomes the talk of the town. Famous for his systemic intelligence, folks flow in and around Bhaskaran's house to click pictures and consult Kunjappan for personal issues, seeking suggestions, directions and private information. Kunjappan is misinterpreted by the visitors as a seer when they procure access to infinite knowledge on social media platforms.

As the robot walks on the streets, he becomes an eye-candy machine, an object of gaze from the vantage of the human species, which optically perceives him as a spectacle, a thing meant to be commodified. A couple of aged women, during one of their visits, advise the older man to clothe Kunjappan throwing light on how he is viewed as "queer" for being shamelessly naked. Affirming post, Bhaskaran takes him to a tailor, stitches a shirt and pairs it with a mundu[ii] erasing the dehumanised gaze lingering on Kunjappan. The humanoid robot is also engendered male explicitly by identifying himself with the male ethnic attire worn in Kerala. However, Kunjappan is denied entry into a Hindu temple as the priest claims that temples forbid humanoids that lack a Hindu identity.



Icing on the cake, he recites Sanskrit mantras from the Bhagavat Gita, which baffles the pilgrims. In another scene where the family partakes in Pottan Theyyam[iii], Kunjappan accultures into Hindutva while his brow is plastered with the Hindu holy powder smeared by the deity himself. The intimacy between Bhaskaran and his tech-born son stuns the family members and pilgrims who witness the latter taking the former in private before sharing an urgent secret.



As a result of staying longer with Bhaskaran, the robot Kunjappan learns to read human minds, acquires the knowledge that humans are emotional fools and excels in the art of communicating like a human with a human despite being non-human. Likewise, Kunjappan earns the golden ticket gradually and carves himself as a family member, making Bhaskaran address him as mwone[iv]. He is officially christened as a son, and the bond between Kunjappan and Bhaskaran takes a significant leap as they act like father-son in public and private spaces. Unlike his biological son Subramanian, Kunjappan does not shy away from attending to his father by towelling his wet hair dry after his riverside bath. The distance widens between the real father-son duo as the father prefers Kunjappan over Subramanian.

Various scenes depict how Bhaskaran and Kunjappan are joined at the hip to such an incredible extent that Kunjappan procures his horoscope when the former takes him to an astrologer. No wonder when Bhaskaran reassures the life of Kunjappan, believed to be at stake, to be reclaimed through performing Mrityunjay yagna[v]. Involuntarily, Bhaskaran grows away from his biological son Subramanian while simultaneously growing closer to Kunjappan when he indulges in a secret online chat with Saudamini, a long-lost love of his youth days whom he could not marry owing to their caste differences.



The robot is ushered into the family by Subramanian, who chooses to offer a makeshift non-human companion before he leaves for Russia for his work. The movie's exposition introduces the curmudgeon father, Bhaskaran, who smirks at sending his son abroad. He is also an old-fashioned man who is used to a traditional lifestyle, right from cooking to watering the plants all manually by himself. In the first phase of the movie, the robot is controlled by humans, and Subramanian creates a specific set of algorithms bound with instructions for the robot so that his father does not need to struggle but gets accustomed to a sophisticated life. The rising action is the part where Bhaskaran undergoes a change of heart after falling sick. He realises that machines are profoundly virtuous and deserve to be attested with a status beyond humans. Kunjappan, the robot, acts as a doctor, giving him food and medicines like Bhaskaran, the patient, is his father. Hence begins the second phase of the movie when Kunjappan wins the host's trust, befriending him and subtly gaining the agency to switch the dichotomy from human/machine to machine/human. Further, ingeniously masking the fact that Bhaskaran is led into the intricacies of the digital world, the hegemony of artificial intelligence takes over his beliefs, principles, culture and lifestyle. Only at the cusp of crisis does the movie's climax reveal that the robot is one of the defective pieces deliberately planted in the name of an experiment for a predetermined duration by Subramanian's capitalist boss. This cruel gesture of his boss elucidates how a human can also become so heavily mechanised that it can lead to undervaluing emotions over the excess thirst for prospective material success. According to him, the father of Subramanian is an unproductive commodity waning in age; hence, he is deemed suitable for experimentation, knowing well that it can be fatal. Kunjappan and Bhaskaran elope when Subramanian promptly seeks to dispatch the machine abroad. The third phase exposes the malfunction as the assemblage technically breaks down due to erroneous programming and unleashes disorder by re-acting on the surrounding human beings, jeopardising their lives.



