

The Ethical Framework Of Bhagavad Gita And Artificial Intelligence: A Philosophical Study

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This research article presents the intersection of ethics within artificial intelligence (AI) and inspired by the learning's of Bhagavad Gita from a philosophical standpoint. This paper describes the main ethical question that arises from the advancement and utilization of intelligent systems. Bhagavad Gita the most sacred text offers profound insights into ethical predicament, how to harmonize desire, emotions in order to live harmonious life, and the pursuit of righteous deeds and also the root cause of ethical failure .

The core ideas of this research work is to focus in the fundamental principles of the Bhagavad Gita including moral and ethical foundation of life, dharma, quest for self-realisation, nature, and various forms of yoga. These principles establish groundwork for contemplating on AI ethics including responsibility, liability, and the effect of AI decision- making on society. This paper also investigates on how with ethical principles AI progress can be harmonized like compassion, non – harm, and the pursuit of truth as sanctioned in the Bhagavad Gita. It also examines the ethical quandary in AI, deliberating on how principles inspired by the Gita can guide ethical decision making frameworks for AI scholars, innovators, and policymakers. This article posits by connecting Eastern philosophical wisdom with contemporary AI ethics, this analysis seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive and culturally inclusive approach to addressing the ethical quandaries of AI within a swiftly evolving technological environment.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Bhagavad Gita, Moral and Ethical Values, Society.

Introduction

Ethics is the philosophical study of morality. It is one of the main branches of philosophy that fits into the traditional philosophical triangulation of formal, natural, and moral philosophy. The study of ethics focuses on what human behavior should be in relation to duty, fairness, right, and certain qualities. For Socrates, the quest for happiness involved cultivating virtues like wisdom, courage, moderation, and justice rather than pursuing transient pleasures or flimsy desires. He thought that in order to experience true happiness that transcends the effects

of the outside world, one must lead a moral life that is dictated by reason and ethical standards.¹ Ignorance is the source of all wicked actions, and the proper virtue is prudence.² From the beginning, ethics can be traced back to the “RTA” of the Veda, which is also the source of dharma and karma. In this context, “dharma” and “karma” refer to human behavior and obligations, respectively, as well as the benefits and drawbacks associated with those actions. The Bhagavad Gita, one of the most significant Upanishads in Vedic literature, it is the foundation of all Vedic knowledge. The Bhagavad Gita states that leading a life that is qualitative and characterized by compassion, harmony, and tranquility is the aim of ethical teachings. The foundation of the Indian moral philosophy system is the idea that everyone has moral duties to uphold, such as serving others and acting with love, generosity, and compassion. It is highly respected for its spiritual orientation as well as its practical ethical goal. The fundamental teachings of the Bhagavad Gita have had a profound impact on moral consciousness across time. The Gita emphasizes the importance of fulfilling one’s responsibilities selflessly, without attachment to the results of actions, which has resonated with people seeking a deeper understanding of moral conduct and purpose in life. The Gita’s main contribution to modernity is its capacity to introduce diverse perspectives on development of ethical framework for individuals seeking guidance on moral conduct, spiritual growth, and the quest for inner fulfilment, making it a revered scripture with a lasting legacy worldwide.

The technology known as artificial intelligence allows computers and other technologies to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving abilities. AI may work alone or in tandem with other technologies to perform tasks that would typically require human intelligence or assistance. The main sources of ethical issues are AI’s possible effects on employment, privacy, decision-making bias, and autonomy. In order to reduce economic inequality as AI replaces some jobs, it is imperative to make investments in education and retraining. Data collection and surveillance give rise to privacy concerns, which call for strict laws to safeguard people’s rights. Fairness-aware algorithms and diverse representation in AI research are necessary to counteract the discriminatory consequences that can arise from AI algorithms that reinforce biases seen in training data. But as interest in using AI technologies for business purposes increases, so do the implications of AI ethics.

The Bhagavad Gita and Artificial Intelligence is closely related in terms of their action, ethics and consciousness. Gita imparts lessons on action based on dharma and must be performed without attachment with mainly emphasizing on moral intention. Whereas AI also employ with actions which is without attachments and not like human agent in person, in Gita with proper consciousness Arjuna doing action but in AI missing link is Consciousness and ethical awareness. This missing link between AI and Bhagavad Gita raise a philosophical question that how action can be ethical without ethical awareness and consciousness? As in Gita Arjuna facing confusion about dharma in the same way humanity facing in present times the ethical

¹Plato, *The Republic and The Dialogues of Plato*, translated by Benjamin Jowett (Vintage Books, 1991), pp. 50-100.

