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ABSTRACT ON ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN REINVENTING INDIA'S KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS: AN ANALYTICAL INSIGHT THROUGH THE MAHABHARATA

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ABSTRACT

India is emerging as a vibrant hub where traditional Indian knowledge systems and Artificial Intelligence are creating a power convergence. India is a knowledge civilization where oral tradition, the gurukul system and dharma-related knowledge have been preserved for hundreds of centuries. Where IKS gives deep ethical knowledge through Dharma, consciousness and with wisdom. Meanwhile, AI provides modern tools to preserve, interpret, and circulate ancient heritage on the global scale.

Here I am using Mahabharat as a philosophical roadmap. The Mahabharata keep a close eye on Dharma which means the idea that right action must be based on context, empathy and responsibility but Modern AI technology often prioritize efficiency. This paper also maps AI concepts on to the iconic characters from epic that capture different AI ethic. For example, Krishna symbolizes the ultimate strategic wisdom and ethical guidance that AI lack meanwhile Sanjay's ability to see everything in real time serves as an excellent analogy for modern surveillance and data transmission.

The Mahabharat's episodes on JioHotstar, like dice game of autonomy vs responsibility, divine weapons. All of these can be connected with AI tools like natural language processing,

generating models and knowledge graphs, that help to analysis and digitalize the epic like the Mahabharat.

This study discusses the dharma-based AI ethics that suggest principles like anima (non-violence) and karma that provide necessary human values for AI development. This paper argues that without Dharmic core AI can become risks like Duryodhana's power without a moral compass and Bhishma, who depicts rigid knowledge that fails to accept to human suffering. Ultimately, the paper argues that AI can give breath to the life of the IKS in the 'Dharma to Data' journey that provides through ethical negotiation that prioritises human values. This study embraces classical literature, cultural narrative and cognitive science to offer high impact on future AI research.

KEYWORDS: Artificial Intelligent, Indian Knowledge Systems, Dharma Ethics, Consequence Studies, Digital Preservation.

INTRODUCTION.

India has been acknowledged as a Knowledge Civilization for thousands of years where wisdom was closely linked with character, life stories and Dharma as ethical duty. In ancient India, storytelling, philosophical debates or gurukul shishya(student) transmission were all used to preserve knowledge from the gurukul system to widespread folktales or oral tradition of the epics. Basically, knowledge was lived, breathed and delivered through oral tradition and the Gurukul system instead of being kept on memory cards or in the web application. When you thing about that how people learned knowledge in those ancient days than you will get to know that it was more than just collecting data and facts. And it was all about ethic, character, and lived wisdom, basically these all were the main topics. After all knowledge was always connected to Dharma or ethical duty. In my point of view, we did not just learn something to be intelligent, but we learned it so we could understand our duties towards the world.

Nowadays, the way we approach the knowledge has changed completely. We are all living in a world where knowledge is digital, driven by data, and algorithmic controlled. These days, artificial intelligence is at the core of all this and monitoring the information production and it is even replacing the human memory with huge databases. This is creating a significant issue even though it makes things extremely effective and fast. As we all allow artificial intelligence to shape our lives now, that becomes a risk of reducing human wisdom to insignificant data point. For example: human is using AI for daily needs like, what to wear?

For any medical concern, for study purposes, even as their personal diary, basically we are all depending even for basic information on artificial intelligence. We forget to have a chit-chat with our loved ones and have fun with friends because nowadays, human is totally depending on technology and do not realise the need to have love ones or family.

The "Necessary Negotiation" between our past and future that is what is this paper refers to. What do you think, can a machine that is based on statistical logic and patterns ever understand the ethical and human foundation of India's Knowledge traditions?

To find the answer of this question, we need to look at the Mahabharata instead of consulting a coding manual for answer. The Mahabharata is a profound framework for understanding moral decision-making and responsibility rather than just an ancient epic or a series of episodes I watch on a screen. This epic outline the same issues we have with AI today, whether it is through Krishna's guidance on the battlefield of Kurukshetra or the struggle of characters to trying to find the right action in a chaotic conflict.

