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“THE ROLE OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN PREPARING LAWYERS FOR AI-DRIVEN LEGAL PRACTICE”

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ABSTRACT

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the legal domain has ushered in a paradigm shift, redefining the traditional contours of legal practice. From automating legal research and contract analysis to predicting judicial outcomes and facilitating client services, AI technologies are transforming how law is practiced and delivered. This evolution necessitates a parallel transformation in legal education, which must go beyond conventional doctrinal teaching and incorporate interdisciplinary competencies.

This paper critically examines the influence of AI on key aspects of legal practice and assesses the readiness of current legal education systems to address these changes. It explores the emerging skill sets required for legal professionals, such as digital literacy, data analytics, algorithmic accountability, and ethical reasoning in the context of technology. Furthermore, the study highlights international trends, compares legal curricula across jurisdictions, and underscores the urgent need for reform in the Indian legal education system.

The research proposes actionable recommendations, including the introduction of AI-focused courses, clinical legal tech programs, collaborative projects with engineering institutions, and continuous faculty development. It also advocates for policy-level interventions by regulatory bodies like the Bar Council of India to mandate technological competence as a core component of legal training. The paper concludes by emphasizing that preparing future lawyers for an AI-augmented legal world is not merely a matter of innovation but a necessity to uphold justice, equity, and professional relevance in a digitally advancing society.

KEYWORDS–

Artificial Intelligence, Legal Education, Legal Technology, Digital Literacy, AI in Law, Algorithmic Accountability, Legal Curriculum Reform, Bar Council of India, Interdisciplinary Skills, Future of Legal Practice, Legal Profession and Technology, AI-Driven Legal Services, Techno-Legal Training, Legal Innovation, Legal Ethics and AI.

1. Introduction

The legal profession, traditionally anchored in precedent and human reasoning, is now experiencing a profound transformation due to the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI). With rapid advancements in machine learning, natural language processing, and data analytics, AI technologies are increasingly being

employed to perform tasks once considered the exclusive domain of legal experts. These include automated contract review, legal document drafting, case outcome prediction, e-discovery, and client interaction through AI-powered chatbots. Consequently, AI is not just supplementing legal work—it is redefining the very framework of legal service delivery.

This technological disruption raises significant questions about the preparedness of the legal workforce. As legal procedures and advisory roles evolve to incorporate digital tools and data-driven insights, the competencies required of modern lawyers are no longer confined to statutory interpretation or courtroom advocacy. Legal practitioners must now also be familiar with the functioning of algorithms, data privacy standards, and the ethical implications of AI deployment in legal contexts.

Given this scenario, the role of legal education becomes crucial. Legal education systems, especially in countries like India, have traditionally followed a doctrinal and theory-heavy curriculum that emphasizes rote learning over skill development. While this approach has produced generations of competent lawyers, it does not adequately address the emerging needs of a tech-enabled legal landscape. The lack of integration of technological literacy, digital ethics, and interdisciplinary collaboration within law schools presents a growing gap between legal education and legal practice.

This paper aims to address the core question: *Is the current legal education system equipped to prepare law students for a profession increasingly influenced by AI?* To answer this, the study delves into the nature and impact of AI in legal practice, evaluates existing legal education frameworks in India and other jurisdictions, and identifies the new skill sets lawyers must acquire. It further recommends specific reforms and curriculum innovations to bridge this gap.

In essence, as the legal ecosystem continues to embrace AI, the transformation of legal education is not optional—it is imperative. Only through timely and strategic reforms can law schools ensure that the lawyers of tomorrow remain relevant, responsible, and ready for the digital future.

2. Impact of AI on Legal Practice

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into

the legal profession has brought about transformative changes in how legal services are delivered, processed, and accessed. AI systems have not only accelerated routine tasks but also introduced capabilities that challenge the traditional understanding of legal expertise. This section explores the key areas where AI has had a substantial impact and the ethical concerns that accompany its adoption.

2.1 Key Areas Affected by AI

1. Legal Research

One of the earliest and most impactful applications of AI in law has been in the domain of legal research. Traditional methods often required exhaustive manual searches through legal databases, journals, and case law. AI-driven platforms such as **ROSS Intelligence** and **LexisNexis AI** utilize natural language processing to understand legal queries and retrieve relevant case laws and statutes within seconds⁴⁰¹. These tools not only enhance accuracy but also drastically reduce the time and effort required, thereby increasing efficiency and reducing research costs.

