

Literature in the Age of AI: How Artificial Intelligence is Reshaping Literary Creation and Criticism

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Abstract: AI is becoming increasingly prominent in creative fields, with a noticeable impact on literature, influencing both how people write and how they analyze texts. This research examines the effects of AI on literature by gathering the perspectives of readers and experts through surveys and analyzing the results using statistical methods and graphical representations. While AI-generated writing is often considered stylistic and thematically coherent, it tends to lack the deep emotions and cultural context typically found in human-authored works. Overall, participants expressed a generally positive view of AI's role in supporting literary activities. However, concerns were raised regarding ethical issues, questions of authorship, unclear copyright protection, and potential biases inherent in AI training data. AI tools are largely trusted for identifying themes and conducting emotional analysis, but there remains skepticism about their ability to make nuanced literary judgments. These findings contribute to broader discussions about the role of technology in literature, emphasizing the need to address ethical considerations, explore diverse approaches, and develop strategies to harmonize human creativity with machine efficiency. The goal is not to reject automation, but to integrate AI in a way that supports, rather than undermines, the distinctive qualities of storytelling.

Keywords: Intelligent Systems, Machine-Created Texts, Textual Analysis, Algorithmic Innovation, Computational Humanities.

1. Introduction

When AI and literature intersect, it marks a significant shift in how people create and share art. For centuries, writing has been a deep human form of expression, rooted in language, emotion, and thought uniquely our own. However, recent advances in AI, particularly in natural language processing, text generation, and large language models, are reshaping the landscape of literary creation, analysis, and interpretation. These developments are enabling once-unimaginable capabilities (Floridi & Chiriatti, 2020). Advanced AI tools such as OpenAI's GPT-4, Google's BERT, and DeepMind's Gopher have demonstrated that machines can now generate rich, coherent, and culturally resonant literary content. Trained on massive datasets, these models can produce poetry, short stories, plays, and even novels (Brown et al., 2020). AI-generated literature not only mimics human styles but also captivates audiences through emotional and aesthetic appeal. Two notable examples include Sun Spring, a short film written by AI, and 1 the Road, an AI-authored novel inspired by Jack Kerouac's On the Road (Goodwin, 2018; Sharp, 2016). These works illustrate AI's growing capacity to emulate human literary skills and engage with complex thematic content. At the same time, AI is influencing literary criticism and academic analysis. Franco Moretti's concept of "distant reading," introduced in 2005, encourages the use of computational methods to analyze large volumes of literary texts. Techniques such as topic modeling, stylometry, and sentiment analysis enable scholars to identify patterns and relationships that would be difficult to detect through traditional close reading (Jockers, 2013; Underwood, 2019). These methods have given rise to the field of digital humanities, which blends computer science and literary theory to offer new perspectives on textual analysis (Gold & Klein, 2016). However, the integration of AI into literature raises significant ethical and philosophical questions, particularly around the concept of authorship. Roland Barthes' (1967) argued that the

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Corresponding email: <u>Azmatalikhan288@gmail.com</u> (Azmat Ali Khan) DOI: 10.61363/g79amw34 meaning of a text lies with the reader, not the writer. In the age of AI, this debate becomes even more complex: when a computer generates a literary work, who is the true author? The question is further complicated by the involvement of programmers, data curators, and editors who shape the system's outputs (Hayles, 2017). Concerns about algorithmic bias, data integrity, and intellectual property rights also contribute to the ongoing discourse (Bender et al., 2021). These developments challenge traditional notions of authority and creativity. Historically, creativity has been seen as an exclusively human trait, grounded in intentional thought and emotional depth. Yet scholars like Boden (2004) and Colton & Wiggins (2012) argue that creativity can be modeled as a process involving novelty, value, and surprise. While AI lacks human intent or consciousness, it demonstrates a new form of creativity that reshapes our understanding of artistic creation. Public attitudes toward AI-generated literature are becoming increasingly nuanced. While some audiences admire its innovation and stylistic capabilities, others criticize it for lacking genuine human emotion and experiential depth (Chambers & Steiner, 2021). AI may convincingly simulate feeling, but it does not possess true emotional consciousness, highlighting a fundamental tension between linguistic proficiency and authentic human expression, a core concern in literary appreciation. This research explores the evolving role of AI in the creation and interpretation of literature. It examines how literature incorporates AI, how AI transforms literary production, and how these changes influence critical discourse. By engaging in AI-generated texts, computational methods, and scholarly debates, this study contributes to the growing field at the intersection of literature, technology, and philosophy.