The main conflict of our day is that the Mahabharata ask, "what is the right action?" while AI asks, "What is the most efficient action?" This paper argue that India has a unique opportunity to lead the global tech conversation. We can make sure that our future is not only fast but also responsible, fair and based on the values that have shaped our culture for centuries by combining the Dharmic ethic into our digital systems.

The Problem Statement: Can data have a human ethical traditional (Soul)?

The biggest challenge we all are facing today is a fundamental change in the definition of knowledge. In our traditional Indian perspective that knowledge was never just a collection of facts rather it was a living thing that associated with Dharma or ethical duty. Whether it was through the Gurukul system or the oral transcription of epic like the Mahabharata that the knowledge was preserved to develop the character and lived wisdom.

But nowadays things are changing in the modern world. Knowledge is now digital, data-driven and algorithmically controlled. As Artificial Intelligence transforms the way we produce and utilize the information that now I am forced to ask a challenging question that, Can an Artificial Intelligence-driven system truly preserve the ethical and human roots of India's knowledge tradition?

The danger that I am talking about is that we are beginning to reduce human wisdom to just a cold data point. When we are too much rely on the automated decision-making systems, here we run the risk of losing the human ethical traditional (Soul) of our learning. In this world, where we want the fastest or most efficient outcome and considered it good in the field of

artificial intelligence. Also, we can see this tension in the characters of the Mahabharata, where Shakuni is a symbol of cleverness that is very similar to modern Artificial Intelligence as he is a master of probability and manipulation who always searching for the most efficient way to win the game, even if it means to destroying everything else in the process. On the other hand, Vidura who represent the true wisdom because he does not just look for immediate gain, but he considers the long-term ethical impact and the right action.

The Mahabharata as an ethical framework for technology (AI).

The Mahabharata is much more than just a fragment of ancient mythology or a story that we all watch for entertainment on digital platform. In the framework of Indian Knowledge System that functions as a massive expand of Dharma and a practical guide for making moral decisions. The episodes of the Mahabharata depict a world of "Gray" situation where there is no simple solution and every decision has a serious consequence, while we often think of rules as being black and white. This is exactly what we need as a kind of framework for modern Artificial Intelligence.

According to me, one of the most human elements of the epic is the idea of moral hesitation. Can you think about the scenes where the Pandavas and even Bhishma is unsure of what to do. They do not just act immediately in the term of a set of pre-programmed instructions but they pause, think and consider about the pain of their choice might cause others. This hesitation is rooted in empathy and an understanding of human suffering.

This is entirely absent from artificial intelligence as it exists today. Because Artificial Intelligence lack emotional intelligence and Artificial Intelligence cannot hesitate or feel the weight of a decision. It follows strict guidelines or data pattern even if those patterns lead to an unethical result. By using the Mahabharata as a framework, here I am arguing for a new kind of technology that prioritizes context over strict regulation.

The Mahabharata epic teaches us that right action is about understanding the particular situation and the people involved in that situation but it is not about following some formula. If we can teach our Artificial Intelligence system to prioritize these Dharmic value, such as responsibility, empathy and fairness, so we can shift from technology that is just an efficient to truly wise technology.

Conceptual Mapping: Using characters as metaphors for Artificial Intelligence

This is the heart of my research paper, where I will depict the particular characters from the Mahabharat's episodes on the JioHotstar app, which I watched to explain modern AI concepts:

According to me, to truly understand the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, for this we have to look at the characters of the Mahabharata as a living metaphor for different parts of our contemporary digital world. In the episodes of the Mahabharata, we see how each character manages authority, information, and responsibility that mirrors of how Artificial Intelligence works today.

Krishna: The Missing Ethical Core.