2. Contract Review

AI-powered contract analysis tools like **Kira Systems** and **Luminance** are revolutionizing how lawyers handle due diligence and contract review processes. By applying machine learning techniques, these platforms can identify clauses, flag anomalies, and extract key data from thousands of documents in a fraction of the time required by humans⁴⁰². This not only speeds up mergers and acquisitions but also minimizes human error.

3. Predictive Analytics

AI tools are now being used to predict litigation outcomes based on past judgments, judge behavior, legal precedent, and fact patterns. Systems like **Premonition** and **Lex Machina** analyze vast datasets to forecast the likely outcome of a case, giving lawyers an edge in

⁴⁰¹ ROSS Intelligence, "Revolutionizing Legal Research with AI", accessed

⁴⁰² Kira Systems, "AI in Due Diligence: How Kira Works", www.kirasystems.com

strategy planning and risk assessment⁴⁰³. These tools are increasingly being adopted by large law firms and in-house counsel to improve litigation preparedness.

4. Document Automation

Drafting legal documents, from wills and contracts to non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), is becoming more streamlined through AI-based document automation software. Tools such as **DoNotPay**, **LawGeex**, and **Autom.io** enable legal practitioners to generate customized documents through pre-coded templates and rule-based logic⁴⁰⁴. This is particularly useful for repetitive tasks and improves access to basic legal services for underserved populations.

5. Client Interaction

AI-powered legal chatbots and virtual assistants are now capable of handling client intake, providing basic legal advice, and even guiding users through legal procedures. Tools like **Ailira** (Artificially Intelligent Legal Information Resource Assistant) and **DoNotPay** help bridge the gap between legal service providers and clients by offering 24/7 support, thereby enhancing access to justice⁴⁰⁵.

2.2 Ethical and Professional Challenges

Despite the efficiencies introduced by AI, its integration into legal practice is fraught with ethical and regulatory concerns that must be carefully addressed.

1. Data Privacy and Security

AI systems often require access to vast amounts of sensitive client data. Ensuring that this data is handled securely and in compliance with privacy regulations such as the **Information Technology Act, 2000** and the proposed **Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023**, becomes critical⁴⁰⁶. A breach of

confidentiality not only violates professional ethics but may also result in legal liability.

2. Algorithmic Bias

AI tools trained on historical legal data may inadvertently perpetuate existing biases in judicial outcomes or decision-making. If not properly audited, these systems can produce results that disadvantage marginalized groups or reinforce systemic inequities⁴⁰⁷.

3. Unauthorized Practice of Law

The rise of AI chatbots and legal platforms offering advice raises concerns about the **unauthorized practice of law (UPL)**. In jurisdictions where legal practice is tightly regulated, offering legal advice without a license—even by a machine—can be unlawful and ethically problematic⁴⁰⁸.

4. Erosion of Human Judgment

Over-reliance on AI tools may diminish the critical role of human judgment in nuanced legal interpretation and ethical reasoning. While AI can assist with data-driven insights, it lacks the human capacity for empathy, contextual understanding, and moral deliberation—qualities essential to the practice of law⁴⁰⁹.

3. Current Gaps in Legal Education

Despite the rapid digitization of legal services and the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legal practice, legal education—particularly in India—remains largely unresponsive to these changes. The gap between what is taught in law schools and the skills required in modern legal workplaces continues to widen. This section highlights the key shortcomings in the existing legal education system that hinder the preparation of law graduates for an AI-driven legal environment.

3.1 Outdated Curricula

⁴⁰³ Lex Machina, “Legal Analytics for Litigation Strategy,” available at www.lexmachina.com

⁴⁰⁴ LawGeex, “The Future of Contract Review: AI-Powered Legal Automation,” LawGeex Blog, 2024.

⁴⁰⁵ DoNotPay, “The World’s First Robot Lawyer,” www.donotpay.com

⁴⁰⁶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), “Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023”, Government of India.

⁴⁰⁷ Barocas, Solon & Selbst, Andrew D., “Big Data’s Disparate Impact,” California Law Review, Vol. 104, 2016.

