For Favour of Publication

Patna, July 8. On the concluding day of the workshop titled "Data-Driven Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence," organized by Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), national and international researchers from different disciplines deliberated upon computational challenges of analyzing Big data, role of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI-ML), and issues pertaining to accurate data collection from government departments.

Researchers from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata discussed several aspects such as data collection, data cleaning, analysis and release and the pros and cons of various AI-ML techniques. They highlighted that it is crucial to validate the inferences generated by using these techniques. They presented the technicalities of using modern AI-ML tools like neural networks and LLMs (Large Language Models).

Mr. Manmatha Roy, Associate Scientist at ISI, Kolkata elaborated on the science and importance of preprocessing of data using randomness. Mr. Debarshi Chanda, also of ISI pointed that one should be careful regarding biases when handling data. Dr. Arijit Ghosh of ISI stated one should analyze data in small chunks because the size of the data at times is so huge that it cannot even be stored in the computer's memory. "We have to scale back our expectations," he said. He also shared that most of the breakthroughs that took place in Physics in the 20th century was mainly due to intuition.

Prof. M. R. Sharan of University of Maryland dwelt on the experiences and problems that researchers have to face while working in tandem with government officials. He said that there are serious concerns on accuracy of government data owing to bureaucratic practices, mainly at the mid-level. Also, there is a lack of citizen participation in MIS (Management Information System) data generation. He suggested people should be reached out through phones to verify beneficiary details of government schemes. Later, challenges of data collection from the field was discussed by a panel of enumerators.

The last session of the workshop saw discussion on multidisciplinary view of responsible data-centrism dwelling on the ethical, medical and legal aspects of data collection and sharing.

Dr. Ashmita Gupta, Member-Secretary, ADRI, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

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