2. Literature Review

The rise of AI in literature has prompted scholars across disciplines to examine its impact on creativity, authorship, aesthetics, and literary analysis. Theoretical approaches range from those who view AI as a valuable collaborator to skeptics who question the quality and authenticity of AI-generated texts. This review synthesizes significant contributions from three interconnected areas: machine authorship, the use of AI in literary studies, and the broader cultural implications of AI in literature.

The concept of algorithmic creativity was first extensively explored by Margaret Boden, who identified three types of creativity – exploratory, combinatorial, and transformational – arguing that creative processes can be modeled and replicated by machines (Boden, 1990). Boden's theory laid the groundwork for the development of systems capable of producing literary works, most notably The Policeman's Beard is Half Constructed (1984), a collection of AI-generated poems created by Racter (McCorduck, 1991). At the time, literature was regarded as a product of uniquely human imagination, but this experiment suggested that automated processes could also generate artistic expression.

Subsequent advances in machine learning and deep neural networks enabled more sophisticated applications of AI in literary creation. Reiter and Dale (2000) initially developed natural language generation systems for generating textual reports, but their foundational work was later adapted for more creative endeavors. Manjavacas and Kestemont (2019) demonstrated that recurrent neural networks (RNNs) could mimic the structure and meaning of classical poetry, producing convincing pastiches. Similarly, Lamb et al. (2017) noted that long short-term memory (LSTM) networks maintained stylistic coherence across extended passages, which is crucial for crafting cohesive narratives.

The introduction of transformer architecture marked a significant leap in the quality of AI-generated literature. Radford et al. (2019) argued that transformers outperformed earlier models in maintaining thematic and logical continuity across longer texts. Research by Raffel et al. (2020) showed that transformer-based models like T5 could be trained to perform multiple tasks, such as summarization, translation, and metaphor generation, within a single framework. These capabilities underpin applications such as AI Dungeon, an interactive storytelling game powered by OpenAI's GPT, where users collaborate with AI to create dynamic fantasy narratives (Walton, 2020).

Nevertheless, the literary and philosophical dimensions of machine-generated texts continue to provoke debate. Montfort (2021) contends that while many AI systems can replicate stylistic elements, they often fail to capture critical literary structures such as symbolic logic, psychological depth, and intertextual references. Davies (2022) argues that the superficial coherence of AI literature often conceals a lack of intentionality, cultural grounding,



and ethical depth. Elkins and Chun (2019) further assert that AI-generated texts cannot achieve true emotional resonance or authenticity, as they lack lived experience and contextual meaning.

Alternatively, some scholars adopt a post-humanist perspective in examining AI's role in literature. Wolfe (2010) proposes that decentering the human subject in narrative allows for new modes of understanding that transcend anthropocentric thinking. Within this framework, AI-generated literature is viewed as a unique form of creativity shaped by technological and cultural conditions. Bridle (2018) explores how AI introduces a new aesthetic paradigm in which pattern recognition, repetition, and randomness become deliberate literary devices. AI has also transformed the practice of literary criticism through computational tools. For example, Michel et al. (2011) developed the Google Ngram Viewer to track word usage over centuries, offering insights into historical shifts in discourse and ideology. More advanced systems, as described by Sculley and Pasanek (2008), use clustering algorithms and stylistic analysis to attribute authorship and trace stylistic evolution. Mazzoni (2017) has raised ethical concerns about the dominance of data-driven methods, warning that such approaches may overlook interpretive nuance and reduce literature to quantifiable trends.

Cultural politics also plays a critical role in shaping AI's involvement in literature. Noble (2018) argues that algorithmic systems, reliant on biased datasets, often reinforce historical prejudices. This is particularly troubling in literature, where such biases may be reproduced unconsciously by machines. Birhane and Prabhu (2021) advocate for the decolonization of AI training data and emphasize the importance of including marginalized voices in AI development to prevent the homogenization or marginalization of diverse literary cultures.

