# SALWAN EDUCATION TRUST

## A REPORT ON

## NAVTIKA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 3.0

## 24th February 2024

"We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet." -Swami Vivekananda


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to acknowledge and convey my gratitude to Dr Indu Khetarpal and Shri Sushil Dutt Salwan, Chairman, SET for their benevolence in encouraging us to organize the Navtika National Symposium 3.0. The support extended by the Principals, Vice-Principals and Headmistresses across SET schools for circulating the invite widely is duly appreciated and acknowledged. I also appreciate Ms Priyanka Barara for giving the welcome address , Ms Rashi Oberoi for being the emcee for the event, and Ms Sonia Wadhwa for giving the valedictory address .It was great learning experience for me as well to moderate the session. The technical support lent by the IT team, SPS Gurugram, Sector 15 is also duly appreciated and acknowledged.

**Report**

**Season 3 - NAVTIKA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2024**
**On**
**'Navigating Artificial Intelligence in Early Childhood Care and Education'**

**Date:** Saturday, 24th February 2024
**Mode:** Virtual Platform
**No. of attendees:** 800 on screen
**Youtube viewers:** 500+


Salwan Education Trust (SET) conducted the National Symposium under the banner 'NAVTIKA' to discuss the key factors related to 'Navigating Artificial Intelligence in Early Childhood Education'. The symposium stressed the importance of embracing change and fostering resilience in integrating AI into Early Childhood curriculum.

Early Childhood Education (ECCE) is pivotal in laying the foundation for lifelong learning and well-being. UNESCO recognizes that ECCE goes beyond preparing students for primary school; it is a critical period for them when they develop social skills, form relationships, and cultivate interests that shape their future. Therefore, integrating AI into their curriculum requires careful consideration to maintain the focus on holistic development.

Embracing change is crucial in implementing AI effectively.

This involves staying updated with the latest developments in the field and being open to new ideas and innovations. Professional development opportunities play a significant role in ensuring educators are equipped to navigate AI in education. Furthermore, developing resilience is crucial for overcoming challenges and uncertainties. Resilience enables educators to adapt to new technologies and methodologies, ensuring that the integration of AI in early childhood education is smooth and beneficial for children's development.

The symposium commenced with a warm welcome from Ms. Rashi Oberoi, Headmistress of Salwan Public School, Rajendra Nagar, marking the beginning of an enlightening discussion on the transformative potential of AI in early childhood education.

## A BRIEF BACKGROUND TO NAVTIKA


Ms. Priyanka Barara, the head of Salwan Public School, Rajender Nagar, explained how the journal reflects the Trust Philosophy. It includes articles from esteemed practitioners around the world, that highlight best practices and innovations in education. Ms. Barara thanked Dr. Indu Khetarpal for initiating this powerful project that helps in cultivating a culture of continuous learning and development in the field of education. Furthermore, she talked about the 'Dedicated Parents and Teachers' Corner' in the journal, that provides practical tips, advice, and resources for both parents and educators. This section aims to strengthen the home-school partnership, recognizing the crucial role parents play in a child's early development.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### SPEAKER 1- DR. JAGENDRA SINGH

Dr. Jagendra Singh, Associate Professor at Bennett University, Greater Noida, delivered an enlightening keynote address on navigating artificial intelligence in early childhood education. He began by highlighting several beneficial features of AI that can enhance early childhood education. These include its ability to recognize behaviour

and provide early interventions, offer personalized recommendations for each child, provide user-friendly interfaces for easy interaction, facilitate multimodal learning experiences, aid in pronunciation, prepare students for the global world, and involve parents in the learning process.

Dr. Singh also introduced some specific tools that utilise AI in Early Childhood Education, such as DreamBox, Cogno AI and SmartyPal. These tools, among others, showcase how AI can be harnessed to create engaging and effective learning experiences for young children, ultimately enriching their educational journey and preparing them for the challenges of the future.

