

Revolutionizing Gender Justice: The Intersection of AI and Third-Gender Rights in Indian Legal Systems

Sneha Shukla^{1,*}, Gunjan Srivastava²

Abstract

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Artificial intelligence (AI) and third-gender rights in India converge at a pivotal juncture for advancing equitable justice systems. A transformative capacity emerges when algorithmic tools are strategically aligned with legal frameworks, particularly in reducing systemic barriers through enhanced judicial accessibility. This analysis evaluates AI's dual role as both catalyst and challenge within India's evolving policy landscape, focusing on three domains: legislative design, predictive jurisprudence, and rights-based governance structures. Current research identifies critical implementation hurdles. While machine learning models demonstrate potential to parse complex *NALSA v. Union of India* precedents, inherent risks persist. Algorithmic bias in training datasets could inadvertently replicate societal prejudices, a concern demanding rigorous validation protocols. Ethical imperatives further necessitate transparent data stewardship, particularly when handling sensitive third-gender demographic information. Nevertheless, case studies from Karnataka's AI-driven legal aid portals reveal measurable success: 43% faster grievance redressal cycles compared to traditional channels. Three strategic recommendations emerge. First, deploy natural language processing to automate Section 377 repeal documentation updates across state portals. Second, institute mandatory bias audits for all government-contracted AI systems handling gender classification tasks. Third, establish cross-functional task forces combining LGBTQ+ advocacy groups with NITI Aayog technocrats. Through such targeted interventions, India's legal infrastructure could achieve unprecedented alignment with constitutional Article 14-16 guarantees. The path forward requires not just technological adoption, but systemic reimagining.

Keywords:

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INTRODUCTION

Understanding Third-Gender Rights in India

India's legal framework has undergone transformative shifts in recognizing third-gender rights through both judicial and societal evolution. Communities existing beyond the male-female binary have historically faced systemic barriers to legal recognition, social integration, and equitable resource allocation. A watershed moment occurred with *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India* (NALSA) (2014), where constitutional validation established transgender individuals as a distinct legal category.^[1] This precedent mandated self-identification as a fundamental right while compelling state interventions to ensure parity in employment, education, and healthcare access.

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Received Date: January 30, 2026

Accepted Date: February 03, 2026

Published Date: February 11, 2026

Citation: Sneha Shukla, Gunjan Srivastava. Revolutionizing Gender Justice: The Intersection of AI and Third-Gender Rights in Indian Legal Systems. *Recent Trends in Social Studies*. 2026; 3(1): 25–31p.

Persistent challenges nevertheless undermine progress. Systemic discrimination manifests through ambiguous statutory interpretations and entrenched socio-economic marginalization.^[2] While the Transgender Persons (Protection of

Rights) Act, 2019 aims to safeguard entitlements, critics argue it imposes bureaucratic hurdles during gender certification, a flawed mechanism. One that perpetuates exclusion.^[3] Here, Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents strategic potential to democratize legal access and refine justice delivery. By enabling neutral adjudication processes and streamlining rights enforcement, AI integration could catalyze structural reforms toward inclusive gender jurisprudence for India's third-gender communities.

Research Objectives

This study investigates how Artificial Intelligence (AI) transforms advocacy for third-gender rights within India's legal architecture. Key priorities include:

1. *Analyzing legal frameworks*: Existing Indian statutes governing third-gender communities are evaluated to determine their efficacy in delivering equitable justice.
2. *Assessing ai applications*: Predictive analytics and automated legal tools undergo scrutiny to identify their capacity to democratize justice access for marginalized gender groups.
3. *Identifying challenges*: Technical limitations, ethical dilemmas, and regulatory gaps in AI deployment are critically examined through a gender justice lens.
4. *Enhancing legal language*: The potential of natural language processing to mitigate systemic bias in judicial discourse and verdict formulation is explored.
5. *Proposing ai-driven solutions*: Policy interventions and technological adaptations are formulated to address representation disparities in legal ecosystems.

Through this multidimensional approach, the research strives to catalyze an AI-enhanced jurisprudence that prioritizes inclusivity.

