

#AWARENESS

“AI? What's That?”

As AI tools like Gemini go mainstream, a new study shows a stark awareness gap in India, raising urgent questions about digital inclusivity and education.



Despite the global AI boom, a recent Google-Kantar study reveals a surprising fact: 60% of Indians are still unfamiliar with Artificial Intelligence. That's right, more than half the population remains unaware of the very technology that's fast becoming the backbone of our digital lives.



The AI Divide in India

The study, which surveyed over 6,000 urban and rural Indians, uncovers a telling digital divide. Urban Indians, especially Gen Z and millennials, are warming up to AI-powered tools like Gemini, ChatGPT, and others. But in rural areas and among older age groups, AI remains a foreign concept, either unheard of, or misunderstood.

Interestingly, even among the tech-savvy, the trust factor is a big concern. Many respondents expressed uncertainty about AI's intent, transparency, and impact on jobs. A significant number feared that AI might replace humans at work or misuse personal data. Clearly, AI awareness is not just about access, but also education and trust-building.

350 Million and Counting: Gemini's Global Rise

On the other side of the world (and screens), Google's Gemini has rapidly become a household name, boasting over 350 million active users since its rollout. What makes Gemini click? For one, it's deeply integrated across Google services, Docs, Gmail, Search, making it hard to miss. With features like summarizing emails, writing social media captions, coding assistance, and even generating poetry or recipes, Gemini is proving that AI can be useful, creative, and accessible. Yet, in India, it remains underutilized, often due to language barriers, low digital literacy, or simple unfamiliarity.

Why Awareness Matters Now

As India pushes towards becoming a \$1 trillion digital economy, understanding AI isn't a luxury, it's a necessity. From healthcare diagnostics to agricultural forecasting, AI has the potential to transform industries and uplift millions. But if a majority of the population remains unaware, this potential could remain untapped. Moreover, with India being a global hub for IT services, the lack of grassroots awareness could create a tech elitism, where only a few benefit from AI's advancements, leaving others behind.

What Needs to Be Done

- The report suggests three key focus areas for India.
- Localized AI education (especially in regional languages)
- Government-backed awareness campaigns
- AI integration in school curricula
- If done right, these steps can demystify AI and help Indians become not just consumers but contributors to AI's evolution.



Dr. Goutam Sen
CTVS Surgeon
Traveler
Storyteller

The window is flapping again! commented Anya. The young couple, Anya and Rohan, lived in a cramped flat across the narrow, grimy alleyway. Their kitchen window, perpetually steamed from Rohan's experimental curries, offered a direct, if somewhat hazy, view into the flat opposite. Specifically, it offered a view of 'the window.' The couple were school friends and married each other soon after they completed college education. Both of them were avid book readers. They were omnivorous in their taste but Anya just adored mysteries. It aroused her brain with all the twists and turns that a tale can take.

It was a small, unassuming window, belonging to a flat on the third floor in the building across the alley. But unlike their window, which was constantly battling the monsoon humidity or the dusty Kolkata winds, this window was always, without fail, wide open. The window was smallish. More like a mixture of a skylight and a regular window. Its two wooden panels were framed with glass in the upper half while the rest was made of plywood. To cover its shabbiness, a coloured picture of a landscape had been pasted. There was a small additional corrugated tin awning to prevent the direct splashing of rain into the room. Day and night, summer and winter, it gaped at the world, a silent, unwavering sentinel. It was as if it was proud to face all the vagaries of the weather! What was its message? An invitation or something more deep and mysterious?



"It's bizarre, isn't it? Anya said, stirring her chai, the steam momentarily clearing a patch on the window glass. "Always open. Even when it rained last week, that torrential downpour, it was still open."

Rohan, engrossed in deciphering a recipe for paneer makhani, grunted in agreement with a typical male answer: "Maybe they like fresh air?"

"Fresh air? In this smog?" Anya scoffed. "There's something else. Something...off."

Their curiosity grew with each passing day. Rohan was placid while Anya was becoming increasingly vexed. They'd tried to catch a glimpse of the flat's inhabitant, but the angle was difficult. Sometimes, a curtain would flutter, a pale hand would briefly appear or the faint scent of sandalwood incense would drift across the alleyway, but nothing concrete. A faded red curtain fluttered once in a while. It was an open invitation to all the people outside to peek in, and yet, it somehow wanted to preserve its privacy. To Anya's mystery-loving mind, this enigma made her wish to explore the possibilities. The hesitation lay in unnecessary invasion of privacy. On the other hand, there was immense satisfaction of a solved riddle.

#LOVE



One evening, as the setting sun cast long, dramatic shadows across the buildings, Anya noticed a flicker of candlelight within the open window. A faint melody of a string instrument wafted across the alley. It was a quiet moment when the alley had no traffic and the hawkers had long gone. Just the right time for music!

