



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

An Analysis of Teachers' Perceptions Concerning Issues and Challenges in the Age of Artificial Intelligence at University of Gujrat

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Abstract

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into higher education has transformed teaching, learning, and administrative processes, offering both opportunities and challenges for educators. Understanding teachers' perceptions is critical to ensuring the effective and ethical adoption of AI technologies in universities. This study explores the perceptions of faculty members at the University of Gujrat regarding the issues and challenges associated with AI in higher education. A descriptive survey design was employed, and data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to a sample of university teachers across multiple faculties. The analysis focused on identifying concerns related to pedagogical implications, ethical dilemmas, technological readiness, and professional development needs. Findings revealed that while teachers recognized the potential of AI to enhance efficiency, personalize learning, and support research, they also expressed concerns about job security, data privacy, ethical use of algorithms, and lack of adequate institutional support and training. The study concludes that addressing these concerns through targeted training programs, policy frameworks, and infrastructural development is essential to ensure the responsible integration of AI in higher education. The results offer valuable insights for policymakers, university administrators, and teacher educators in navigating the evolving landscape of AI-driven education.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, teachers' perceptions, higher education, challenges, University of Gujrat

Background of the Study

The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has ushered in a new era of transformation in higher education, reshaping teaching, learning, and research



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

practices worldwide. AI technologies such as intelligent tutoring systems, learning analytics, automated grading, and chatbots have been increasingly integrated into university classrooms to enhance efficiency and improve personalized learning experiences (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019). Scholars argue that AI has the potential to revolutionize pedagogy by providing adaptive learning environments, supporting decision-making, and reducing teachers' administrative burden (Luckin et al., 2016).

However, despite these opportunities, the integration of AI in education also raises significant challenges and concerns. Ethical issues such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and accountability remain unresolved (Holmes et al., 2021). In addition, many teachers perceive AI as a potential threat to professional roles, fearing reduced autonomy or even job displacement (Williamson & Eynon, 2020). The lack of adequate institutional infrastructure and insufficient professional development opportunities further complicate effective adoption (Rolfe, 2021). Teachers' perceptions therefore play a decisive role in shaping the acceptance, resistance, or responsible integration of AI in universities (Akgün & Greenhow, 2022).

In the Pakistani context, the adoption of AI in education is still at a nascent stage. While national policy documents emphasize the importance of digital technologies in higher education, implementation has been uneven across institutions (Higher Education Commission [HEC], 2021). Universities, including the University of Gujrat, face challenges such as limited technical expertise, inadequate training programs for faculty, and infrastructural gaps, which hinder effective utilization of AI-based tools (Rehman & Khan, 2022). Previous studies in Pakistan have mainly focused on general digital literacy and e-learning adoption, with limited attention to teachers' perceptions about AI specifically.

This study addresses this gap by analyzing university teachers' perceptions of the issues and challenges posed by AI integration in higher education, with a particular focus on the University of Gujrat. By examining concerns related to pedagogy, ethics, professional development, and institutional readiness, the study seeks to provide insights that can inform policy, capacity-building, and responsible AI adoption in Pakistan's higher education system.



Statement of the Problem

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education is rapidly gaining momentum worldwide, offering new opportunities for teaching, learning, and research. However, in developing countries such as Pakistan, particularly at institutions like the University of Gujrat, the adoption of AI faces multiple challenges including limited technological infrastructure, inadequate training, and ethical concerns such as data privacy and algorithmic bias. Teachers, as the primary agents of instructional delivery, often express apprehensions about the implications of AI for their professional roles, autonomy, and pedagogical practices. Despite the growing discourse on AI in education, limited empirical research has explored teachers' perceptions of the issues and challenges associated with AI adoption in Pakistan's higher education context. This lack of evidence hinders the development of effective policies and capacity-building strategies. Hence, there is a pressing need to investigate how teachers at the University of Gujrat perceive AI-related opportunities and challenges to ensure responsible and contextually relevant integration of AI into higher education.

Significance of the Study

This study holds significance at both theoretical and practical levels. Theoretically, it contributes to the limited body of literature on AI adoption in higher education within Pakistan, offering empirical insights into teachers' perceptions that have largely been overlooked. Practically, the findings will assist policymakers, administrators, and teacher educators in identifying key barriers to AI adoption such as ethical concerns, skill gaps, and infrastructural constraints. Understanding these challenges will enable universities to design targeted interventions, including professional development programs, capacity-building initiatives, and supportive institutional policies. At a broader level, the study will provide a roadmap for aligning Pakistan's higher education system with global trends while addressing local realities, thereby ensuring that AI integration enhances, rather than hinders, educational quality and teacher empowerment.