Legal and commercial considerations further complicate the integration of AI into literary production. Gervais (2021) highlights unresolved challenges related to intellectual property rights, as current laws struggle to define authorship for AI-generated content. In 2022, the United States Copyright Office ruled that scientific literature created by AI is ineligible for copyright protection, creating uncertainty for publishers and developers. Samuelson (2017) suggests that a practical solution may be to assign authorship to the human creators of AI prompts, rather than to the AI itself.

AI is also reshaping educational practices in literary studies. Fish (2021) argues that literature courses should integrate computational literacy, enabling students to engage critically with both poetic form and programming logic. Bowen and Kensinger (2022) contend that reading AI-generated texts can deepen students' awareness of narrative construction, authorship, and interpretive strategies.

In conclusion, research at the intersection of AI and literary studies is dynamic and rapidly evolving, reflecting both excitement and concern. While AI introduces novel opportunities for creating and analyzing literature, it also raises fundamental questions about authorship, creativity, ethics, and cultural representation. Ongoing inquiry is essential not only to understand AI's technical capabilities but also to evaluate its broader implications across different societal and cultural contexts.

3. Methodology

This research is based on survey methods to evaluate how artificial intelligence influences both the creation and discussion of literature. The techniques were selected for their effectiveness in capturing a broad spectrum of opinions, experiences, and attitudes toward AI-generated writing. Data was collected from two distinct but related groups: professionals such as authors, editors, critics, and scholars who engage with literature in a formal or academic capacity, and general readers who interact with literary works based on their levels of familiarity with AI.

3.1 Research Design

A cross-sectional, descriptive survey design was employed, incorporating both fixed-response questions and scaled items. An online questionnaire was developed to assess public perceptions of AI-generated literature and the role of computational tools in literary analysis. The survey included both quantitative measures and open-ended questions. A Likert scale was used to gauge the level of agreement or disagreement with specific

statements, while open-ended sections allowed respondents to elaborate on their reasoning and provide additional insights.

3.2 Participant Selection

Data were collected using non-random sampling methods, with participants selected by the researcher based on their minimum level of engagement with literature, either as readers or writers. Invitations to participate were distributed via academic mailing lists, online writing forums, literary criticism groups, and communities focused on AI applications. 227 responses were received, comprising 103 literary professionals and 124 general readers. Notably, 56% of respondents reported engaging in creative or analytical tasks using AI tools such as ChatGPT, Sudo write, or Jasper. The survey also collected demographic data—including age, gender, educational background, and professional experience—to enable comparative analysis across different participant groups. This diverse sample allowed for an exploration of how individuals with varying degrees of literary expertise and cultural backgrounds perceive the role and influence of AI in literature.

3.3 Instrument Development

The literature review identified key themes that informed the development of the questionnaire, which was divided into five main sections. The first section gathered demographic information. The second assessed participants' familiarity and experience with AI tools. The third section evaluated perceptions of AI-generated literature, focusing on style, coherence, emotional impact, and creativity. The fourth explored the role of AI in literary analysis, examining perceptions of its accuracy, objectivity, and overall usefulness. The final section addressed ethical concerns, questions of authorship and ownership, and participants' perspectives on the future collaboration between AI and human writers in literary production. A pilot study was conducted with a small sample (n = 15) to pre-test the questionnaire for clarity, relevance, and timing. Feedback from respondents indicated that some items required rewording to ensure better comprehension, particularly for non-expert participants.

3.4 Data Collection Procedure

Data was collected over four weeks using Google Forms, which provided participants with convenient access to the survey. The questionnaire was distributed through LinkedIn, Reddit's literary communities, Discord writing platforms, and OpenAI forums. Participation was voluntary, and confidentiality was assured from the outset. Respondents were informed that their data would be used solely for research purposes and would be securely stored. On average, participants took approximately 12 minutes to complete the questionnaire. To optimize response rates, friendly and periodic reminders were sent during the latter stages of data collection.