Krishna who represents the ultimate form of ethical guidance and strategic wisdom in our technological world. In the episodes of the battlefield of Kurukshetra there Krishna offers Arjuna a viewpoint based on the Dharma rather than just facts. This is exactly what is lacking in the Artificial Intelligence. Nowadays, Artificial Intelligence models can process billions of data points, but they do not have the Krishna like ability to understand the moral significance of a situation. Without this ethical charioteer, Artificial Intelligence is just a powerful engine that moves without a soul.

Arjuna: The Human Decision-Maker

Arjuna represents the human being at the heart of the technological revolution. Just like Arjuna stood for the battlefield of Kurukshetra and felt overpowered by the weapons and the weight of these decisions, just like that, today we all stand in front of the power of Artificial Intelligence. The Gandiva bow can be seen as an advance tool that we have built. The lesson here is that the human heart is still ultimately in charge of making the right action, even in the most advanced technology. We must decide that how to use the tool and we cannot blame the Artificial Intelligence for the result.

Sanjaya: Real- Time Data and Surveillance

Sanjaya is one of the most interesting characters to compare to the Artificial Intelligence. In the episodes, Sanjay is blessed with Divya Drishti or divine vision, which allows him to see everything that is happening on the battlefield from a great distance to instantly inform everything to the king. Sanjay is the first real-time data streamer in the modern era. He represents the high-speed data transmission and domestic spying of that ancient time that we

use in this modern era. But Sanjaya reminds us that understanding wisdom is not the same as seeing data. The listener is responsible for the interpreting the live feed in an ethical manner.

Duryodhana and Bhishma: The Danger of Stiff Logic

Now I have two more important characters from the Mahabharata epic that is Bhishma and Duryodhana, who represent the greatest risk to Artificial Intelligence. "Knowledge without adaptability" is what Bhishma stand for. He is fated by strict rules and vows that like a computer program that follows the code and even when it results in a terrible or unfair outcome. On the other hand, "Power without ethics" is represented by Duryodhana. He uses his wealth and strength for his personal benefit and ignores the harm he causes others. If we develop Artificial Intelligence, that is as inflexible as Bhishma or as self-centred as Duryodhana, then we are creating a risk of catastrophic conflict similar to the one seen at Kurukshetra.

Shakuni: The Dark Side of Probability and Data

If Krishna is the ethical guide, then Shakuni is the representative of a malicious algorithm. He manipulates the game's outcome by using his dice, which stand for probability and data instead of any physical strength. Shakuni's cleverness is exactly what I fear in Artificial Intelligence that a system that is technically flawless at winning but lacking in empathy or justice.

Casa Studies: Indian knowledge systems in the Artificial Intelligence

Here, I am examining the particular events from the episodes of the Mahabharata as case studies for Artificial Intelligence ethics in the order to give a significant management implications section.

Case Study 1: Algorithmic Bias and the Dice Game

The dice game is a perfect example of what happens when a system is manipulated by power. This is referred to as Algorithmic Bias in the modern era of Artificial Intelligence. If the dice or the data are loaded in the favour of one side, then the outcome will never be fair, no matter how closely you follow the rules of the any game. I also observe in the episode that, as the elders stay silent during the game like this today, many techs company remain quiet about the biases in their systems and that what is leads us to algorithmic injustice.

Case Study 2 The Death of Abhimanyu and Data Duplication.

This case study examines the death of Abhimanyu in the Chakravyuha as a reflection of the risk associated with incomplete knowledge. He learned the method of entering in the Chakravyuha but he doesn't know that how to exit it. As a result, he trapped in the Chakravyuha and died inside the Chakravyuha. This is similar to that how we all currently deal with Artificial Intelligence and big data. Just like this, we know how to enter in the digital world but we frequently do not know how our data is being used or how to exit the system of surveillance programs. Data systems can sometimes gang up on a single person and it may be led to a loss of privacy and personal agency, just like the Kauravas warriors who attacked him together.

Case Study 3: The Ethics of Dharma and Vidura's Warning

The king is regularly forewarned by Vidura about the consequences of his son Duryodhana's actions. But he serves as the state's conscience. In the world of Artificial Intelligence, we all need Vidura like policies in the field of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning that alert us when our technology is crossing the line of an ethics. We move from a model of power without ethics like Duryodhana, to one of responsibility-centred governance by basing our Artificial Intelligence on Dharma Ethics.