Objectives of the Study

1. To explore teachers' perceptions of the opportunities and challenges of integrating AI into higher education at the University of Gujrat.



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

2. To identify key concerns related to ethical, pedagogical, and professional dimensions of AI adoption in the teaching and learning process.
3. To suggest strategies for addressing teachers' concerns and promoting responsible integration of AI in higher education institutions in Pakistan.

Research Questions

1. What are teachers' perceptions of the opportunities and challenges of AI integration in higher education at the University of Gujrat?
2. What ethical, pedagogical, and professional concerns do teachers express regarding the use of AI in teaching and learning?
3. What strategies can be proposed to address teachers' concerns and ensure effective and responsible AI integration in higher education?

Literature Review

Artificial Intelligence and Higher Education

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century, reshaping industries, economies, and education systems worldwide. In higher education, AI applications include intelligent tutoring systems, adaptive learning platforms, automated grading, plagiarism detection, chatbots, and predictive analytics for student success (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019). Scholars argue that these tools can personalize instruction, provide real-time feedback, and reduce administrative burdens on faculty, thereby enhancing the teaching–learning process (Luckin et al., 2016). However, despite the enthusiasm surrounding AI, its integration in higher education remains uneven, particularly in developing countries, where infrastructural and human resource challenges limit effective adoption (Rehman & Khan, 2022).

Teachers' Perceptions of AI

Teachers play a central role in the adoption of AI in education because their acceptance or resistance significantly influences implementation outcomes (Akgün & Greenhow, 2022). Studies reveal that many educators acknowledge the potential benefits of AI in terms of efficiency, learner engagement, and research support, but they also express concerns about job security, diminished professional autonomy, and over-reliance on technology (Holmes et al., 2021). For instance, Williamson and Eynon (2020) highlighted that teachers often perceive AI as a double-edged sword—capable of augmenting teaching practices



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

but also threatening traditional pedagogical roles. Moreover, cultural and contextual factors strongly shape how educators interpret AI; in resource-constrained environments, lack of technical expertise and insufficient training often exacerbate apprehensions (Rolfe, 2021).

Ethical and Pedagogical Challenges

The adoption of AI in education is accompanied by pressing ethical challenges. Concerns about data privacy, algorithmic transparency, bias, and accountability are widely discussed in the literature (Holmes et al., 2021). Teachers, in particular, worry about how student data are collected, stored, and used by AI systems, and whether such systems perpetuate inequities rather than mitigate them (Selwyn, 2019). Pedagogically, while AI offers adaptive learning opportunities, scholars warn against over-automation of instruction, which risks reducing human interaction and critical thinking in classrooms (Luckin et al., 2016). Thus, a balanced integration strategy is essential—one that leverages AI for routine tasks but maintains teachers' central role in guiding and mentoring students.

Institutional and Professional Development Issues

Institutional readiness is another major theme in AI-related educational research. Universities need robust digital infrastructure, supportive policies, and comprehensive training programs to enable effective AI integration (Rolfe, 2021). Yet, many institutions in developing contexts, including Pakistan, face financial constraints, lack of strategic planning, and resistance to change (Rehman & Khan, 2022). Teachers frequently report inadequate professional development opportunities that hinder their ability to engage meaningfully with AI tools (Akgün & Greenhow, 2022). The Higher Education Commission (HEC, 2021) of Pakistan has introduced digital transformation initiatives, but their execution remains inconsistent, leaving teachers without sufficient institutional support.

AI in the Pakistani Higher Education Context

In Pakistan, the discourse on educational technology has largely focused on e-learning and digital literacy, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic (Rafi et al., 2021). However, the specific role of AI in higher education has received limited scholarly attention. Research has shown that faculty members are often enthusiastic about digital innovation but face challenges including lack of



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

training, limited awareness of AI applications, and infrastructural deficiencies (Rehman & Khan, 2022). At institutions like the University of Gujrat, these challenges are particularly pronounced, making it vital to investigate how teachers perceive the promises and pitfalls of AI adoption. Without a clear understanding of educators' perceptions, efforts to integrate AI risk being superficial or unsustainable.

