ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND GENDER SENSITIZATION: INSIGHTS FROM "GENTLY FALLS THE BAKULA"

Dr. Varsha Gawande
Head , Dept. of English, Takshashila Mahavidhyalaya, Amravati

Abstract
This paper explores the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence in promoting gender sensitization and building a more equitable world to live in . In the same way , the Bakula flower in Sudha Murty's "Gently Falls the Bakula", symbolizes purity, gentleness, and enduring presence, AI today stands as a symbol of both promise and responsibility. It can illuminate spaces long shadowed by prejudice and bias or, if misused, deepen divisions between human beins and create chaos. My research article, draws symbolic parallels between the nurturing essence of the Bakula flower and the potential of AI to nurture human values like , empathy, love, inclusivity and other values in our human world. Through ,this perspective , the paper examines how technology ,when guided by ethical consciousness can transcend its mechanical nature and become a powerful medium for building not only a technologically progressive society but one rooted in social sensitivity and gender equity.
Keywords*: Artificial Intelligence, Gender Sensitization, Bakula, Equality, Empathy, Inclusion*

Introduction

Mrs.Sudha Murty is a multifaceted personality, a literary genius, a talented story teller, a hard task master, a mature teacher, a bilingual writer in English and Kannada, and a wise mentor for those who are lost in the storm. As the Chairperson of the Infosys Foundation, she tried her level best to add sunshine and joy to the lives of those doomed to darkness, despair and distress. She has shared her real life experiences with the readers through novels, short stories and essays. She has written lots of literature for children to acquaint them with the ways of the world. Her books have been translated into all the major Indian languages. Her popularity extends beyond the frontiers of region and nationality. Mrs. Sudha Murty holds many prestigious awards and positions, including the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award in India, for social work by the Government of India in 2006. Mrs. Murthy is a living legend, a role model for the new generation who look at her for guidance and inspiration. Whether it is by her written word, spoken word or helping hand , she is striving to make this world a better place to live in.

AI as the New Symbol of Awareness.

Sudha Murty's Gently Falls the Bakula reflects the silent strength of a flower that bridges distances, balances conflicts, and preserves purity amidst turmoil. Similarly, in the present digital age, Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a powerful presence ,subtle yet pervasive—reshaping human relationships, perceptions, and values. AI today is like the unseen tree in our shared courtyard, touching every aspect of personal and professional life. Just as the Bakula in Murty's novel stood between two feuding families, unmindful of their rivalry, AI stands between progress and ethics, between logic and emotion, between efficiency and empathy. It carries the potential to harmonize these contradictions if guided by humane intent. Gender sensitization, which seeks to awaken social awareness about equality and respect, finds a new ally in AI's capacity to analyze, educate, and connect.

The aim of this paper is to examine the symbolic and functional parallels between the role of the Bakula flower in human relationships and the role of AI in today's socio-technological world ,particularly in the context of gender awareness, inclusion, and sensitivity. The Bakula flower was known for its fragrance that lingered even after it had withered , for example, a metaphor for influence that outlasts presence. Likewise, Artificial Intelligence, when infused with ethical design and human values, can create lasting awareness far beyond its immediate use. AI-driven education platforms, interactive systems, and adaptive tools are capable of spreading gender awareness across borders, cultures, and generations.

AI becomes a symbolic flower of knowledge and subtle yet transformative source or symbol. Its algorithms can process stories of inequality, map patterns of bias, and suggest reforms. Much like the Bakula's fragrance, which permeates silently, AI can shape perceptions gently but persistently. It does not preach but prompts reflection through exposure, representation, and engagement. However, awareness cannot be mechanized. The fragrance must be preserved through intention. When AI is designed without sensitivity, it risks becoming a sterile tool which is devoid of empathy. Therefore, the nurturing hand behind technology must be guided by human conscience, ensuring that awareness grows with grace and inclusivity.

AI and Gender Sensitization: From Data to Dialogue

In a world fragmented by stereotypes, AI offers the possibility of creating new dialogues. It can examine large amounts of social data, detect patterns of discrimination, and assist in designing educational programs that address gender inequities. But its true contribution lies not in computation, but in communication. Gender sensitization depends on understanding perspectives, questioning power dynamics, and cultivating empathy. AI can serve as a facilitator in this process ,an intermediary that listens to millions of voices and translates them into patterns of change. Chatbots designed for counseling, AI powered learning environments, and inclusive media rules can all help initiate conversations about equality and respect.