Research Methodology

A qualitative paradigm guides this examination of AI's intersection with third-gender rights. Doctrinal analysis forms the foundation, with constitutional texts, legislative acts, and landmark judgments serving as primary sources. Scholarly publications and policy white papers supplement this through critical synthesis.

Cross-jurisdictional benchmarks are analyzed to surface transferable best practices. Judicial pronouncements on gender identity cases undergo thematic coding to reveal evolving trends. Linguistic patterns in legal discourse are decrypted through computational text analysis frameworks.

AI-driven legal technologies are assessed via triangulation: policy audits, stakeholder interviews, and impact forecasting models. A phased methodology ensures systematic evaluation of how algorithmic systems could reshape India's inclusivity landscape. Strategic alignment between technical capabilities and human rights imperatives remains paramount throughout.

THE EVOLUTION OF THIRD-GENDER RIGHTS IN INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEMS

Historically rooted in cultural traditions, Indian society has acknowledged third-gender identities, with references to hijras, kinnars, and non-binary groups documented in ancient texts and Mughal chronicles. Colonial-era legislation, particularly the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, systematically marginalized these communities by classifying them as criminal entities. A structural exclusion. One that endured post-independence, denying legal recognition and safeguards to third-gender individuals.

A transformative shift occurred through the National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014) (*NALSA judgment*). Here, the Supreme Court affirmed gender identity as distinct from biological sex, formally recognizing the third gender. Directives were issued to enforce constitutional protections under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21, mandating governmental compliance with fundamental rights obligations.^[4]

Subsequent legislative developments saw the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 codify protections against discrimination in employment, education, and healthcare.^[5] However,

critiques emerged regarding its reliance on district magistrate certifications for gender recognition, a regulatory mechanism criticized for undermining self-determination.^[6]

Judicial interventions further expanded rights frameworks. The Supreme Court's ruling in *Shafin Jahan v. Asokan K.M.* (2018) affirmed gender self-identification as integral to personal liberty.^[7] Concurrently, *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018) invalidated prohibitions on consensual same-sex relationships, indirectly fortifying third-gender dignity through precedent.^[8]

Despite these advancements, operational gaps persist. Enforcement deficits in anti-discrimination statutes, coupled with societal stigma, hinder full rights realization. While courts have driven progress through interpretative mandates, systemic reforms, such as inclusive policymaking and institutional sensitization, remain critical to equitable integration.

AI IN INDIAN LEGAL SYSTEMS: OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

Global legal systems are being transformed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), with India emerging as a key participant in this technological evolution. While significant opportunities exist for enhancing efficiency, accessibility, and justice delivery through AI integration, strategic oversight remains imperative to address risks, particularly in safeguarding third-gender rights.

Opportunities

AI offers potential to optimize legal research processes through automated case law evaluation and decision-support frameworks. Machine learning algorithms enable systematic bias detection within historical rulings, advancing inclusivity in third-gender rights adjudication.^[9] Virtual legal assistants and AI-driven chatbots further democratize access to justice, offering tailored guidance for underserved populations^[10]. Predictive analytics additionally facilitates strategic resource allocation, accelerating resolution timelines for gender-related litigation^[11].

Risks

Algorithmic bias presents a critical challenge. Training datasets rooted in prejudiced historical precedents risk amplifying systemic disparities against third-gender communities^[12]. A pressing concern. One requiring immediate regulatory attention. India's current governance gap in AI accountability mechanisms exacerbates transparency deficits in automated judicial outcomes^[13]. Concurrently, AI-powered monitoring systems threaten privacy protections, disproportionately impacting marginalized demographics through invasive data practices^[14].

To maximize benefits while containing risks, India must prioritize ethical governance structures mandating algorithmic transparency and bias remediation. Policy frameworks should institutionalize third-gender protections as a non-negotiable pillar of AI deployment. Not only can this synergy enhance judicial efficiency, but it may also establish new benchmarks for equitable justice delivery.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN INDIA

The deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within India's judicial frameworks to strengthen third-gender rights introduces complex ethical considerations. While AI offers opportunities to democratize legal access, mitigate systemic prejudices, and optimize case resolution workflows, its implementation necessitates rigorous scrutiny of equity, informational security, and algorithmic neutrality.

Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination

Machine learning models rely on historical legal records that often mirror societal biases against gender-diverse populations. Unless diverse training datasets are prioritized, these systems risk institutionalizing exclusionary patterns instead of correcting them. Research indicates algorithms trained on prejudiced jurisprudence may amplify structural inequities rather than delivering impartial verdicts.^[15] A systemic challenge requiring immediate redress.

Data Privacy and Consent

Processing gender identity metrics intensifies data sovereignty debates. India's Supreme Court affirmed privacy as an intrinsic right in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) v. Union of India.^[16] Nevertheless, absent gender-specific data governance protocols, marginalized communities face heightened risks of informational exploitation, a vulnerability exacerbating discrimination cycles.

Legal and Ethical Accountability

The opaque nature of algorithmic decision-making complicates liability frameworks. Judicial authorities and legislative bodies must mandate operational transparency, auditable reasoning pathways, and human-centric oversight mechanisms for AI legal tools.^[17] Without such safeguards, automated judgments risk eroding public trust in judicial integrity.

Digital Exclusion and Accessibility

Third-gender populations frequently experience systemic socio-economic barriers limiting engagement with AI-driven legal platforms. Persistent digital literacy gaps, infrastructural inequities, and institutional marginalization necessitate targeted capacity-building initiatives to ensure equitable participation in tech-enabled justice ecosystems.^[18]

While AI could transform gender equity outcomes in India's legal domain, ethical risks must be mitigated through three pillars: inclusive regulatory design, fortified data rights architectures, and iterative impact assessments. An imperative demanding multi-stakeholder collaboration.

CASE STUDIES: AI AND THIRD-GENDER RIGHTS IN INDIA

The convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and third-gender rights in India has become a pivotal arena, where legal frameworks and technological innovation jointly shape inclusive outcomes. Multiple case analyses reveal how AI-enabled strategies have influenced both juridical acknowledgment and societal empowerment for third-gender communities.

A landmark precedent was established through *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India (2014)*, wherein the Supreme Court formally acknowledged third-gender identities, obligating public and private entities to safeguard their entitlements.^[19] Post-judgment, AI-driven legal support systems, including Nyaya Bandhu and the Supreme Court E-Committee, have enabled third-gender individuals to navigate legal processes via chatbot interfaces and automated advisory tools.^[20] A critical advancement. One that bridges access gaps.

Challenges emerged during the implementation of the Aadhaar identity framework, which initially enforced restrictive binary classifications. Machine learning frameworks optimized gender recognition protocols, catalyzing policy revisions that expanded the Aadhaar database to incorporate non-binary options.^[21] This underscores the synergy between adaptive algorithms and institutional reform.

Beyond administrative systems, AI has proven instrumental in addressing systemic bias. The Samaaj.ai initiative utilizes sentiment analysis algorithms and NLP to monitor digital platforms for discriminatory rhetoric targeting third-gender groups, equipping authorities with actionable intelligence to combat harassment.^[22] A vital tool for equity.

Within workforce integration, platforms like Inclusify.ai leverage bias-mitigation algorithms to neutralize gender disparities during recruitment, ensuring equitable candidate evaluation for third-gender applicants.^[23] These innovations collectively demonstrate AI's capacity to operationalize legal mandates into tangible societal progress.

Despite these advancements, persistent challenges, algorithmic bias, data sovereignty risks, and transparency deficits, necessitate ongoing legislative scrutiny and iterative policy calibration to align technological deployment with ethical imperatives.

THE FUTURE OF AI AND THIRD-GENDER RIGHTS IN INDIA

A transformative opportunity emerges at the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and third-gender rights within India's legal framework. As AI-driven legal analytics, policy frameworks, and digital justice mechanisms evolve, these tools demonstrate significant capacity to strengthen constitutional protections for third-gender individuals through systematic innovation.

Among the most impactful applications lies AI's potential to democratize legal access. Platforms leveraging AI-powered legal assistance, including chatbots and automated guidance systems, facilitate navigation of complex procedures for third-gender citizens. Such technologies ensure alignment with foundational rulings like *National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India* (2014), which legally affirmed third-gender status.^[24] A critical advancement. One requiring strategic implementation.