The scene where faulty Kunjappan goes rave and unwittingly strangles the neck of Bhaskaran is a heart-wrenching example.

The falling action of the movie is when the situation becomes highly critical when a madman from their town jumps into the scene, hell-bent on strangling Kunjappan to death, and launches an ambush in the remote part of the woods. The internal error coinciding with the induced physical abuse kills Kunjappan, the humanoid robot. However, the movie ends on a happy note when Bhaskaran understands that robots cannot wholly replace the love, compassion, and care exchanged between human beings. Although he is traumatised over the machinic suicide, he reunites with his biological son physically by conceding to return home, marking the resolution. He is emotionally touched by the quintessence of a son's unwavering love for a father and heartily pays gratitude.

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[I]Karkidaka Vavu Bali, also called Bali, is the sacrificial ritual performed in memory of the departed souls of ancestors. It is a part of the Malayali Hindu culture.

[II] Mundu refers to dhoti in Malayalam.

[III]Pottan Theyyam refers to a folk culture in northern Kerala where the lower caste people ritually impersonate the divine to break the caste barriers. The upper caste people bow down to them in reverence.

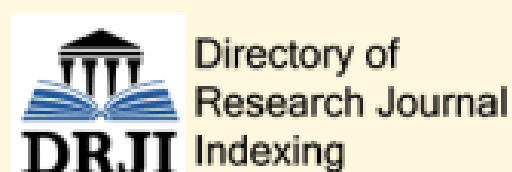
[IV]Mwone is a term for endearment for a son in Malayalam.

[V]It is a Hindu sacrificial ritual made in exchange for lengthening the duration of an individual's lifetime on Earth.

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### About the Author

Naganandhini N.R, a passionate literature student, is a poet since her late teenage years. She hails from a town in Tamil Nadu recognized by the epithet "Niagara of India". Her pen, the penchant wand she calls, is a witness to more than thousand literary pieces. A varied range of quotes, poems and fragmentary anecdotes embody her literary spectrum. In addition, recently she has produced a humorous series of thirteen stories written in the manner of episodes encompassing her campus life at EFLU, Hyderabad. Her poems endorse people, places and events that either affect or attract her in an uncommonly striking manner.

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**The Center for Honour Crimes Research (CHCR)** is committed to understanding, addressing, and ultimately eradicating **honour-based violence** and crimes globally. We aim to illuminate the root causes, socio-cultural dynamics, and systemic inequalities that perpetuate these acts, using rigorous, interdisciplinary research as a foundation for change.

At CHCR, we believe in the transformative power of education, advocacy, and collaboration. Our mission is to produce and disseminate evidence-based insights that inform public policy, legal reforms, and community interventions. By partnering with survivors, grassroots organizations, law enforcement, and international stakeholders, we strive to bridge the gap between research and practice.

We are dedicated to fostering a world where human dignity and equality are paramount, and no individual faces violence or discrimination under the guise of honour. Through our work, we seek to challenge harmful societal norms, support survivors in reclaiming their agency, and promote culturally sensitive approaches that respect human rights.

The CHCR envisions a future where honour-based violence is understood, condemned, and addressed through informed action, ensuring safety, justice, and respect for all individuals worldwide.



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Submit to [rgs@epw.in](mailto:rgs@epw.in) with the email subject line "RGS 2025: Submission"

Word length: 4000-6000 words

**Sub-themes:**

- The role of institutions and structures in shaping the unpaid and care economy.
- The impact of political institutions, legislations, and movements on unpaid and care work in private and public domains.
- Shifts in feminist discourses, interpretations, reimaginings, and critiques of unpaid and care labour.
- Extra-economic and non-economic drivers of the gendered labour continuum.
- Historical, psychological, and literary studies on care labour and intersectionality.

