



A Study of College Students' Attitude towards Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Special Reference to Solapur District

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DOI- 10.5281/zenodo.18374294

Abstract

This research paper investigates the attitude of college students in Solapur District towards Artificial Intelligence (AI). With rapid technological advancements, AI is increasingly influencing education, employment, healthcare, and everyday life. The study uses a descriptive research design and surveys 250 undergraduate and postgraduate students from various colleges in Solapur. The findings reveal that students generally have a positive attitude towards AI, believe in its future potential, and are optimistic about AI-based career opportunities. However, concerns about job displacement and ethical implications were also observed. The study concludes with recommendations for curriculum reforms and AI awareness initiatives.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Students' Attitude, Solapur District, Technology, Education, Career Prospects.

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines programmed to think and learn like humans. AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, and automation are reshaping industries worldwide. For students, AI may determine future careers, learning methodologies, and skill requirements. Students' perception and attitude towards AI influence how effectively young people prepare for emerging career paths. Solapur District, known for its educational institutions and growing IT interest, presents a relevant context to explore student attitudes toward AI. **Literature Review:**

Many researchers have studied perceptions of emerging technologies among students:

Sharma & Singh (2020) found that engineering students generally view AI positively but fear job loss due to automation.

Kumar (2021) reported that awareness of AI increases with education level.

Joshi & Patil (2022) emphasized the need to integrate AI learning into the higher education curriculum in India. However, limited research exists specifically in the Solapur region. This study fills that gap.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess the level of awareness of AI among students.
2. To study students' perceptions and attitudes towards AI technology.

3. To identify factors influencing students' attitudes.

4. To suggest educational strategies to enhance positive engagement with AI.

Research Methodology:

The study is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected with the help of Structured questionnaires with Likert-scale statements. Descriptive research designed is used with survey approach for the study. A sample size of 250 students selected from all college students from various colleges in Solapur District using stratified random sampling method.

Limitations of the Study:

1. Sample Size: Limited to 250 students; results may not represent all colleges.
2. Regional Scope: Only Solapur District was covered.
3. Self-Reported Data: Possibility of response bias.

Data Collection

Primary data was from one hundred technical students and one hundred fifty non-technical students' data was collected. Secondary data was collected from Books, journals, online research sources, college records. Collected data was tabulated and analysed using simple percentage method. Further simple statistical tools like mean and standard deviation and chi-square is used to analyse and test the data.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:**Table 1: Awareness of Artificial Intelligence among Students**

Awareness Level	Number of Students	Percentage
Highly Aware	80	32%
Moderately Aware	120	48%
Slightly Aware	40	16%
Not Aware	10	4%
Total	250	100%

Interpretation

The table indicates that a significant majority of students (80%) are either highly or moderately aware of Artificial Intelligence. Only a small

proportion (4%) reported having no awareness, suggesting that AI has already penetrated students' academic and social environments in Solapur District.

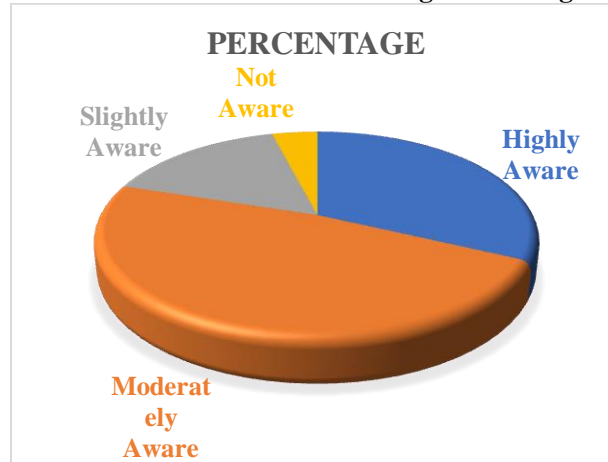
Figure 1: Awareness of Artificial Intelligence among Students**Interpretation:**

Figure 1 visually represents students' awareness levels regarding Artificial Intelligence. The highest number of students fall under the "Moderately

Aware" category, followed by "Highly Aware," indicating that although students are familiar with AI, there is scope for deeper understanding through structured education.

Table 2: Attitude of Students towards Artificial Intelligence

Attitude Category	Number of Students	Percentage
Positive	145	58%
Neutral	75	30%
Negative	30	12%
Total	250	100%

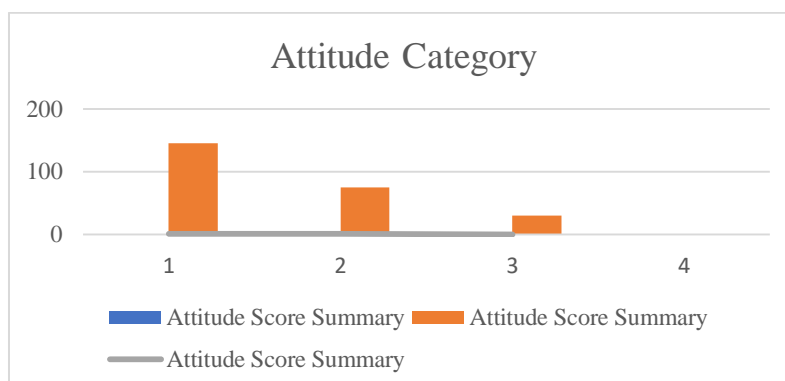
Interpretation

The data reveals that more than half of the respondents (58%) have a positive attitude towards Artificial Intelligence. A considerable section (30%)

remains neutral, while only 12% exhibit a negative attitude. This indicates general acceptance of AI among students, with limited resistance.

Figure 2: Students' Attitude towards Artificial Intelligence

Figure 2 highlights students' attitudes towards AI. The dominance of the positive category reflects optimism regarding AI's usefulness in education and future careers. However, the presence of neutral and negative attitudes indicates concerns related to job security and ethical implications.



Interpretation:

Figure 2 highlights students' attitudes towards AI. Most students (58%) have a positive attitude toward AI. The dominance of the positive category reflects optimism regarding AI's usefulness in education and future careers. However, the presence of neutral and negative attitudes indicates concerns related to job security and ethical implications.

Chi-Square Test

Hypothesis Tested: Awareness level is associated with educational background.

Result: χ^2 calculated > χ^2 table value → Significant association.

Conclusion: Technical students show higher AI awareness than non-technical students.

The Chi-Square test reveals a statistically significant association between students' awareness of Artificial Intelligence and their attitude towards AI. This indicates that as awareness of AI increases, students tend to develop a more positive attitude towards AI. Hence, awareness plays a crucial role in shaping students' perception and acceptance of Artificial Intelligence.

Major Findings

1. High AI Awareness: 80% of students are aware of AI concepts.
2. Positive Attitude: 58% displayed a positive attitude toward AI.
3. Career Optimism: Most students believe AI offers future job prospects.
4. Concerns About Jobs: Some students worry about job displacement.
5. Technical vs Non-Technical: Technical students have better AI understanding.

Suggestions:

1. AI Curriculum Integration: Include AI fundamentals in college courses.
2. Workshops and Training: Organize regular AI seminars and hands-on workshops.
3. Career Guidance: Introduce AI-related career counselling cells.
4. Industry Interface: Promote industry collaborations for real AI exposure.

Conclusion

The study shows that students in Solapur District generally hold a positive attitude toward AI. They are optimistic about the opportunities AI presents but remain concerned about job displacement. Enhanced educational support and practical exposure can strengthen positive attitudes and prepare students for AI-driven careers.

References

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