**SPEAKER 2- DR. SAPNA YADAV**


Dr. Sapna Yadav, Project Director, Entrepreneurship Curriculum, spoke on how AI has played a crucial role in navigating the unpredictable challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic accelerated the adoption of remote work, online learning, and digital communication, making digital skills more important than ever before. AI, as a digital skill, is particularly valuable due to its ability to analyze vast amounts of data, identify patterns, and make predictions. During the pandemic, AI was used in various ways, such as predicting the spread of the virus, developing vaccines, and assisting in contact tracing efforts. AI-powered technologies also facilitated remote work and learning by enabling virtual collaboration, personalized learning experiences, and automated processes.
She reiterated that AI teaches us important 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and collaboration. As AI becomes more integrated into our daily lives and work environments, understanding its capabilities and limitations becomes essential.

It empowers individuals to make informed decisions, innovate, and adapt to evolving technological landscapes.

**AN AI SUCCESS STORY**


**Ms. Mrunal Ganjale**, a dedicated teacher at ZP School Pimpalgaon, Pune district, also a National Teachers Award recipient, was invited to share her school's innovative approach to education at the symposium. Despite being in the interiors of Maharashtra, Ganjale

has empowered her school with AI and implemented several innovative initiatives which have transformed the learning experience for her students, especially during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.


Additionally, Ms. Ganjale has leveraged technology to connect her students with classrooms around the world through Skype. This cultural exchange program has not only broadened her students' perspectives but has also helped them develop their communication skills.

Despite facing challenges such as limited resources, Ms. Ganjale has successfully implemented these initiatives using only mobile phones. Her efforts have not only benefited her students, including those with special needs, but have also led to an increase in enrollment at her school. Ganjale's efforts exemplify the transformative impact that AI and technology can have on education, especially in underserved communities. By embracing AI and leveraging technology effectively, she has not only enhanced the learning experiences of her students but has also equipped them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Her dedication and innovative spirit serve as an inspiration to educators everywhere, demonstrating the power of education to transcend boundaries and empower students to reach their full potential.

## GLIMPSES INTO AI FEST BY SALWAN SCHOOL



The symposium, thereafter, saw a few memorable snippets from the AI Fest held at **Salwan Public School, Gurugram**, wherein the children were seen being introduced into the transformative and captivating world of AI. The event was a vibrant showcase of innovation and learning, where children were engaged in hands-on activities and demonstrations that highlighted the practical applications of AI in their daily lives.

**THE PANEL DISCUSSION**

***Moderator: Sona Gombar***

***Panelist: Mr Vipul Joshi, Ms Paramjeet Kaur Dhillon, Ms Maya Menon, Dr Sween Saini, Ms Vineeta Garg***

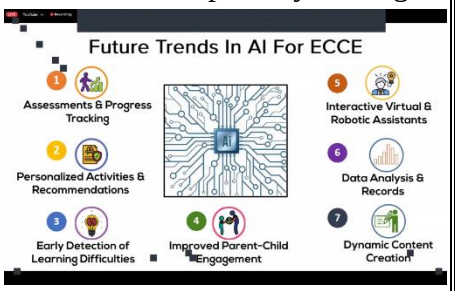

**Ms. Sona Gombar, Head, Salwan Montessori School**, was moderator for the panel discussion. With warmth and enthusiasm, she extended a heartfelt welcome to all the speakers, setting a tone of camaraderie and collaboration for the engaging dialogue ahead. Ms. Gombar's welcoming remarks set the stage for a fruitful exchange of ideas and insights on harnessing the transformative power of AI in early childhood education.

Recognizing early childhood education as one of the best investments a country can make to prepare children for learning, the panelists were invited to share their insights on the integration of AI into this critical stage of education.

Topic: Can AI be a companion for children in early years ? Is it giving voice and choice to child or is it raising concerns of increased screen time at this tender age ? How can we strike a balance here .
The foreseeable advantages and risks that associated with early exposure to AI driven educational content

**Mr. Vipul Joshi, Founder and CEO of Boost my child,** set the stage for the session's second part by underlining AI's established role as a valuable educational ally, particularly in aiding children's learning experiences. He noted the increasing trend of children engaging with robots, often through voice commands, reflecting a notable evolution in how education is delivered and received.

Expressing a deep-seated concern, Mr. Joshi addressed the rising issue of screen time, especially among children under five, cautioning against its overuse. He advocated for a cautious approach, emphasizing the need to strike a balance between leveraging AI's benefits and ensuring children's well-being.