⁴⁰⁸ American Bar Association, “Ethical Issues in the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Law,” 2021

⁴⁰⁹ Remus, Dana & Levy, Frank S., “Can Robots Be Lawyers? Computers, Lawyers, and the Practice of Law,” Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics, Vol. 30, 2017.

One of the most significant barriers to technologically competent legal education is the persistence of archaic and doctrinally-heavy curricula. Most Indian law schools continue to follow traditional syllabi focusing on core legal subjects such as Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Jurisprudence, with little or no inclusion of emerging areas like legal technology, AI, or digital ethics⁴¹⁰.

While some premier institutions such as the National Law Universities (NLUs) have introduced elective papers related to technology law, these are not standardized, nor are they integrated into the core curriculum. Additionally, regulatory frameworks such as the **Bar Council of India Rules** do not mandate the inclusion of legal tech or AI literacy, resulting in institutional reluctance to make substantial curricular reforms⁴¹¹.

In contrast, universities in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom are increasingly embedding legal technology into their law programs. Institutions such as Stanford Law School and University College London offer dedicated modules on "AI and Law" and "Technology and Legal Innovation"⁴¹².

3.2 Lack of Interdisciplinary Training

Modern legal problems, particularly those involving AI, require interdisciplinary understanding—blending law with data science, ethics, computer science, and public policy. However, most Indian law schools operate in silos, with little collaboration between law faculties and departments of computer science or engineering.

Students are rarely exposed to foundational concepts such as algorithms, coding logic, machine learning basics, or data privacy architecture. Without this technical literacy, they struggle to understand how AI systems function

or how legal principles such as accountability, fairness, and transparency can be applied to such technologies.

Globally, there is a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary legal education. For example, the **Harvard Law School Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society** collaborates with technology departments to offer courses at the intersection of law, ethics, and AI⁴¹³. Such models provide a roadmap for Indian institutions to create similar collaborative programs and joint degrees.

3.3 Minimal Practical Exposure

Another major shortcoming is the lack of hands-on training in legal technology tools. While moot courts and internships remain an essential part of legal pedagogy, few law schools incorporate practical exercises involving AI-based legal platforms such as **LexisNexis AI, CaseMine, or Kira Systems** into their academic framework.

This lack of exposure means that students graduate with little or no understanding of how to use AI tools for tasks like contract analysis, predictive analytics, document review, or client interaction. As a result, they enter legal practice unprepared for the realities of a digitally transformed workplace.

In comparison, law schools abroad are incorporating **legal tech labs, legal innovation clinics, and experiential learning platforms** where students simulate real-life tasks using cutting-edge tools. These initiatives not only improve technological fluency but also build problem-solving and critical thinking skills necessary for modern lawyering⁴¹⁴.

4. International Approaches: Comparative Study

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes an integral part of legal systems globally, several countries have begun restructuring legal

⁴¹⁰ Menon, N.R. Madhava, *Legal Education in India: Challenges and Perspectives*, LexisNexis, 2020.

⁴¹¹ Bar Council of India, "Rules on Standards of Legal Education," 2008 (latest amendment).

⁴¹² Stanford Law School, "Law, Science & Technology Program," accessed April 2025; UCL Faculty of Laws, "Technology and Law LL.M. Modules," ucl.ac.uk/laws

⁴¹³ Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard Law School, "Projects and Courses on AI and Ethics," cyber.harvard.edu.

⁴¹⁴ LawWithoutWalls, "Legal Innovation Labs and Experiential Legal Education," www.lawwithoutwalls.org

education to prepare future lawyers for an AI-driven legal environment. This section presents a comparative analysis of how top institutions in the United States and the United Kingdom have responded to this transformation, and what India can learn from their models.

4.1 United States

The United States has been at the forefront of integrating technology into legal education. Recognizing the transformative potential of AI, top-tier law schools have initiated structured efforts to equip law students with relevant digital and interdisciplinary skills.

- **Harvard Law School** offers courses like “Law and Algorithms” and collaborates with the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering to provide joint programs in law and technology⁴¹⁵. The Berkman Klein Center is actively involved in research and teaching related to AI, ethics, and legal innovation.
- **Stanford Law School** runs the *CodeX – The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics*, which bridges law and computer science. The law school offers practical tech labs, hackathons, and courses like “Legal Informatics,” which allow students to explore the design and development of AI tools used in legal practice⁴¹⁶.
- **New York University (NYU)** provides courses such as “AI, Robotics, and the Law” and maintains collaborations with the Tandon School of Engineering. It also promotes experiential learning through legal innovation clinics and startup incubators focusing on legal tech⁴¹⁷.