"Did you hear that?" she whispered, nudging Rohan. He paused, listening. "Sounds like sitar." It sounded like a professional. Or was it a recording? The music was hauntingly beautiful, a melancholic melody that seemed to resonate with the quiet sadness of the old building. Yet, there was vigour. It seemed to be conveying a message or inviting all round to pause, sit and immerse in the ragas of the past. They watched and listened, mesmerized, as the candlelight danced, casting shadows that moved like phantoms.

The next day, Anya (the detective) decided to take action. Enough was enough! The mystery needed to be solved. She went down to the building's entrance, a crumbling archway leading into a dark, narrow staircase. She hesitated, then took a deep breath of the musty air and ventured inside. A mystery was there to be solved. She was determined to get an answer. What if she was rebuffed?

She would then swallow her pride, tuck her tale between her legs and come back home unsatisfied. On the third floor, the air was thick with the scent of damp, musty concrete and old paper. She climbed the stairs, the worn stone cool beneath her feet. She found the flat, its door a faded blue, adorned with a simple brass knocker. No name plate. A worn out pair of shoes were kept on a bamboo shelf. A flower pot on the other side looked well cared for. She knocked softly. Silence...

She knocked again, louder with greater resolve. The door creaked open, revealing a small, frail woman with silver hair and eyes with a black framed high-powered spectacles (as if she had a recent cataract operation), that held the weight of untold stories. The eyes looked at the unexpected visitor with trepidity. As if to say, why has another person come to disturb my peace? What did she want now? She was dressed in a simple white sari, and the scent of sandalwood incense was strong.

After a pause, as if she was assessing the situation, she asked "Can I help you, beta?" Her voice was soft and raspy with age. Anya, flustered, stammered, waving her hand in an uncertain fashion, pointing across the alley: "I...I live across the alley. I've



Clean Comedy Day: Laughs Without the Lines

celebrated every April 28, Clean Comedy Day is a tribute to humour that's witty, wholesome, and suitable for all ages. It encourages comedians and audiences alike to embrace jokes free from profanity, insults, or controversial topics. Clean comedy proves that laughter doesn't need to be offensive, it can be clever, relatable, and heartwarming. From family-friendly stand-up acts to sitcoms that span generations, this day highlights the timeless power of clean humour. Whether you're a performer or a fan, it's the perfect occasion to share a laugh that everyone can enjoy, without crossing any lines.



"My son," she said, her gaze drifting towards the open window. "He was a musician. He loved the wind, the sound of the city. He said the open window brought him inspiration, brought him life. He loved to play the sitar. He...he passed away a couple of years ago. He had been ill for quite some time. TB acquired at the factory."

The Open Window

noticed your window is always open."

The woman smiled a gentle, knowing smile. "Yes, it is. It's for my Ravi."

"Ravi?" "My son," she said, her gaze drifting towards the open window. "He was a musician. He loved the wind, the sound of the city. He said the open window brought him inspiration, brought him life. He loved to play the sitar. He...he passed away a couple of years ago. He had been ill for quite some time. TB acquired at the factory."

Anya's heart ached as she perceived the pain which still lingered. "I'm so... sorry." Sounded inadequate but that was the best she could offer.

He told me, "Ma, even when I'm gone, leave the window open. Let the music of the world fill the room. So, I do. Every day! Every night! It makes me feel as if he is there with me."

She turned back to the room, where a sitar rested on a worn out cushion, partially covered with a fine shawl. A framed photograph showed a young man with kind eyes and a gentle smile in a traditional Bengali 'Dhoti-Kurta' hung on the wall behind. It was a look of a person who had zest for life. It was such a pity that he was gone! "The music you heard last night," she said, her voice barely a whisper, "that was his recording. He left a few of them for me."

Anya understood. It wasn't a mystery, but a love story, a mother's unending devotion, a silent testament to a life lived and lost. The open window wasn't a symbol of strangeness, but a portal to memory, a conduit for love that transcended death.

After a slight hesitation, the lady offered her a cup of tea while she played a tape of the recorded music. At that moment, a white pigeon fluttered in and sat on the window sill. "Oh! The pigeon has come again. He always sat on the windowsill whenever Ravi played his sitar. He too must be missing Ravi. He comes less these days."

She thanked the old woman and left, the melancholic melody of the sitar echoing in her ears. Back in her own flat, she told Rohan the story. They stood together at their kitchen window, looking across the alley. The candlelight in the open window flickered, a warm, comforting glow in the twilight. "It's not just a window," Anya said softly. "It's a heart."