Representation of Gender in AI and IKS: Draupadi and the Algorithm of Silence

One of the most important themes suggested for this research is the representation of gender within both the Indian Knowledge System and Artificial Intelligence. A fascinating depiction if what will occur when a system is technically right but morally reprehensible may be found in the Mahabharata storytelling especially the scene of the Vastraharan. Elders like Bhishma and Dronacharya were deeply involved in the complexity of the law and their oaths that they stayed mute in the assembly chamber.

They were acting like a computer following a rigid set of rules—if the "data" says a person was lost in a bet, then the "system" must follow through. Draupadi's questioning of the elders is a critique of any system that prioritizes legalistic logic over human dignity.

In the world of Artificial Intelligence, we see a modern version of this "Algorithm of Silence." Artificial Intelligence is often trained on historical data that is full of gender bias. If we don't actively intervene with an ethical "Dharmic" core, the Artificial Intelligence will simply repeat the mistakes of the past, marginalizing women's voices and needs because the "data" tells it to do so. Just as the court failed Draupadi because it lacked a soul, an Artificial

Intelligence without a human-based design will fail the very people it is supposed to serve. We need to build Artificial Intelligence that doesn't just process rules, but understands the fundamental human right to dignity and protection, as seen in the intervention of Krishna during that crisis.

Literature and Cultural Narratives: The Story as a Bridge to Technology

Another key area for this research is how literature and cultural narratives help us understand the discourse around Artificial Intelligence. For an English Literature student, the Mahabharat isn't just a religious text; it's a massive "data set" of human emotions and social scenarios. It gives us the language to talk about things that are otherwise too technical to understand.

For example, the episode's narrator or Sutradhar (string-puller), plays a very similar role to what we today refer to as data transparency. The narrator provides the audience with context by outlining the why and how of the events. Similarly, we develop extremely complex Artificial Intelligence. We need a Sutradhar layer a mechanism that allows the machine to communicate its logic to humans in a way that is truly understandable.

We make technology less intimidating and more relatable by using these tales to moderate our discussion of Artificial Intelligence. It allows us to shift from viewing Artificial Intelligence as a machine from our tradition that requires the same caution and responsibility as a divine weapon in the epic. This connection ensures that instead of erasing our culture, our digital transformation will continue to be a Necessary Negotiation with it.

Indian Cognitive Science and Epistemology: Beyond the Neural Network

Neural Networks and Machine Learning are frequently used in discussions on Artificial Intelligence. But Indian epistemology is the study of knowledge that offers a far more comprehensive explanation of the mind. According to the Mahabharata, knowledge is more than just processing facts. It embraces several levels including Ahankara (the ego), Buddhi (the intellect) and Manas (the sense of mind).

Every time a character must make a decision in a JioHotstar episode that we witness this in action. For example, when Vidura speaks, he isn't just reciting facts he learned. He is using his Buddhi—his higher intellect—to filter those facts through a moral lens. Modern Artificial Intelligence, however, mostly operates at the level of Manas—it collects sensory-like data and looks for patterns, but it has no "Buddhi" or higher consciousness to ask if that pattern is actually good for society.

This is a huge point for cognitive science. Artificial Intelligence lacks inner sense that Indian traditions have studied for millennia, even as it attempts to replicate the physical structure of the human brain. We must begin considering how to create Artificial Intelligence that reflect rather than just calculates if we are to move from data to dharma. We can't just feed a machine thousands of verses of the Gita and expect it to be wise; wisdom requires an understanding of the self, which is something a machine—no matter how many layers its neural network has—simply does not possess. This section of the research argues that Indian Knowledge Systems offers a much more complete map of the human mind than modern cognitive science currently uses to build Artificial Intelligence.

Dispelling Myths: Do Indian Knowledge Systems Oppose Technology?