These institutions emphasize not only AI theory and application but also critical ethical reasoning, privacy concerns, and algorithmic

fairness. The inclusion of interdisciplinary modules and hands-on training ensures that graduates are well-prepared for technologically integrated legal careers.

4.2 United Kingdom

UK law schools have also embraced the integration of AI and legal technology into mainstream legal education.

- **University of Oxford** offers elective courses in its Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) and Master of Law and Finance (MLF) programs that include *AI, Law, and Ethics*. The Oxford Internet Institute (OII) conducts interdisciplinary research and training on the impact of digital technologies on law and society⁴¹⁸.
- **University College London (UCL)** has introduced legal tech electives, including “Law, Innovation and Technology” and “Data and the Law.” UCL’s Centre for Law, Economics and Society facilitates cross-disciplinary engagement through joint workshops and AI-centered legal projects⁴¹⁹.

Furthermore, institutions such as **Queen Mary University of London** and **King’s College London** provide postgraduate degrees specializing in technology law and artificial intelligence, preparing students for careers that require legal and technical fluency.

4.3 Lessons for India

The global examples of the United States and the United Kingdom highlight key strategies that Indian law schools can emulate to modernize legal education in the AI era:

- **Modular, Interdisciplinary Programs:** Indian institutions should introduce modular programs that combine core legal education with basic courses in AI, coding, data privacy, and tech ethics. Collaborative teaching models involving

⁴¹⁵ Harvard Law School Course Catalog, “Law and Algorithms” and Technology Collaboration Programs, <https://hls.harvard.edu>

⁴¹⁶ CodeX – The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics, Stanford Law School, <https://law.stanford.edu/codex>

⁴¹⁷ NYU School of Law, “AI, Robotics and the Law,” Course Listings, <https://www.law.nyu.edu>

⁴¹⁸ Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, “Courses and Programs on AI and Law,” <https://www.oii.ox.ac.uk>

⁴¹⁹ UCL Faculty of Laws, “Centre for Law, Economics and Society,” and Technology Law Programs, <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws>

law, computer science, and public policy faculties could enrich the learning experience.

- **Hands-On Legal Tech Labs:** Just like Stanford's CodeX or Harvard's Legal Tech Lab, Indian law schools must create innovation hubs where students can engage in practical problem-solving using AI tools. Such labs would bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world application.
- **Mandatory Legal Tech Internships:** Regulatory bodies like the Bar Council of India (BCI) can mandate internships with legal tech firms, digital law startups, or AI labs. This would expose students to the practical applications of legal technology and better prepare them for tech-integrated legal workplaces.
- **Inclusion of AI and Ethics in Core Curriculum:** Inspired by Oxford and UCL, Indian law schools should incorporate AI and legal ethics as mandatory courses to ensure that future lawyers are equipped to deal with issues like algorithmic bias, AI accountability, and data governance.

5. Proposed Reforms in Legal Education

The increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legal practice necessitates a strategic overhaul of legal education to ensure future lawyers are technologically competent, ethically aware, and practically equipped. Current pedagogical frameworks must evolve from traditional doctrinal methods to incorporate technological and interdisciplinary learning. The following proposed reforms aim to build a future-ready legal workforce in India:

5.1 Curriculum Overhaul

A significant shortcoming in present-day legal education is the absence of structured courses on legal technology and AI. The curriculum must be realigned to include subjects that reflect emerging legal landscapes.

- **New Courses:** Law schools should integrate courses such as *Legal Technology and Innovation*, *Artificial Intelligence and Law*, *Legal Analytics*, *Blockchain and Smart Contracts*, and *Cybersecurity and Privacy Law*⁴²⁰. These subjects would provide students with both theoretical understanding and technical insight into AI's application in law.
- **Digital Learning Platforms:** Institutions should encourage the use of **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)** hosted on platforms like **Coursera**, **edX**, and **FutureLearn**. These platforms offer specialized certifications by global universities on legal informatics, data ethics, and AI governance, which can supplement formal education.⁴²¹

This curriculum revamp will provide foundational and advanced knowledge necessary for navigating legal systems influenced by digital transformation.