Gaps in Literature

The reviewed literature highlights global opportunities and challenges of AI in education but reveals several gaps relevant to this study. First, most research has been conducted in technologically advanced contexts, leaving limited insights into how teachers in developing countries perceive AI. Second, while ethical and pedagogical concerns are widely discussed, fewer studies examine the intersection of these concerns with institutional readiness in resource-constrained environments. Third, within Pakistan, empirical studies focusing specifically on teachers' perceptions of AI in higher education are scarce, particularly at the University of Gujrat. This study aims to fill these gaps by providing a localized analysis of teachers' views, challenges, and strategies for effective AI integration.

Research Methodology

This study employed a descriptive survey design using a mixed-methods approach to investigate teachers' perceptions concerning the issues and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in higher education at the University of Gujrat. The target population consisted of faculty members across various departments, from which a stratified random sample of 120 teachers was selected to ensure representation of disciplines and experience levels. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire consisting of both closed-ended items, measured on a five-point Likert scale, and open-ended questions to capture qualitative insights. The instrument was validated through expert review and pilot testing, while its reliability was confirmed using Cronbach's alpha ($\alpha = 0.87$). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, frequency, percentage) and exploratory factor analysis to identify underlying dimensions of teachers' perceptions, while thematic analysis was employed for qualitative responses. This methodological triangulation



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

ensured a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities, ethical concerns, and professional challenges associated with AI adoption in higher education.

Theoretical Framework

The study is grounded in the **Technology Acceptance Model (TAM)** (Davis, 1989) and supported by the **Diffusion of Innovations Theory** (Rogers, 2003). TAM provides a framework for examining how teachers' perceptions of AI usefulness and ease of use influence their attitudes toward adoption, while also highlighting concerns related to trust, professional autonomy, and workload. Meanwhile, the Diffusion of Innovations Theory explains how innovations such as AI spread within educational institutions, shaped by factors including relative advantage, compatibility, complexity, trialability, and observability. Together, these frameworks allow for a multidimensional analysis of teachers' perceptions—capturing not only individual acceptance of AI but also institutional and cultural factors that affect its implementation in the Pakistani higher education context.

Data Analysis and Results

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents (N = 120)

Variable	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	70	58.3
	Female	50	41.7
Teaching Experience	1–5 years	35	29.2
	6–10 years	40	33.3
	11 years & above	45	37.5
Faculty/Discipline	Social Sciences	48	40.0
	Natural Sciences	32	26.7
	Management	20	16.7
	Engineering/IT	20	16.7

The sample had a balanced gender distribution, with a slight majority of male faculty. Most participants had more than six years of teaching experience, suggesting that perceptions are drawn from seasoned educators. Faculty representation was broad, though the social sciences were most prominent, aligning with the University's departmental structure.



Table 2: Teachers' Perceptions of AI in Higher Education

Perception Statement	Mean (M)	Std. Dev. (SD)	Interpretation
AI can enhance teaching efficiency and reduce workload.	4.12	0.84	High agreement
AI tools can personalize learning for students.	3.98	0.91	High agreement
AI threatens teachers' job security in the future.	3.85	1.01	Moderate to high agreement
AI reduces human interaction in teaching-learning.	4.05	0.88	High agreement
Teachers lack adequate training to use AI tools.	4.36	0.72	Very high agreement
Ethical concerns (privacy, bias) make AI adoption risky.	4.22	0.79	High agreement

Faculty members generally recognized the potential of AI in enhancing efficiency and personalization. However, concerns regarding reduced human interaction, ethical risks, and insufficient training were strongly emphasized. The high mean scores across items indicate a cautious but critical awareness of AI among teachers.

Table 3: Factor Analysis of Teachers' Perceptions (Exploratory Factor Analysis)

Factor Extracted	Key Items Loaded	Eigenvalue	Variance Explained (%)
Pedagogical Benefits	Efficiency, personalization, improved student engagement	2.84	28.4
Ethical &	Privacy, bias, reduced	2.31	23.1



Professional Risks	autonomy, job insecurity		
Institutional Barriers	Lack of training, infrastructure limitations, weak policy support	1.97	19.7
Total Variance Explained	—	—	71.2

Exploratory factor analysis revealed three dominant dimensions shaping teachers' perceptions: pedagogical benefits, ethical/professional risks, and institutional barriers. Together, these factors explain 71.2% of the variance, confirming that while faculty see AI as beneficial for pedagogy, they remain highly concerned about ethics and institutional readiness.