²Radhakrishnan, S., and Moore, C.A. *A Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy*. Princeton University Press, 1957, pp. 220-245.

dilemmas in rapidly advancing and utilization of AI. Issues highlighting like responsibility, fairness and harm. The teachings of Bhagavad Gita illuminating us that technology should be used as serving for humanity but shouldn't dominate. AI act as intelligence but without general awareness or consciousness. Thus merging Gita's ethical guidance into AI development will secure the qualities of human that are wisdom, compassion, dharma and the advancement of AI will benefit humanity rather than harming. This study explores how the ethical principle of Bhagavad Gita can show the path for responsible Artificial intelligence.

Exploring the Moral Landscape of Artificial Intelligence

AI is regarded as one of the innovative areas influencing human existence. Because of its quick advancement in the computer and technology fields, everyday life is now more independent. People enjoy better lives and have optimism for the future because to these improvements. AI's influence is quantifiable from both a micro and broad viewpoint. But now the question is: How can AI are applied in an ethical way? It has limitation on morality and no consciousness. As machines are developing based on duplicate intelligence like in driving cars, assisting in medical treatments but now question arises which is beyond the technical intelligence and deeply introspecting on morality and spirituality. Without consciousness how machine can perform action? And if it is so then who will bear the karma for this, programmer, software developer, or society at large?

Bhagavad Gita teachings impart that our main action is our intention because sometimes our intention must not be good but action turned good and sometimes intension is good but action may not be good so it is not depend on merely action but on intention. In AI it lacks consciousness how one can identify the intention of machines which is matter by nature so anything which is dead how one can identify its intention, purpose it remains ethically hollow. Accordingly it makes a move from human beings who are actual creator and users of technology must ensure that AI must harmonize with dharma which is only responsible for welfare of the beings in the society.

It creates a challenging ethical paradox that like an individual have this sense of morality but AI can reproduce of decision making but cannot truly undergo the moral responsibility like human beings do, though it is advancing but cannot choose righteously also cannot discriminate between right and wrong. It is mentioned in the Gita without consciousness intelligence is incomplete consciousness is observes while intelligence guides action wisely and rightly structuring knowledge and power with compassion and moral duty there lies a true wisdom.³ However, exploring the moral landscape of AI is exploring ethics; designing machines can only cloud our intellect but not our soul where consciousness is the property of the soul.

Ethical Teachings from the Bhagavad Gita: Insights for Modern Life

One could consider the Bhagavad Gita to be an ethical treatise. The Bhagavad Gita speaks quite effectively on the evolution of Indian moral philosophy here. The intrinsic moral

³ Prabhupada.A.C.Bhaktivedanta Swami, Bhagavad-gita As It Is. Shloka-2.42-43

philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita is its primary characteristic. It is abundantly evident from reading the Bhagavad Gita that our conduct should be motivated by both individual and societal emancipation. It is known from the spiritual truths of the Bhagavad Gita and Lord Krishna's teachings that morality requires inner purity rather than just external behavior. Nishkama karma, which maintains that the lessons of the Gita advise us to carry out the deed as a duty without the desire, is the essence of ethics in the Bhagavad Gita. On the hand the actions of artificial intelligence is for social good but not for human liberation.⁴

Bhagavad Gita offers moral path for the rapidly growing and administration of AI systems. Like, projecting AI by following the ethical principles for collective welfare as foundational goals rather than focussing only in the corporate benefit, efficiency or individual convenience alone. If this practised than it could be less harm which will further aided in minimising social inequalities and make decisions rightly to uphold the justice and truth to all beings of the society. The Gita's ethics is much needed in the AI policies for both developers and institution so that it ensures benefits for whole rather than harming or exploiting weakness in the application for corporate gain. According to Bhagavad Gita, an action must be done selflessly without the attachment of the result if this is implemented in AI designers then they would focus on long term benefit than the short term benefit. In this sense, Gita-inspired ethics aligns technical advancement with moral and spiritual principles by transforming AI from a purely utilitarian instrument into a means of promoting societal responsibility, moral accountability, and compassionate action.

Exploring the capable of machine consciousness

Machine awareness is the term used to describe the machine's potential. In order to obey rules and make decisions while processing data, machines rely on algorithms. It is conscious that it is independent of its surroundings. It is entirely up to its own judgment. All artificial intelligence (AI) systems function solely through programming, and decisions are made by the code rather than by conscious mind. Machine consciousness is not free from its limitations. Though AI succeeded in simulating decision making based on algorithm but the actual subjective experience cannot feel. AI cannot truly comprehend the right and wrong and it is purely remains with human being. AI is completely dependent on algorithm and data and cannot generate of its own wisdom independently like human beings do. AI also lacks in creativity and intuition as human beings do. Like human beings learning from experience machines cannot learn through lived experience.⁵

Consciousness, which is crucial to understanding, is defined as the subjective experience that individuals have in relation to events, including memories, emotions, and sensory experiences. Although it is true that computers are amazing devices, their ability to play games, develop access programs, and perform other tasks depends on the person who created the machine's

⁴Prabhupada, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami. *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*. The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1983, pp. 100-150.