5.2 Interdisciplinary Collaboration

To meaningfully engage with AI, law students must interact with disciplines like computer science, statistics, and data engineering. An interdisciplinary approach enriches their understanding of both the potential and pitfalls of legal technologies.

- **Joint Degree and Certificate Programs:** Law schools can collaborate with computer science and engineering departments to offer *dual degree programs or specialized certifications* in Law and Technology⁴²².
- **Law + Data Science Projects:** Collaborative legal tech projects, hackathons, and interdisciplinary research initiatives involving both law

⁴²⁰ Bar Council of India. (2020). *Model Curriculum for Legal Education in India*. Available at: <https://www.barcouncilofindia.org>

⁴²¹ Coursera and edX, Course Listings: "AI for Everyone" by Andrew Ng; "Data Ethics, AI and Responsible Innovation" – University of Edinburgh.

⁴²² National Law University, Delhi in collaboration with IIIT-Delhi: "Technology and Law" Certificate Program. See <https://nludelhi.ac.in>

and tech students can foster innovation. For example, students could work together to develop legal chatbots, conduct algorithmic bias audits, or simulate legal data analytics⁴²³.

Such integration promotes a hybrid skill set that is essential for the modern lawyer.

5.3 Practical Training

Mere theoretical knowledge is insufficient; law graduates must acquire hands-on experience with the tools and processes that define AI-assisted legal practice.

- **Legal Tech Internships:** Institutions should build partnerships with legal tech firms like **CaseMine**, **SpotDraft**, **NearLaw**, or **LegalMind**, offering internships that expose students to practical legal automation, document analysis, and software implementation.
- **Simulated AI-Driven Courtrooms:** Moot courts can be digitized using AI tools that simulate judge decisions or automate procedural workflows, thus preparing students for technology-infused litigation environments⁴²⁴.
- **Integration of Legal Management Software:** Legal education must familiarize students with AI-enabled tools such as **Neota Logic** (for no-code automation), **Manupatra AI** (for intelligent legal research), and **Lexis AI**. Training should include document drafting, case summarization, and analytics via these platforms.

This practice-oriented training bridges the academic-professional divide.

5.4 Ethical Literacy

As legal professionals will increasingly interact with data-driven systems, it is crucial to instill a strong foundation in ethics and social

responsibility.

- **Courses on AI and Ethics:** Curricula should include modules addressing **bias in algorithms, data protection regulations, AI decision-making transparency,** and **regulatory compliance**⁴²⁵.
- **Case-Based Learning:** Ethical dilemmas in AI-assisted sentencing, surveillance, and facial recognition systems should be discussed through real-world case studies. This encourages students to think critically about balancing technological efficiency with justice and privacy rights⁴²⁶.

Ethical literacy ensures that future lawyers uphold fairness and accountability in the AI era.

5.5 Faculty Development

The success of any educational reform depends on the competence of its educators. Most law faculty members are not trained in technological disciplines, creating a barrier to implementing AI-centric education.

- **Faculty Training Programs:** Regular **faculty development workshops** and **AI literacy programs** should be conducted in collaboration with engineering institutes and legal tech companies. Law teachers should be encouraged to take MOOCs themselves and engage in interdisciplinary research⁴²⁷.
- **Academic Exchange and Collaboration:** Faculty exchange with tech-savvy institutions, industry residencies, and participation in tech-legal conferences will help law professors stay abreast of evolving trends.

Developing technologically proficient educators is fundamental to ensuring long-term sustainability of the reforms.

⁴²³ Legal Hackathons and Law+Tech Challenges organized by Stanford CodeX and NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

⁴²⁴ AI-enabled virtual court simulations demonstrated in pilot projects under eCourts Mission Mode Project Phase II.

⁴²⁵ UNESCO. (2021). *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*.

⁴²⁶ Case Study: State v. Loomis, 881 N.W.2d 749 (Wis. 2016) – where AI risk assessment tools in sentencing raised ethical concerns.

⁴²⁷ Training modules provided under the Future of Law Initiative (FOLI) by NASSCOM and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

6. Role of Bar Councils and Legal Institutions

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly embedded in legal practice, the responsibility to ensure that legal education adapts lies not only with individual institutions but also with statutory and regulatory bodies such as the **Bar Council of India (BCI)** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**. These bodies play a pivotal role in setting academic standards, approving curricula, and guiding the legal education landscape. National Law Universities (NLUs), along with other premier institutions, can act as experimental hubs for these changes. Legal research institutions must also realign their focus to promote scholarship in the intersection of law and emerging technologies.