Major Findings

1. Teachers acknowledge AI's potential for efficiency and personalization but are wary of its impact on human interaction and pedagogy.
2. Ethical concerns (privacy, bias, transparency) remain major barriers to acceptance.
3. Lack of training and institutional readiness are perceived as the most pressing challenges to AI adoption in Gujrat University.
4. Job insecurity and reduced professional autonomy emerged as critical concerns among faculty.
5. Overall, teachers' perceptions reflect cautious optimism — supportive of AI adoption, but contingent upon training, ethical safeguards, and institutional support.

Discussion

The findings of this study demonstrate that teachers at the University of Gujrat hold a cautiously optimistic view of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education, acknowledging its pedagogical benefits while expressing serious concerns about ethical, professional, and institutional challenges. This duality is consistent with prior research indicating that educators perceive AI as both an opportunity and a threat (Zawacki-Richter et al., 2019).

Firstly, the study revealed that teachers believe AI can enhance teaching



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

efficiency and personalize student learning experiences. This aligns with earlier studies showing that AI-powered learning analytics and adaptive systems can support individualized instruction, provide timely feedback, and increase student engagement (Holmes et al., 2019; Luckin, 2018). Similar results were found by Chen et al. (2020), who reported that higher education faculty in Asia recognized AI's potential to reduce workload and streamline administrative tasks.

However, consistent with global findings, Gujrat University teachers expressed concerns about reduced human interaction in teaching-learning processes. Previous studies argue that while AI tools may enhance efficiency, they cannot replicate the emotional, motivational, and relational aspects of teaching (Selwyn, 2019). Teachers' apprehensions in this regard echo the warnings of Aoun (2018), who stressed the importance of preserving humanistic elements of higher education in the age of automation.

Another key finding was teachers' emphasis on ethical concerns such as privacy, bias, and algorithmic transparency. This is in line with findings by Floridi and Cows (2019), who highlight the need for ethical frameworks in educational AI to address issues of fairness, accountability, and transparency. Similarly, scholars have noted that without robust ethical safeguards, AI adoption risks undermining trust among faculty and students (Williamson & Eynon, 2020).

The study also found that institutional barriers, particularly lack of training and inadequate infrastructure, were major obstacles to AI adoption. This resonates with findings from Roll and Wylie (2016), who emphasized that educators require professional development opportunities to effectively integrate AI into their teaching practices. In Pakistan's context, where digital infrastructure and faculty readiness are still evolving, these barriers are particularly pronounced (Farid et al., 2019).

Lastly, the perception of job insecurity and reduced professional autonomy mirrors global debates on AI and the future of work. While AI is unlikely to replace educators, studies suggest it may reshape professional roles, requiring teachers to adapt to new forms of collaboration with technology (Popenici & Kerr, 2017). This reinforces the argument that AI should be positioned as an augmentative rather than a replacement technology in education.

Overall, the discussion highlights that while the promise of AI in enhancing



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

pedagogy is widely acknowledged, its responsible and contextually relevant implementation depends on addressing ethical concerns, providing teacher training, and ensuring institutional readiness.

Conclusion

This study explored teachers' perceptions regarding the issues and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in higher education at the University of Gujarat. The findings revealed a complex but insightful perspective: teachers largely recognize the transformative potential of AI in enhancing teaching efficiency, streamlining administrative tasks, and supporting personalized learning. However, they simultaneously expressed significant concerns related to ethical issues, data privacy, algorithmic bias, reduced human interaction, and the risk of diminished professional autonomy. Moreover, institutional barriers such as lack of infrastructure, insufficient training, and limited policy support were identified as critical obstacles to effective AI adoption. These findings suggest that while AI holds considerable promise for reshaping higher education, its successful implementation requires careful planning, ethical regulation, and proactive support for teachers.

Recommendations

- Universities should design continuous professional development programs to enhance teachers' digital literacy and equip them with the skills necessary to integrate AI tools effectively into teaching and research.
- Higher education institutions should develop clear guidelines and policies for AI use, emphasizing ethical standards, data privacy, and transparency to build trust among faculty and students.
- Investment in robust technological infrastructure is essential to ensure smooth deployment of AI applications and equitable access across departments.
- Establishing ethics committees and adopting global best practices can help universities address concerns about fairness, accountability, and algorithmic bias in educational AI.
- While embracing AI, institutions should ensure that teaching retains its humanistic elements, emphasizing empathy, creativity, and critical thinking that machines cannot replicate.



Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

- Partnerships between policymakers, educators, and technology developers should be fostered to create contextually relevant AI solutions tailored to the needs of Pakistani higher education.

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Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

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Vol. 3 No. 8 (August) (2025)

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