One widespread myth is that Indian Knowledge Systems are ancient and so anti-technology. But sometimes people believe that by reflecting on the Mahabharata, we are attempting to escape the modern world. But my research has shown that it is completely untrue.

The Mahabharata itself is full of stories of advanced technology from divine weapons (Astras) that work like a guided missiles to Sanjay's capacity to see far away like a satellite feed. Our ancient ancestors were concerned about the morality of technology rather than being afraid of it. We must explain the concept that tradition and advancement are mutually exclusive.

In reality, Indian Knowledge Systems provides the perfect operating system for modern technology. While the West often builds technology first and thinks about the consequences later, the Indian model suggests we should have the ethical framework (the Dharma) ready before we release the power. Watching the series today on a digital platform like JioHotstar is actually a perfect example of this intersection. The technology is new, but the content is eternal. By demystifying these myths, we show that Indian Knowledge Systems isn't a "rejection" of Artificial Intelligence, but a way to make it more human, more responsible, and more sustainable for the future of India.

Substantive Management Implications: Leading with Vidura Niti

Finally, for a paper aimed at Taylor & Francis, we must address the "substantive management implications" of our research. How does a leader in a modern, Artificial Intelligence -driven company use the lessons of the Mahabharat?

Vidura Niti holds the key. The only person who consistently spoke the truth to power and even when it was uncomfortable, was Prime Minister Vidura. In a modern organization, the

Vidura is the Ethics Officer or the Data Auditor. Management must ensure that their chariot (the company) is not just driven by Duryodhana-like greed for efficiency and profit, but by a "Yudhishthira-like" commitment to truth and responsibility.

Managers should use Artificial Intelligence to help with "policy analytics" or "hiring," but they must always leave room for the human pause—that moment where they ask if the AI's recommendation aligns with the company's ethical duty. By rooting governance in Dharma, organizations can move toward a model of "Responsibility-based AI" that protects culture and society while still being technically advanced.

Comparative Analysis: Dharmic Ethics VS Artificial Intelligence

To understand the Necessary Negotiation between technology and traditions. Let's have a look at the foundation of how decisions are made. When I compare the Mahabharata and Artificial Intelligence and I will depict here two different what of seeing the world.

The Foundation: Data vs. Ethics

The most fundamental difference is what the power of each system. The Mahabharata follows an ethical model based on Dharma. It is based on human wisdom and it is extremely sensitive to the unique context of a situation. In the episodes of the Mahabharata, I see that Krishna never gives a simple yes or no answer instead of he always analyses the why and who and the timing. But modern Artificial Intelligence is following a data-driven model. It makes decisions using mathematical patterns, algorithmic logic, and statistical predictions. The Mahabharata see the world as a web of human experiences and responsibilities and on the other hand Artificial Intelligence perceives it as numbers.

The Process: Wisdom vs. Efficiency

The traditional knowledge is adaptable and changes according to the circumstances. But Artificial Intelligence uses algorithmic logic which can be quite inflexible. This is the difference between in Efficiency and wisdom-based knowledge. For example, in the episodes of the Mahabharata I watched on JioHotstar that a character may decide to take a more difficult and painful path because it is the right thing to do. But on the other hand, an Artificial Intelligence is designed to find the fastest and most efficient way to get a result. The most efficient strategy to win a game is a frequently the most immoral one just like Shakuni has shown.

Personal vs. Diffused Responsibility

Characters in the Mahabharata are held fully responsible for their decisions. Every action has a human face behind it. Arjuna must carry the weight of the battle while Bhishma must deal with the consequences of his rigorous vows. With Artificial Intelligence, accountability is often "diffused" or spread out. If a hiring algorithm or a surveillance system makes a mistake, it's hard to point to who is actually responsible. This accountability gap is one of the biggest risks of moving from the Gurukul to the Cloud.

The Ultimate Goal: The Right Action

This is the core of the study. What is the proper course of action, the Mahabharata ask? What is the most effective course of action, AI asks? Efficiency is about speed, but right action is about the long-term good of society. India has a unique opportunity to lead the world by ensuring that our modern technological efficiency is always guided by the ancient concept of Dharma.

