Educating for Sustainability Action
International Conference Celebrating 40 Years of CEE
CEE, Ahmedabad, India, January 9-11, 2025 www.ceeindia.org

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AI in Sustainability Education: A Step towards Inclusive Learning

The session titled "AI in Sustainability Education", supported by the Motwani Jadeja Foundation, explored the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in creating individualised instruction, developing curricula, evaluating student progress, and even monitoring environmental changes.

Speakers

- Dr Abhay Kumar, CIET, NCERT, Delhi
- Dr Alpana Shukla, MG Science College, Ahmedabad
- Mr Dhrupal Shah, STEMpedia
- Dr Rajen Purohit, KISHIVA, Ahmedabad
- Dr. Jim Taylor, WESSA, South Africa

Presentations and Key Messages

Dr Jim Taylor: AI should not lead or overpower but support human efforts.

Dr Abhay Kumar: Bridging the digital divide is not just about access but about enabling meaningful participation.

Session Highlights

- AI presents an incredible opportunity to support human efforts rather than overpower or replace them.
- India faces a critical digital divide that must be addressed through policy interventions and community engagement.
- The DIKSHA platform is a key initiative in digital infrastructure for knowledge sharing and helps bridge the rural-urban gap.
- The session highlighted the importance of indigenous heritage practices and how AI can help preserve and promote them.
- The need for awareness of privacy, legal frameworks, data handling, and protection was emphasized.

Key Remarks from the Participants

- Challenges in AI implementation include evaluation, accountability, and algorithm frameworks
- NEP 2020's emphasis on digital infrastructure must be matched with real investments in teacher training and connectivity
- Community building with urban tech AI can be a transformative tool for rural areas

Key Recommendations from the Session

The key recommendations from the session were that policymakers should invest in rural digital infrastructure and teacher training programmes. Tech developers must ensure AI-driven solutions are designed for local contexts and support the preservation of Indigenous knowledge, such as smartwatches installed with AI that provide information about the Air Quality Index (AQI) of a

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particular location. Educators and schools should integrate privacy and data protection awareness into the digital curriculum.

Who Acts?

- Government policymakers
- Educational institutions
- AI developers and tech companies
- Rural and community leaders

Case Studies presented during the session

- Jim Taylor's story of AI-assisted problem-solving for African farmers in Kenya.
- DIKSHA initiative for digital learning and rural education connectivity.