⁵ Wendell Wallach's *Moral Machines: Teaching Robots Right From Wrong*, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 42.

programming. This trait is not inherent in a machine. Additionally, consciousness plays additional roles in which it experiences pain, pleasure, feelings, emotions etc. The literature of Vedanta states that every living thing, from micro-organisms to individuals differs in their level of consciousness. Researchers and consumers frequently express amazement at the apparent human-like intelligence displayed by AI systems like Chat GTP. When responding in ways that seem indistinguishable from those of a human conversation partner, the user perceives it as conscious and aware. AI doesn't see the world the same way humans do; it just receives facts. Since the embodied, embedded information that is typical of our sensory interactions with the outside world is absent from AI inputs.

**यथाप्रकाशयत्येकः कृत्स्नलोकमिमंरविः ।
क्षेत्रक्षेत्रीतथाकृत्स्नंप्रकाशयतिभारत ॥३४ ॥⁶**

O son of Bharata, as the sun alone illuminates this entire universe, so does the living entity, one within the body, illuminate the entire body by consciousness.

The Bhagavad-Gītā uses the sun and sunshine as an illustration. Similar to how the sun is stationary yet illuminates the entire cosmos, a little spirit soul particle resides at the center of this body but uses consciousness to illuminate the entire body. Therefore, much as sunlight or light indicates the presence of the sun, consciousness serves as evidence of the soul's existence. There is consciousness throughout the body when the soul is within, and consciousness ends when the soul departs from the body. Any intelligent individual may easily understand this. As a result, consciousness is not a result of how matter is combined. It is the symptom of the living entity.⁷

Comparative Ethical Reflections: Gita versus AI Framework.

AI is expanding quickly across all industries. It is impossible to resist the necessity of technology. However, it is negatively affecting our ecosystem. It is throwing ecology out of balance. In addition to this, pollution is also rising and contributing to climate change. As AI becomes more prevalent in agriculture, it may lead to overuse of pesticides and fertilizers, contamination of soil and water, and damage to biodiversity. For technology and environment to coexist, the benefits of AI must be weighed against preserving our natural ecology. With AI's assistance in monitoring and predicting patterns, we may also better prepare for catastrophic weather occurrences and lessen their negative effects on the environment and society. Monitoring and analysing environmental data, such as the quality of the air and water, is also helpful in identifying problem areas and formulating focused solutions. In spite of this, AI has drawbacks as well, such as the energy needed to train and run AI algorithms. This needs

⁶ Bhagavad Gita AS it is by A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada shloka-13.34

⁷Bhagavad-gitaAs It Is, translated by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust, 1983), p. 332.

a significant quantity of energy. Because fossil fuels are frequently used to provide this energy, greenhouse gas emissions have increased.⁸

Dependency Cognitive Offloading- the core idea of Bhagavad Gita is self –sufficient and does your best which is the fundamental concept in Bhagavad Gita which in simple terms describes do your duty with dedication without being attached to the results. Also further it stressed on moral and ethical principle for human beings to work. On the other hand when people are depending completely on machine for every single thing like solving problem or decision making this leading to loss of personal ability. Over depending on AI reducing the quality of human being like they gradually restrain using their own reasoning where Gita recognizes this quality is very essential for spiritual and moral growth.⁹

Skill Erosion- if one wants to evolve both materially and spiritually then it is possible through self-discipline , practice and effort which further helps one to develop skills and virtues which is seen as the core of one's dharma with such one can develop qualities like patience, focus and perseverance this teachings imparted in Bhagavad Gita. But when people blind folded relying on excessively on digital learning or AI for problem solving or decision making then they losing inner strength because human beings rely on plans or analyses everything for human so with this one develops habit and slowly stop engaging knowledge , creativity. It's also weakening the human spirit with the qualities like self-control, wisdom and resilience which is solely depend on personal effort and mindful action. However, it is understood that AI can assist only with work but should not replace the inner discipline which is the way to mastery and self-realisation.¹⁰

Reduced Practice: According to Bhagavad Gita the two essential qualities for self-mastery and spiritual progress is Abhyasa and Titiksha. Mind, character, understanding can be strengthened through effort and struggles and with practice .But people depending on machines or AI tool losing opportunities to develop these essential qualities.by depending on machines handle challenges human restraining the process of learning through trial and error method. No doubt AI making life easier, but it is creating deep loss reducing the practice and inner growth.