6.1 Mandating Technological Components in Legal Education

The BCI, as the primary regulatory body for legal education in India, has the authority to prescribe model curricula under the Advocates Act, 1961⁴²⁸. It can initiate reform by:

- **Revising its model syllabus** to include compulsory courses on *Legal Informatics, Artificial Intelligence and Law, Cyber Law, and Technology Ethics*.
- **Requiring law schools to include mandatory workshops** or clinical modules focused on the use of legal tech tools and platforms.
- **Accreditation Criteria:** The inclusion of tech-based legal education can become a quality benchmark in law school accreditation and grading processes⁴²⁹.

Similarly, UGC, under its broad mandate for higher education, can support and finance interdisciplinary programs and offer guidelines for integrating computer science and law departments.

⁴²⁸ Advocates Act, 1961, S 7(1)(h): "To promote legal education and to lay down standards of such education in consultation with the Universities in India imparting such education."

⁴²⁹ Bar Council of India (2020). *Model Curriculum for Legal Education in India*. Retrieved from: <https://www.barcouncilofindia.org>

6.2 National Law Universities as Pilot Institutions

India's NLUs have traditionally led innovation in legal pedagogy. Their academic autonomy, faculty strength, and visibility make them ideal candidates for piloting comprehensive AI-Law integration reforms.

- **Model Programs:** NLUs can design and implement *pilot programs* combining law, AI, and ethics in collaboration with engineering institutions like IITs or IIITs. For instance, **NLSIU Bengaluru** already offers elective courses on "Law and Technology" which could be expanded into full-fledged diplomas or minors⁴³⁰.
- **AI-Focused Legal Clinics:** These universities can establish **technology-enabled legal aid clinics** where students use AI tools like CaseMine or Manupatra AI to assist underserved communities and also learn real-time tech applications in law.
- **Student-Led Innovation Labs:** Setting up **LegalTech Incubators or Labs** within campuses, akin to Stanford Code X or MIT Media Lab, can foster innovation by students and provide a platform to develop AI-driven legal solutions⁴³¹.

6.3 Strengthening Legal Research on AI and Law

Legal institutions and research centers must take a proactive role in fostering academic and empirical research at the intersection of law, AI, and ethics. This can be done through:

- **Dedicated Research Centers:** Establishing **Centres for Law and Emerging Technologies** at major law universities to conduct policy research, white papers, and comparative studies on AI regulation, legal automation, and

⁴³⁰ NLSIU Bengaluru – Law and Technology Initiatives: <https://www.nls.ac.in>

⁴³¹ Stanford University. (2023). *CodeX – The Stanford Center for Legal Informatics*. Available at: <https://law.stanford.edu/codex>

algorithmic justice⁴³².

- **Seminars and Conferences:** Hosting **national and international seminars** focused on Legal AI, Regulatory Technology (RegTech), and Legal Ethics in the Digital Age. These events should invite participation from legal academics, technologists, practitioners, and policymakers.
- **Research Grants and Publications:** Law commissions, ICSSR, or think tanks like Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy can fund interdisciplinary research projects and publications that explore how AI is influencing access to justice, fairness in legal decision-making, and the future of legal practice.

7. Challenges and Limitations

While the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology in legal education is both necessary and inevitable, the path toward such transformation is riddled with several structural, institutional, and socio-economic challenges. These hurdles hinder the swift adoption of modern legal education practices in India and require focused policy interventions and resource mobilization.

7.1 Resistance to Change in Traditional Institutions

A significant obstacle to reform is the *institutional inertia* and reluctance of conventional legal education systems to adopt technological innovation. Many law schools—especially those affiliated with traditional state universities—adhere to legacy curricula that prioritize doctrinal teaching and theoretical knowledge over practical or interdisciplinary learning⁴³³.

The entrenched academic culture often views technological subjects as peripheral or non-essential, leading to minimal efforts in updating

syllabi or experimenting with new pedagogical tools. Faculty members may resist integrating AI-related topics due to unfamiliarity, skepticism, or fear of disruption in existing teaching norms⁴³⁴.