3.5 Data Analysis

Exported survey data were imported into SPSS and NVivo for processing and analysis. Responses to Likertscale items were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including means, standard deviations, and frequencies, as well as inferential tests such as t-tests and ANOVA to identify statistically significant differences across demographic groups. Qualitative responses were analyzed through thematic coding using NVivo software. Recurring themes included the perceived lack of genuine emotion in AI-generated texts, reduced human involvement, increased efficiency in critique, and the dual role of AI as both an augmentative and potentially displacing force. These themes were compared with the quantitative findings to draw more robust and nuanced conclusions. The integration of both statistical data and in-depth qualitative insights enhanced the overall reliability and validity of the research findings.

3.6 Reliability and Validity

All Likert-scale sections demonstrated high reliability, with Cronbach's alpha values exceeding 0.82. Content validity was ensured by aligning the survey questions with established literature and obtaining feedback from three experts specializing in literary theory and artificial intelligence during the questionnaire development process. Given that participants represented at least 12 countries — including the United States, United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Germany, and Canada — the findings are anticipated to have broad, global applicability.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The study adhered strictly to the ethical guidelines outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki. No personally identifiable information was collected, and participants were free to withdraw from the study at any time



without penalty. Before data collection, the research protocol was reviewed and approved by the Ethics Review Board of the relevant institution. Throughout the study, emphasis was placed on transparency, confidentiality, and ensuring that participation was entirely voluntary.

4. Results

The survey results illustrate how various groups perceive the impact of artificial intelligence on literature. The data, presented across eight tables and accompanying graphics, provide a detailed view of how opinions have evolved.

4.1 Respondent Demographics

As shown in Table 1 and Figure 1, most survey participants were between 26 and 35 years old (40.5%), followed by those aged 36 to 45 (23.3%), and then the 18 to 25 age group (21.1%). Given that most respondents are young or middle-aged, they may be more comfortable using AI-powered tools. Conversely, the 60+ age group showed the lowest participation rate (4.1%), indicating reduced engagement among seniors. These results suggest varying levels of comfort, trust, and curiosity about AI in literature across different age groups.

Age Group	Count	Percentage (%)
18-25	48	21.1
26-35	92	40.5
36-45	53	23.3
46-60	25	11.0
60+	9	4.1

Figure 1: Age Distribution of Respondents



Figure 1. Proportion of Respondents Across Age Categories

4.2 Educational Background

Table 2 and Figure 2 illustrate the educational attainment of the respondents. Nearly half (44.5%) held a bachelor's degree, followed by 32.2% with a master's degree, and 13.7% possessing a PhD. This educational

profile supports the reliability of the sample, as these participants likely have substantial knowledge of literature and emerging digital technologies. The data suggests that discussions around AI in literature predominantly involve well-educated and skilled individuals from academic, publishing, and creative sectors.

Table 2. Educational Background of Selected Variables			
Education Level	Count	Percentage (%)	
High School	12	5.3	—
Bachelor's Degree	101	44.5	
Master's Degree	73	32.2	
PhD	31	13.7	
Other	10	4.3	

Figure 2: Educational Background of Respondents



Figure 2. Educational Background of Respondents

4.3 Familiarity with AI Tools

Information about respondents' familiarity with AI in literature is presented in Table 3 and Figure 3. Nearly 40% reported being "somewhat familiar" with AI in this context, while only 20.7% described themselves as "very familiar." Conversely, 25.1% indicated low or no familiarity, highlighting the need for greater public awareness about AI's capabilities and limitations in literature. These findings suggest that although AI is becoming integrated into the literary field, a significant portion of the population remains either skeptical or insufficiently informed about its role.

Familiarity Level	Count	Percentage (%)
Very Familiar	47	20.7
Somewhat Familiar	89	39.2

Table 3. Respondents' Familiarity with Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools

		Journal of Social Sciences and Economics Vol. 4(1), 2025, 75-87 ISSN (Online) 2958-1532 https://finessepublishing.com/jsse
Neutral	34	15.0
Not Very Familiar	36	15.8
Not at All Familiar	21	9.3



Figure 3. Familiarity with AI Tools

4.4 Usage Patterns in Literary Creation

Table 4 and Figure 4 explore how respondents utilize AI in their creative writing projects. The most common application was in creative writing itself (28.2%), followed by editing assistance (23.3%) and idea generation (18.5%). Notably, one in five respondents reported not using AI in literature at all, suggesting that AI may still be inaccessible or not widely accepted by some. These findings indicate that authors primarily use AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement, reflecting a growing trend of collaboration between human creativity and AI technology in the writing process.