High Loaded Data- Bhagavad Gita directly stresses on focus and clarity and the ability to judge and also the ability to discriminate between what is right and wrong by using intelligence. When we are highly loaded with data then we may not be able to do with clear mind because our mind is loaded with many data which ignites lots of confusion and get only scattered idea. This over load data gradually reduces our value based decisions which is very inherent quality

⁸ Negative Impacts of Artificial Intelligence and Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Benefits on Human Society V NAGARAJA1 Assistant Professor Department of Sociology 1Government Degree College, Sindhanur, Raichur district, Karnataka state, India-584128 E-mail Id: vemann.nagarj@gmail.com

⁹ Bhagavad gita As it is by A.C.Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada , 1974 page -150

¹⁰ Bhagavad gita As it is by A.C.Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada , 1974 shloka-3.25

of life. Whereas Gita imparts lesson on calm and disciplined mind which could remove confusion and reflects internally then one can work in this aspect.

Risk of Misleading Data: the primary lesson of Gita is to uphold truth and righteousness which is the very basic foundation of our conducts for living that is right knowledge and right ethical living. In present modern times it is happening often over use AI misleading the data or source of information by generating false information. Because of this we may misled to wrong actions. Gita strictly adheres to truth it further advises whatever action one is doing must be based on prescribed duties which is the moral law ground rather than just being get carried away with illusion. Gita further adds to cultivate discrimination by using intelligence and accordingly align our choices with truth and righteousness.

Diminished Memory: memory is regarded as the most fundamental element for spiritual and intellectual growth. Gita defined the memory as not just merely recalling facts but it is all about understanding one's nature of self- existence and connecting with the divine. Memory is very sacred and linked to our consciousness and thought. Also Krishna telling Arjuna that from him everything emanated like knowledge, memory, forgetfulness all emanating from the supreme personality of godhead. When a person loses memory then they also loose clarity about what is right and wrong and leads confusion and wrong action which further results in suffering. But in contrast in present modern times relying too much on AI weakening our memory power we are becoming mentally passive, and completely depending on external systems and completely avoiding inner clarity and mindfulness. Technology always drags our attention externally whereas Gita motivates inner reflection and remembrance of self.¹¹

Automated Creativity: creativity is the divine expression of the self, true creativity arises from one's inner consciousness and divine inspiration but not from just mechanical repetition and copying from somewhere. Creativity develops from uniting the knowledge, action, and devotion. Such creativity is results in betterment of the society which is upliftment for all because it truly carries sincerity and spiritual depth. In contrary AI also generates thought provoking ideas but lacks in emotional, intention and self-awareness, it fails to experience the soul's journey and the source of real artistic and intellectual creativity. Overly using AI for creative writing may weaken our inner creative discipline.

Skill Gap: in socially structured society everyone works for self-realisation and harmony which is mentioned in Bhagavad Gita, irrespective of social and material differences. In the modern day relying on AI creates skill gap. This gap is leading to social and economic inequality. The one who is advanced in using ai advancing rapidly while the others who have poor knowledge left behind so it creating inequality and imbalance in the society.in Bhagavad Gita Krishna telling Arjuna the one who is wise and intelligence must use the abilities to guide and support others and should avoid creating division in the society which will create restless

¹¹Bhagavad gita As it is by A.C.Bhaktivedanta Srila Prabhupada , 1974 shloka-2.62-63

and turbulent in the society and between people. AI can empower humanity but must be used responsibly and inclusively which will make certain for everyone's growth.

Conclusion

The main fundamental ethical ground of Bhagavad Gita is that it provides a lasting model for the present age of AI if this wisdom of Gita is practically implemented like moral responsibility aligning with detachment, self-awareness, and universal brotherhood then there will be balanced in the society. AI may ace in machine intellect but it is only spiritual wisdom which can guide it toward peace and harmony rather than domination. The Gita promotes a clear mental predisposition in all deeds rather than a rigid system of moral discipline like the law texts do. As one of the Bhagavad Gita's ethical values, ahimsa integrates human experience on all levels, meets all comprehensiveness and coherence requirements, and meets the ethical and spiritual requirements of human perfectibility.

In brief, artificial intelligence (AI) is still transforming a number of facets of human existence, such as healthcare, education, and business, but its influence on human emotions is still small and marginal. Significant understanding of the nature of emotions and the possibility of radical transformation by spiritual development are also provided by the Bhagavad Gita. People can develop emotional resilience, empathy, and inner serenity by incorporating its principles into their daily lives, which will make society more compassionate and peaceful. While artificial intelligence (AI) is a fantastic tool for technical progress, its intrinsic limit its ability to affect human emotions. With its spiritual profundity and ageless wisdom, the Bhagavad Gita continues to be a powerful source of instruction for those trying to comprehend and change their emotional terrain. By embracing its teachings, individuals can embark on a journey of self-discovery and inner fulfilment, fostering positive changes in themselves and the world around them.

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