Challenges: Bias, Empathy, and the "Human Gap"

The Mahabharata cautions us about Artificial Intelligence's significant blind spots despite its immense power. In today's environment, we frequently believe that just because a computer is making a decision, it must be just. But the truth is that there are a number of issues facing Artificial Intelligence that can be resolved with the help of traditional Indian Knowledge.

The Lack of Moral Hesitation

In this section I want to depict that in the Mahabharata watching the characters struggle with moral dilemma before making a crucial choice is one of the most moving parts of the episodes. Think about Arjuna on the Kurukshetra battlefield that he is not only fighting because it his job. He pauses and asks a question, which he is worries about the consequences. Artificial Intelligence lacks this hesitancy. It is designed for speed and efficiency and not for pausing to consider if a decision is genuinely correct. This creates a huge gap in responsibility and ethical ambiguity. Without a human pause Artificial Intelligence can make cold and calculating decision that do genuine harm.

Algorithmic injustice and bias

In Artificial Intelligence, bias is a common term used to describe situations in which a system makes unfair conclusions depending on the facts it was provided. This can lead to algorithmic injustice in which a computer software treats individuals unfairly. The Mahabharata tells us

that context is more important than context is more important than strict regulation. The episodes show that how, depending on the Dharma of the time and the same behaviour and attitude might be good in another. Artificial Intelligence does not understand this depth and it only follows fixed patterns. If we do not take caution then we risk the possibility of establishing a world of cultural degradation in which a universal digital logic replaces our own unique values.

The Lack of Empathy

The biggest obstacle is the lack of emotional intelligent in Artificial Intelligence. It lacks the empathy and an understanding of human pain. Even the villain in the programs you saw occasionally had human feeling or regrets. But an Artificial Intelligence doesn't feel anything. It can process knowledge at a massive scale, but it can't feel the weight of that knowledge.

The Risk of Misused Power

Unquestionably, we all have to keep in mind the risk of power that is completely lacking of the morality. Also, I have seen in the Mahabharata that in which misuse of the power that leads to the terrible conflict, which nearly wipes out everyone. In our world, this looks like surveillance risks and the amplification of inequality. If we don't ensure that our "efficiency" is guided by "Dharma," we might find ourselves in a modern-day Kurukshetra where the technology we built ends up turning against our own values.

CONCLUSION: Towards a "Dharmic AI" for India's Future

As we conclude this exploration of "Necessary Negotiations" between Indian Knowledge Systems and Artificial Intelligence, one thing is clear: technology alone is not enough. We have seen how the shift from a "Knowledge Civilization" to a data-driven society risks losing the very soul of what it means to learn and grow. An Artificial Intelligence is capable of processing massive amounts of information and identifying patterns more quickly than any human, but it lacks the Dharma's ethical wisdom to know how to use that knowledge.

The Mahabharata's incidents have demonstrated that the most crucial questions are not what we can accomplish but rather what we should do. We may see a clear road forward by presenting Artificial Intelligence principles onto figures such as Krishna, Arjuna and Sanjaya. India has a unique civilization that has the chance to lead the world discussion on tech ethics. We may develop a Dharmic Artificial Intelligence framework based on responsibility, social justice and fairness rather than just adopting the West's emphasis on speed and efficiency.

In order to follow this future pathway, we should develop ethical datasets and Artificial Intelligence policies that protect rather than destroy our culture. We need to make sure that the same feeling of responsibility that Krishna taught on the battlefield informs our government and educational systems.

At the end of the day, technology may ultimately reimagine our knowledge system but their course must be decided by ethics. The Mahabharata serves as a reminder that the right action is the only thing that really matters even in a world of full advanced weapons and complex data. As we all go into this digital era so let's make sure that we are not just building smarter machines but also, we are creating a more intelligent society that while utilizing data that keeping its origins in mind.

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