Rohan nodded, his eyes filled with understanding. The open window, once a source of mystery, was now a symbol of enduring love, a reminder that even in the midst of a bustling, indifferent city, the human heart could find ways to speak, to remember and to love. They both knew that the window would remain open, a silent, beautiful tribute to a life that continued to resonate through the music. It was momentary pause in the incessant rush of the uncaring city below.

Back in her own flat, she told Rohan the story. They stood together at their kitchen window, looking across the alley. The candlelight in the open window flickered, a warm, comforting glow in the twilight. "It's not just a window," Anya said softly. "It's a heart."

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#STRESS THERAPY

Unwind in Style

Discover the therapeutic benefits of sound and how Sennheiser's headphones can transform your stress relief routine into a serene experience.

In the whirlwind of modern life, stress often feels like an unwelcome companion, creeping in between tasks, meetings, and even during moments meant for rest. But what if your escape from the constant buzz and pressure was as simple as slipping on a pair of headphones? Enter Sennheiser, the sound maestros who are turning their cutting-edge headphones into a sanctuary for stressed-out souls. Through immersive sound, noise cancellation, and tailored audio experiences, these headphones are not just for listening, they're your new therapy session.



The Healing Power of Sound: A Sonic Escape for Your Mind

We all know that music has the power to uplift our spirits, but research shows that sound can do much more than make us groove, it can actively reduce stress. By engaging with calming music and nature sounds, your body lowers cortisol levels

(the stress hormone) while boosting mood-enhancing dopamine. This isn't just feel-good magic, it's science at work. The right audio can transform your mind, helping you unwind, refocus, and simply breathe. When it comes to finding the

perfect audio tool for stress relief, Sennheiser headphones stand out. Designed for more than just high-fidelity sound, these headphones are built to help you leave behind the noise of the world and immerse yourself in tranquility.

Why Sennheiser is your Ideal Stress-Busting Companion

Sennheiser headphones are engineered with features that elevate your stress-relief game. It's not just about listening to music, it's about creating an environment where your mind can relax and your body can recharge. Here's why they're perfect for stress therapy!

1. Escape the Chaos with Noise-Cancelling Technology

One of the biggest stress triggers is external noise, the hum of traffic, the chatter of a busy office, or the constant buzz of the modern world. But with Sennheiser's noise-cancelling headphones, such as the

Momentum 4 Wireless, those external distractions vanish. Active Noise Cancellation (ANC) technology creates an acoustic bubble around you, where the only sound that matters is the one you choose.

2. Immerse Yourself in Crystal-Clear Sound

Sound therapy is all about precision and balance. That's why Sennheiser's headphones are a game-changer. With crystal-clear sound and a balanced profile, the experience of listening to soothing tracks or guided meditation sessions is elevated. The clarity of the sound also amplifies the therapeutic effect of audio. Whether it's

the delicate strum of an acoustic guitar, the gentle hum of a piano, or the rhythmic patterns of binaural beats, Sennheiser headphones allow you to experience sound in its purest form. And let's face it, listening to your favourite soothing playlist through headphones like these can turn stress relief into an art form.

3. Comfort That Keeps You Zen for Hours

Stress relief isn't just about what you hear, it's also about how comfortable you feel. With long hours of listening often required for optimal relaxation, comfort becomes a priority. Sennheiser's ergonomic design ensures that you

can enjoy hours of stress-free listening without any discomfort. The soft ear cushions and adjustable headbands on the Momentum 4 Wireless and HD 650 make them perfect for those seeking both audio excellence and physical comfort.



Incorporating Sound Therapy into Your Everyday Routine

Sennheiser headphones don't just serve as an escape, they become part of your everyday ritual to reduce stress and promote relaxation. Here's how you can integrate sound therapy into your daily routine!

Morning: Start Your Day with Calm

The way you start your day can set the tone for everything that follows. Instead of jumping straight into the hustle and bustle, why not begin with a peaceful sound experience? With Sennheiser headphones, you can dive into nature sounds or calming music to ease into your morning. The combination of high-quality sound and noise cancellation creates a serene atmosphere, helping you set a calm, positive mood for the day ahead.

Midday: Take a Moment to Recharge

Stress tends to build up throughout the day. By using your Sennheiser headphones during a midday break, you can take a moment to reset and recharge. Whether it's listening to a short mindfulness podcast or simply letting your favourite music play, those few minutes of sound therapy can help clear your mind and reduce accumulated stress. It's a perfect mid-day reset before you dive back into work.

Evening: Wind Down with Soothing Sounds

After a long day, it's essential to unwind before bed. Sennheiser's headphones, especially the Momentum True Wireless 2, are perfect for your evening relaxation rituals. Listen to calming tracks, guided meditations, or nature sounds to signal to your body that it's time to wind down. The clarity and comfort provided by these headphones create a peaceful environment where your mind can shift gears and prepare for sleep.