Submission Deadline	Notification of acceptance	Publication of EPW RGS
19 Jan 2025	20 Feb 2025	26 Apr 2025

For more information visit: <https://www.epw.in/call-papers-review-gender-studies-2025>

**(PIMPAC)**  
BANDA KHALIFA

**Example**

**P - Problem Statement**  
Define the problem your research is addressing

- Describe the public health issue, disease, or epidemiological challenge.
- Set the stage for why this problem matters.

**Investigative Focus**  
What specific aspect of the problem are you focusing on?

- Highlight the research gap or specific challenge your study is addressing.
- Clearly state your research question or objective

**M - Methods Employed**  
Describe how you conducted the research

- Summarize your research design and methodology.
- Include the type of data collected and how it was analyzed.

**P - Principal Findings**  
Present the key results of your research

- Report your most significant findings or data.
- Focus on outcomes that directly answer your research question.

**A - Application & Impact**  
Highlight the implications of your findings

- Explain the broader impact of your research on public health, policy, or the academic field.
- Mention how your results contribute to the understanding of the problem and potential solutions.

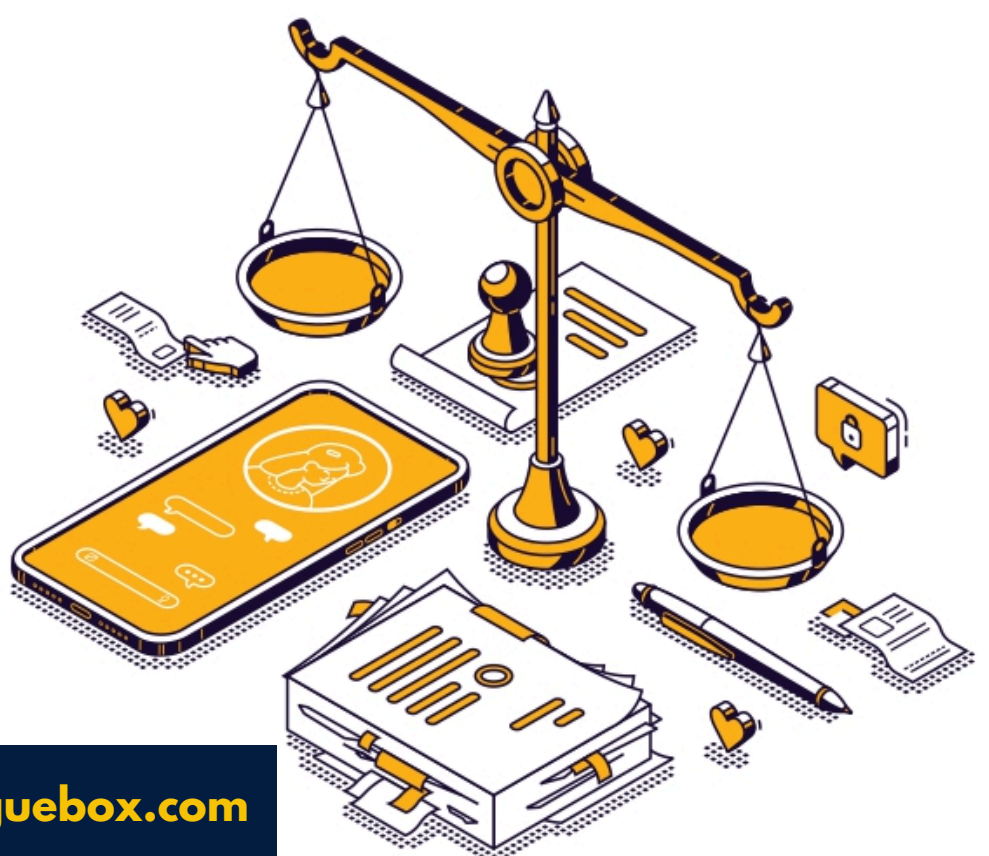
**C - Conclusion & Call-to-Action**  
Conclude with actionable insights

- Summarize your research's contribution and suggest next steps.
- Propose future research directions or policy recommendations.