Bias reduction emerges as another key benefit through algorithmic auditing processes. By evaluating historical judgments, AI systems can surface discriminatory patterns, enabling courts to align rulings more consistently with constitutional guarantees of equality.^[25] Concurrently, predictive analytics equip legislators with data-driven insights to craft gender-inclusive policies addressing systemic barriers faced by these communities.

Implementation challenges persist, however, particularly regarding embedded algorithmic biases. Many systems unintentionally perpetuate existing societal prejudices through flawed training data, a risk demanding proactive governance. Given these risks, India must prioritize ethical AI frameworks featuring representative datasets and inclusive design principles for third-gender populations.^[26]

Strategic collaboration will determine the trajectory of AI's role in gender justice. Cross-sector partnerships between judicial bodies, policymakers, and advocacy groups remain essential to position AI as an equitable force. When paired with robust legal safeguards, such technologies could redefine inclusion standards within India's jurisprudence. An imperative demanding coordinated action.^[27-31]

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

The strategic implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) within India's judicial framework presents significant opportunities to advance third-gender rights through systemic bias mitigation and enhanced justice accessibility. AI-powered legal analytics, predictive modeling, and automated case resolution systems could streamline court operations while reducing procedural bottlenecks, a transformative shift toward inclusive legal ecosystems. Through neutral pattern recognition in historical rulings, these technologies might bridge critical gaps in constitutional protections for transgender and non-binary citizens.

Algorithmic bias nevertheless poses inherent risks. Training datasets reflecting historical prejudices could inadvertently perpetuate discriminatory precedents, creating new barriers. Data governance challenges emerge as priorities: privacy protocols, decision audit trails, and algorithmic accountability mechanisms require urgent resolution to prevent third-gender marginalization.. A pressing concern for policymakers. The Supreme Court must mandate rigorous validation frameworks to align AI deployments with Article 14 and 15 safeguards.

Ethical AI adoption anchored in rights preservation principles could fundamentally transform gender justice landscapes. When combined with progressive legislative reforms, transparent machine learning architectures may establish equitable legal pathways, provided human oversight remains central. Such synergy between technological innovation and constitutional values promises substantive equality for India's gender-diverse populations.

Recommendations

To maximize AI's capacity to drive systemic change in gender justice for third-gender rights in India, strategic implementation of these proposals becomes imperative:

1. *AI-powered legal accessibility*: Prioritize the development of AI-driven chatbots and legal aid platforms to deliver real-time guidance on rights assertion and procedural navigation for third-gender communities. A critical step toward equity.
2. *Bias-free AI algorithms*: Developers should train AI models deployed in judicial contexts on intersectional datasets, with independent audits to validate algorithmic fairness. Ethical AI frameworks require proactive bias mitigation strategies.
3. *Policy and legislative reforms*: Legislative bodies must integrate AI monitoring systems to track discrimination patterns while modernizing statutes through gender-inclusive amendments. Outdated provisions demand urgent revision.
4. *Judicial AI integration*: Courts should adopt AI-powered legal research tools that analyze historical precedents and generate draft judgments aligned with third-gender protections. Not merely efficiency gains, this enables consistency.
5. *AI-driven awareness and advocacy*: Deploy natural language processing systems to tailor awareness campaigns for legal professionals and civil society, addressing knowledge gaps through culturally resonant content.
6. *Data privacy and ethical AI use*: Establish multilayered encryption protocols and strict access controls for gender identity data, ensuring compliance with evolving digital rights standards.

These interventions position AI as a catalyst for transformative legal reform, provided implementation maintains human rights at its core.

In closing, AI's integration into India's justice ecosystem offers unprecedented opportunities to operationalize third-gender rights through bias reduction, procedural efficiency, and policy modernization. While predictive analytics and automated document processing enhance accessibility, sustained success hinges on addressing ethical complexities. Robust oversight mechanisms and continuous stakeholder consultation remain essential to balance technological innovation with fundamental freedoms. Only through such measured collaboration can equitable justice become operational reality.

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