Table 4. Respondents' Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Literary Creation			
Use Case	Count	Percentage (%)	
Creative Writing	64	28.2	
Editing Assistance	53	23.3	
Idea Generation	42	18.5	
None	51	22.5	
Other	17	7.5	

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Figure 4: AI Use in Literary Creation



4.5 Perceptions of AI-Generated Literature

Table 5 and Figure 5 detail participants' perceptions of AI-generated literature. A majority (72%) agreed that large language models can produce literature that is difficult to distinguish from human writing. However, 64% also felt that AI-generated texts often lack genuine emotion and depth, highlighting a key limitation: the inability to capture authentic human feelings and lived experiences. Additionally, 69% expressed belief that AI can serve as a co-author alongside humans, indicating openness to collaborative writing. Despite this, many participants voiced concerns regarding the ethics of AI authorship and emphasized the need for clearer attribution and copyright regulations.



Figure 5. Perceptions of AI Literature

Table 6 and Figure 6 show the level of trust respondents place in AI tools used for literary analysis. Theme extraction (73%) and sentiment analysis (68%) were the most trusted functions, likely because their results are straightforward and reproducible. In contrast, participants were less confident in AI tools that assess narrative structure or detect bias, as these tasks require a deeper understanding of context that AI often lacks. These



findings suggest that people generally view AI as useful for simpler analytical tasks but remain cautious about relying on it for more complex literary interpretation.



4.6 Preferences for Human-AI Collaboration

Table 7 and Figure 7 illustrate preferred models of collaboration between humans and AI. Nearly half of the respondents favored a model where humans lead and AI serves as an assistant, underscoring the importance of human creativity and decision-making. Only 4% preferred AI to work independently. Meanwhile, almost a quarter (22%) expressed interest in equal co-authorship, indicating that many users see AI as a creative partner rather than merely a tool or replacement. These findings highlight that users appreciate AI's support in the creative process without wanting their creativity to be overshadowed.

Collaboration Model	Preferred (%)	
Human-led with AI Support	47	
Equal Co-Authorship	22	
AI-led with Human Review	11	
Independent Human	16	
Independent AI	4	

Table 7. Preferences for AI-Human Collaboration

4.7 Ethical Concerns and Cultural Outlook

Table 8 and Figure 8 highlight ethical concerns and future expectations regarding AI in literature. A large majority of respondents expressed worry about bias in AI training (83%) and the threat of plagiarism (78%). Many also raised concerns about potential copyright conflicts (71%) and the possibility that AI might overshadow human voices (67%). Conversely, 39% believed AI could foster cultural change and promote greater diversity in writing. This mix of excitement and apprehension reflects a common ambivalence during periods of technological transformation into creative fields.



Figure 8. Ethical Concerns and Outlook

The survey findings confirm that AI is beginning to influence the world of literature. While people acknowledge AI's ability to write fluently and quickly, many remain skeptical about its capacity to fully replace the insight and values that human authors bring. Trust is the highest when AI serves as a supportive tool rather than making independent, creative decisions. Addressing ethical issues such as bias, authorship, and voice remains essential, requiring updates in policies and practices. The study also revealed that factors like age and education influence how people use AI, which should be considered when planning outreach and further development. Together, the tables and figures offer a robust dataset that sheds light on how artificial intelligence is reshaping literary creation and criticism.