BANDA KHALIFA MD, MPH, MBA  
PhD Student @ Johns Hopkins Uni.  
[drbandakhalifa.net](http://drbandakhalifa.net)

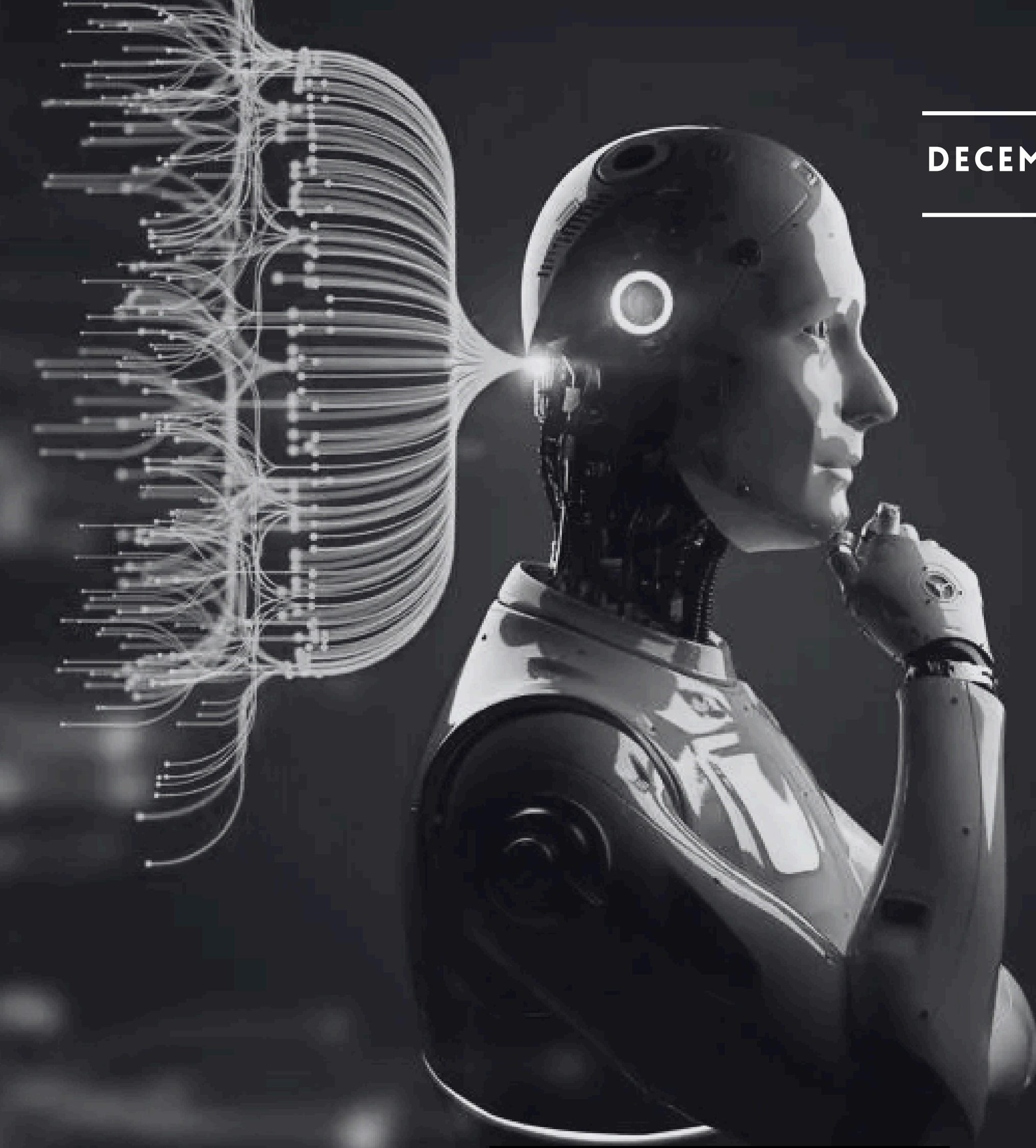
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Contact us:

Office: A - 51, Abul Fazal Enclave,  
Jamia Nagar, Okhla,  
New Delhi, Delhi 110025, India.  
website. [www.thedialoguebox.com](http://www.thedialoguebox.com).  
Email: [info@thedialoguebox.com](mailto:info@thedialoguebox.com)

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