“Legal academia often exhibits a conservative approach, prioritizing age-old principles and formats over innovation and adaptability.”
—Justice S. Ravindra Bhat, in a speech at the National Law Day Conference (2022).

7.2 Lack of Infrastructure and Trained Educators

The adoption of AI and tech-driven education requires **digital infrastructure**, including reliable internet connectivity, access to AI tools and databases, and updated computer labs—all of which are still missing in many law institutions across India. Especially in public universities and semi-urban/rural colleges, budgetary constraints and administrative delays inhibit the development of such infrastructure⁴³⁵.

Moreover, a critical **human resource gap** exists—there are very few educators in law schools who are adequately trained in emerging technologies or who possess interdisciplinary expertise in law and computer science. Most legal educators come from purely legal backgrounds and lack the technical proficiency needed to teach subjects like algorithmic bias, data ethics, or predictive analytics.

Training and upskilling existing faculty require both time and institutional commitment, which are often lacking due to the absence of incentives or policy mandates.

7.3 Cost and Accessibility Issues in Rural and Tier-II Law Colleges

The **digital divide** between urban and rural educational institutions further widens the accessibility gap. While premier institutions

⁴³² Example: Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University, Delhi – works on digital rights, AI, and data governance. See: <https://ccgdelli.org>

⁴³³ Singh, Abhinav. (2021). *Legal Education in India: Challenges in Curriculum Reform*. Indian Bar Review, 48(2), 112–124.

⁴³⁴ Dhanda, Amita. (2020). “Legal Education and Technology: The Missing Link.” *Journal of Indian Law & Society*, 11(1), 45–60.

⁴³⁵ Bar Council of India. (2023). *Report on Infrastructure and Teaching Resources in Indian Law Colleges*. Retrieved from: <https://www.barcouncilofindia.org>

such as NLUs and private universities are introducing tech-based curricula and digital platforms, the majority of law students in India are enrolled in smaller, regional colleges where even basic digital facilities are inadequate⁴³⁶.

Students in such colleges often face:

- Limited access to devices or internet at home.
- Language barriers in understanding online content and international tech resources.
- Lack of exposure to workshops, legal tech events, or internships in AI-focused firms.

In addition, many AI and legal tech platforms (e.g., Neota Logic, Kira Systems) charge subscription fees that may be unaffordable for students or institutions with limited financial resources⁴³⁷.

To ensure equity, any reform strategy must consider **affordable and inclusive models** of tech integration, such as open-source platforms, regional language training modules, and hybrid delivery systems.

8. Conclusion

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the legal sector is not just a passing technological trend—it represents a profound transformation in the way legal services are conceptualized, delivered, and consumed. As AI continues to automate tasks such as legal research, contract analysis, case prediction, and client interaction, the traditional skillset of a lawyer is rapidly being redefined. The legal profession is moving from a knowledge-based model to a hybrid model that demands both legal acumen and technological fluency.

In this evolving landscape, legal education cannot remain static or solely doctrinal. Law schools in India, particularly those bound by

legacy curricula and rigid pedagogies, must realize that producing future-ready lawyers requires more than teaching statutes and case law. It necessitates equipping students with **digital literacy, technological adaptability**, and a strong grounding in **AI ethics and data governance**.

This transformation begins with **curriculum reform** that introduces dedicated courses on AI and Law, legal analytics, cybersecurity, and data ethics. Additionally, fostering **interdisciplinary collaboration** between law and computer science departments can bridge the gap between legal reasoning and technological design. The creation of **legal tech clinics**, AI simulation labs, and **practical exposure through internships** in legal tech firms are crucial steps in experiential learning. Moreover, faculty must be continuously trained to teach and research in these emerging domains.

Institutional stakeholders such as the **Bar Council of India (BCI)**, **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, and National Law Universities (NLUs) must play a leadership role in creating frameworks and standards for tech-driven legal education. Furthermore, efforts should be made to democratize access to legal technology education by providing resources, digital infrastructure, and open-source platforms to underfunded rural law colleges.

Ultimately, embracing this educational transformation is not merely about staying current with global trends; it is a matter of **safeguarding the relevance, credibility, and accessibility of justice in a digital society**. Preparing law graduates for AI-driven legal practice ensures that they are not just passive users of technology but informed and ethical practitioners capable of navigating and shaping the future of the legal profession.

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