Highlighting teachers and parents as the key beneficiaries of AI's educational potential, Mr. Joshi stressed the importance of providing them

with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively integrate AI into the learning process. He emphasized the need to carefully select AI tools, ensuring they enhance rather than detract from the overall learning experience. Throughout his address, Mr. Joshi reiterated the pivotal role of teachers, emphasizing that AI should complement and support their efforts rather than replace them, thus maintaining the essential human element in education.

Mr. Vipul Joshi further elaborated on the benefits of early exposure to AI-driven education, highlighting how it can positively impact students' learning and development. He discussed how AI can personalize learning experiences, adapt to individual learning styles, and improve parent-child engagement, among others, all of which are crucial in early childhood education. Additionally, early exposure to AI can help children develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy

skills, preparing them for the future. Overall, Mr. Joshi emphasized that integrating AI into education at an early stage can greatly enhance the learning journey of young learners.

> The computer sets the perfect pace. AI powered tools help the teachers and caregivers to understand the unique needs of children while adapting and integrating the new technology tools into our teaching methods.

The second speaker**, Ms. Vineeta Garg, HoD Computer Science at SRDAV**, emphasized the crucial role of teachers in effectively integrating AI into the classroom. She highlighted that AI could enhance teaching and learning by enabling personalized learning experiences, which are essential in addressing the diverse learning styles and needs of students. In a classroom with students of different learning styles, it can be challenging for teachers to cater to each student's needs within a limited time frame. This often leads to learning gaps, where some students excel while others struggle.

However, AI can bridge these gaps by providing adaptive learning platforms that offer personalized learning experiences tailored to individual students' needs. These platforms not only cater to different learning styles but also provide targeted feedback to teachers, enabling them to identify and address areas where students may be struggling. This allows teachers to engage students more meaningfully and effectively, ultimately enhancing the learning experience for all students. By embracing AI as a tool to complement rather than replace human interactions and nurturing, teachers can create a more inclusive and effective learning environment where every student can thrive.

Ms. Garg highlighted the availability of free AI algorithms and apps that can provide a personalized learning environment for students. These tools, such as reading coaching apps and presenter coach in PowerPoint,

offer innovative ways to enhance learning and engagement in the classroom.
She also emphasized the importance of using AI tools to detect disabilities in children at an early stage. These tools can monitor students' performance and detect issues such as learning disabilities or behavioral issues. By analyzing writing patterns and other data, these AI tools can provide valuable insights and support to help students overcome challenges.

In addition to personalized learning and disability detection, Ms. Garg highlighted the role of AI in immersive learning experiences. With students having shorter attention spans, it is crucial to make learning engaging. AI can facilitate this through virtual learning experiences, augmented reality, simulations, and gamification, all of which enhance interactivity and deepen understanding.
While AI can automate repetitive tasks for teachers, such as creating lesson plans and question papers, Ms. Garg emphasized the importance of maintaining a human-centered approach in education. AI cannot replace the creativity and innovation that human educators bring to the table. The future of education, she suggested, lies in the collaboration between AI and human educators, where AI complements human efforts to create a more effective and engaging learning environment for all students.

Ethical implications associated with implementing AI tools and technologies in early childhood education , particularly regarding data privacy , algorithm bias, and the role of human supervision and intervention and How can these be mitigated to ensure responsible use ?

The next speaker, **Ms. Maya Menon**, **Founder Director of The Teacher Foundation**, shed light on how AI can support socio-emotional, cognitive, and language development in young children, complementing traditional teaching approaches and pedagogies. She began by addressing key challenges faced by the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) community, including the low social status of ECCE teachers, inadequate preparation and training, and the challenge of balancing the needs of children with managing the aspirations and anxieties of parents.

Ms. Menon then elaborated on the challenges of integrating AI into ECCE, such as the potential loss of human connection, bias and inequality, privacy and data security concerns, and the limited cultural and linguistic sensitivity in AI algorithms. She also highlighted the dependency on infrastructure and technology as a challenge in leveraging AI effectively in ECCE.