Like Shrimati and Shrikant, the protagonists of Gently Falls the Bakula, who found connection under the quiet shelter of the Bakula tree, humans today can rediscover empathy through the digital shade of AI—if they approach it with openness and purpose. AI should not be viewed merely as a machine of logic but as a mirror reflecting human consciousness, reminding us of what we value and what we neglect. Every flower carries both fragrance and shadow, beauty and decay. The same holds true for Artificial Intelligence. AI systems trained on historical prejudices may unknowingly reinforce gender stereotypes, exclude marginalized voices, or misrepresent diverse identities. Here, the ethical responsibility of creators and educators becomes very crucial. Just as Murty's Bakula tree stood firm amidst storms, offering shade without discrimination, AI must be cultivated as a force of balance and fairness. It must be designed to bloom where understanding is scarce and dialogue is difficult.

Policymakers, and educators must become gardeners of this digital Bakula—nurturing it with empathy, pruning it of prejudice, and allowing its fragrance to enrich human experience. Ethical AI development thus becomes an act of social cultivation, not merely innovation.

AI as the Ethical Dimension, Empathy and Inclusion shows in the characters of Shrimati, the heroine of Gently Falls the Bakula, embodied patience, grace, and inner strength, the qualities that make relationships meaningful. In the context of technology, these qualities translate into the values of empathy, inclusion, and care that should define applications. AI can help amplify unheard voices by offering platforms for marginalized genders, analyzing pay gaps, and highlighting underrepresentation in media and institutions. It can serve as a bridge where dialogue is absent and as a companion where understanding is fragile. When designed with empathy, AI becomes more than a program—it becomes a participant in human growth. It helps society recognize that sensitivity is not weakness but wisdom, and that equality is not an ideal but an evolving practice. In this sense, AI becomes the modern Bakula: quietly facilitating connection, understanding, and progress.

In Murty's narrative, the Bakula flower symbolized constancy amidst change. In today's world of rapid digital transformation, AI plays a similar role. It stands at the intersection of past prejudices and future possibilities. AI has the power to influence education, employment, communication, and governance. If directed with compassion, it can enhance gender sensitivity and encourage fair participation. Through predictive analytics, AI can even alert institutions to subtle patterns of exclusion before they become systemic. Thus, Artificial Intelligence and the future of human sensitivity depends on how it will blooms ,whether, into a force of inclusion or wilt under bias , it totally depends on how humanity chooses to nurture it.

But beyond numbers and technicalities, lies in the essence of gender sensitization lies in feeling ,something machines alone cannot generate. Human empathy must flow through the design and deployment of AI, ensuring that technology does not replace emotion but extends its reach. Like the Bakula flower, that witnessed the lives of generations and silently absorbed their joys and conflicts, AI too will bear witness to human evolution. Its legacy will depend on whether it learns to understand not only the language of data but also the fragrance of human feelings and emotions.

Conclusion

Gently Falls the Bakula ends with the realization that sensitivity, once lost, cannot be restored through success or intellect alone, it must be nurtured from within the heart. The same truth applies to Artificial Intelligence. The success of AI will not be measured merely by speed or accuracy but by the depth of its compassion and the fairness of its outcomes for human beings. Artificial Intelligence, today stands where the Bakula once did between conflict and connection, between ambition and awareness. It can either divide with bias or unite with understanding. Gender sensitization in the age of AI therefore requires not only technological advancement but also moral imagination , but emotional quotient as well .To make AI a true agent of equality, society must cultivate within it the same qualities that made the Bakula flower sacred , gentleness, endurance and

an unspoken empathy for all beings. When the fragrance of ethics blends with the intelligence of design, the result is a technology that not only transforms the world but also ennobles a persons character .Thus, Artificial Intelligence, like the Bakula, becomes a living metaphor a reminder that progress without compassion is hollow, and that sensitivity is the highest form of intelligence.

References

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