5. Discussion

The introduction of AI into literature presents new technological possibilities for writers and critics, fundamentally altering how we understand creativity, writing, and texts. Drawing on survey data and academic insights, this study finds that literature is undergoing a transformation characterized by varied approaches, skepticism, and change. While AI can produce coherent texts and support detailed literary analysis, its role in literature remains contested across different contexts. Survey results reveal a dual attitude: excitement about AI's potential coupled with caution and wariness. This mirrors ongoing debates in digital humanities and literary theory. Hutchinson (2021) argues that AI in creative fields should be seen as a collaborator that redefines creative boundaries rather than replacing human authorship. Respondents in this study largely support this collaborative view, endorsing shared authorship and team writing while expressing concern about AI's ability to convey authentic emotions and navigate ethical gray areas. This aligns with Hancox's (2020) observation that machine learning can replicate narrative structures but lacks the deeper nuance found in human literature. A key issue is AI's inability to incorporate genuine emotional and subjective experience in its generated works. Although transformer models can maintain tone and consistency (Zellers et al., 2019), their output is limited by training data and probabilistic word selection. Critics like Turner (2017) argue that imagination involves norm-breaking and conceptual shifts – qualities that current self-learning AI does not authentically embody. Participants noted that while AI can imitate stylistic elements, it fails to represent lived experiences or cultural backgrounds meaningfully. Al's role in literary analysis also evokes mixed feelings in academia. While tools for tasks like sentiment analysis and theme extraction are generally trusted, respondents remain skeptical about AI's ability to detect bias or construct complex narratives. Piper (2020) warns that quantitative methods risk oversimplifying literature's layered complexity, a point echoed by Neiberg. Heavy reliance on data mining may marginalize the ambiguity and difficulty intentionally embedded in postmodern and postcolonial texts.



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Ethical concerns expressed by respondents reflect current academic discussions on algorithmic fairness and data integrity. Binns (2018) highlights that AI systems trained on biased datasets may perpetuate cultural stereotypes and reinforce dominant societal narratives. For instance, language models predominantly trained in Western texts may inadvertently exclude or misrepresent global voices. The issue of intellectual property adds to another layer of complexity. Schultz (2019) notes that existing copyright laws do not adequately address the division of credit, royalties, and responsibility when creative works involve human-machine collaboration. The educational implications of AI's rise in literature are also significant. Although this study did not focus on schools, its findings offer valuable insights for teaching and learning. AI tools can expose students to diverse writing styles, offer immediate feedback, and demonstrate narrative structures. However, Fisher and Mahajan (2021) caution that overreliance on digital tools risks fostering passivity and dependence rather than active skill development. Effective pedagogy should encourage critical engagement with AI outputs, helping students to evaluate, revise, and contextualize machine-generated texts. Looking forward, AI's impact on literature is expanding through new, multimodal formats like interactive stories combining text, images, and sound (Manovich, 2020). These innovations broaden the literature's scope and challenge traditional reading as a purely interpretive activity, inviting more creative participation from readers. Coeckelbergh (2020) envisions a future where literature is not only written but also dynamically designed through reader interaction and context. Finally, AI's integration into literary studies is reshaping the humanities themselves. While literature has traditionally thrived on ambiguity, symbolism, and figurative language, AI introduces data-driven logics to its analysis. Finn (2018) suggests we treat AI not as an authoritative source but as a conversational expert whose outputs require human verification. In summary, supported by academic discourse, this study concludes that literary culture is evolving. AI does not diminish human creativity but is increasingly entwined with literary production, criticism, and interpretation. As AI becomes a core part of creative practice, scholars and practitioners must critically assess its benefits and limitations to ensure it enhances rather than undermines storytelling.

6. Conclusion

This study concludes that artificial intelligence is reshaping the landscape of literary creation and criticism, not by replacing human authorship, but by emerging as a powerful collaborative tool. Survey findings reveal that while AI is widely appreciated for its efficiency in tasks such as theme extraction, editing, and sentiment analysis, skepticism persists regarding its ability to replicate genuine emotional depth, cultural context, and nuanced literary judgment. Respondents expressed both optimism about AI's potential to enhance creativity and concern over ethical issues related to authorship, bias, and copyright. These mixed sentiments reflect a broader societal ambivalence toward automation in creative fields. Rather than displacing human imagination, AI should be integrated thoughtfully to support and extend the literary process. As the boundaries between machine and human creativity continue to blur, the future of literature will depend on ethically navigating this partnership, ensuring that technological innovation serves to enrich rather than diminish the emotional and cultural essence of storytelling.

6.1 Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request. Due to participant confidentiality and ethical considerations, the raw survey responses are not publicly shared. Aggregated data and statistical summaries used in the analysis can be provided for academic and non-commercial purposes.

6.2 Author Contributions Statement

Azmat Ali Khan conceptualized the study, designed the survey instrument, and led the data collection and analysis. Rida Shabir contributed to the literature review, interpretation of findings, and drafting of the manuscript. Abdullah Zaman supported data coding, prepared visual representations, and assisted in the editing and formatting of the final document. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript for submission.

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