To address these challenges, Ms. Menon shared her research on the socio-emotional learning framework developed by the Teacher's Foundation, called itself (Indian Social and Emotional Learning Framework).

This framework emphasizes five competencies that need to be nurtured and developed in children at an early stage: self-awareness, self-management, relationship management, social awareness, and decision-making.
Finally, Ms. Menon discussed the advantages of AI and its benefits for ECCE teachers as a solution to the challenges mentioned. These include adaptive language learning programs using AI algorithms, automated assessment, and regular reporting back to parents, data analysis and insights for planning children's learning and predicting their areas of struggle, customized and theme-based lesson planning for teachers, dynamic creation of content, and personalized activities and recommendations.

Overall, Ms. Menon's insights highlighted the potential of AI to enhance ECCE by addressing key challenges and supporting the holistic development of young learners.

How do you see ongoing professional development contributing to educators staying abreast of AI advancements? Looking ahead, how do you envision the role of AI evolving in the classrooms over the next fie years ? Do we need to formulate necessary policies and strategies . How these policies can be aligned with vision and values?

Thereafter, the subsequent speaker, **Ms. Paramjeet Kaur Dhillon**, **Principal, Kamla Nehru School, Phagwara,** highlighted the importance of ongoing professional development in helping educators stay abreast with AI advancements. She emphasized that continuous learning and training are essential for teachers to effectively integrate AI into their classrooms. Ms. Dhillon shared her own school's experience, where they extensively use Adobe for creating personalized storytelling experiences, language development, and integrating art into their curriculum. This hands-on experience with AI tools has been instrumental in enhancing the learning experiences of their students.
Ms. Dhillon also gave real-life examples of young learners using AI technologies like Siri and Alexa, as well as creating virtual worlds in games like Minecraft. These experiences demonstrate that AI can be a powerful enabler for learning when used correctly and integrated into the curriculum in a meaningful way.

Leveraging AI to address the diverse learning needs and abilities of young children , including those with special educational needs or disadvantaged backgrounds. AI tools help for detecting developmental delays and support in early intervention.

**Dr. Sween Saini**, a Counsellor and Parenting Coach, served as the final speaker for the day, delving into the potential of AI in addressing the diverse learning needs and abilities of young children, including those with

special needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds. She emphasised the significance of personalized learning

and how AI can offer adaptive tools to cater to individual student needs effectively.

Dr. Saini highlighted the implementation of adaptive AI tools to create an inclusive learning environment where every student, particularly those with special needs, can thrive. These tools provide customized instructions tailored to students with disabilities, ensuring they receive the necessary support to succeed. Additionally, AI can predict and facilitate early intervention for children who may require additional assistance. By leveraging AI in this manner, educators can establish a more inclusive and supportive learning environment that addresses the diverse needs of all students, irrespective of their backgrounds or abilities.

**Valedictory Address:**


The session concluded with a valedictory address from Ms. Sonia Wadhwa, Head of Salwan Junior School, where she expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their invaluable insights and contributions. She eloquently summarized the session, emphasizing the pivotal role of harnessing the transformative power of AI in education. Ms. Wadhwa lauded the dedication and efforts of educators and stakeholders in exploring innovative approaches to integrate AI into early childhood education, underscoring the profound impact such initiatives can have on enhancing teaching and learning experiences for young children. Her address served as a fitting conclusion to a stimulating and enlightening symposium, highlighting the ongoing commitment to leveraging AI for the betterment of education.

The Navtika National Symposium 3.0 served as a dynamic platform for educators and stakeholders to explore the integration of artificial intelligence in early childhood education. The event showcased opportunities for innovation and collaboration, highlighting the potential of AI to enhance teaching and learning experiences for young children.

Throughout the symposium, participants engaged in lively discussions, exchanged ideas, and shared best practices. The conversations emphasized the importance of personalized learning, adaptive technologies, and the pivotal role of educators in leveraging AI to meet the diverse needs of young learners.

In conclusion, the symposium highlighted the transformative impact of AI in early childhood education and emphasized the ongoing need for dialogue and collaboration. By working together, educators and stakeholders can ensure that AI is effectively leveraged to benefit all students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special needs.