

# CAMPUS COGNITION

## The Pulse of Policy: What Students Think About AI, Climate & Space

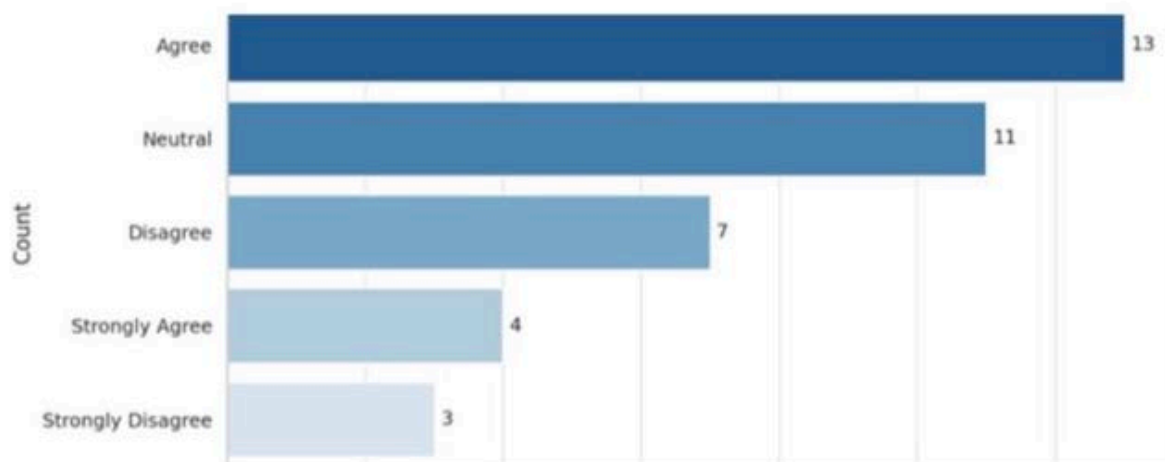
In an era of rapid technological advancements and pressing global challenges, understanding student perspectives is crucial. College students are not just passive observers of change but active participants in shaping the future. Their views on governance, artificial intelligence, climate policies, and space politics provide valuable insights into how the next generation perceives and engages with these critical issues.

As part of our latest edition of The Rationale (Vol. 4, Issue 2) themed “Governance Unbound: Navigating AI, Climate, and the Cosmos,” we conducted a student survey to explore awareness, opinions, and concerns on these topics. Over a span of two days, we gathered responses from approximately 40 students on the Deshbandhu College campus, along with participants from other Delhi University campuses. Using MCQ-based questionnaires, we delved into their thoughts on AI governance, climate change policies, and the evolving landscape of astropolitics. The responses underwent comprehensive data analysis, offering a meaningful glimpse into how students engage with these global conversations.

The findings from this survey reveal intriguing trends and insights, which we now present in the following analysis.

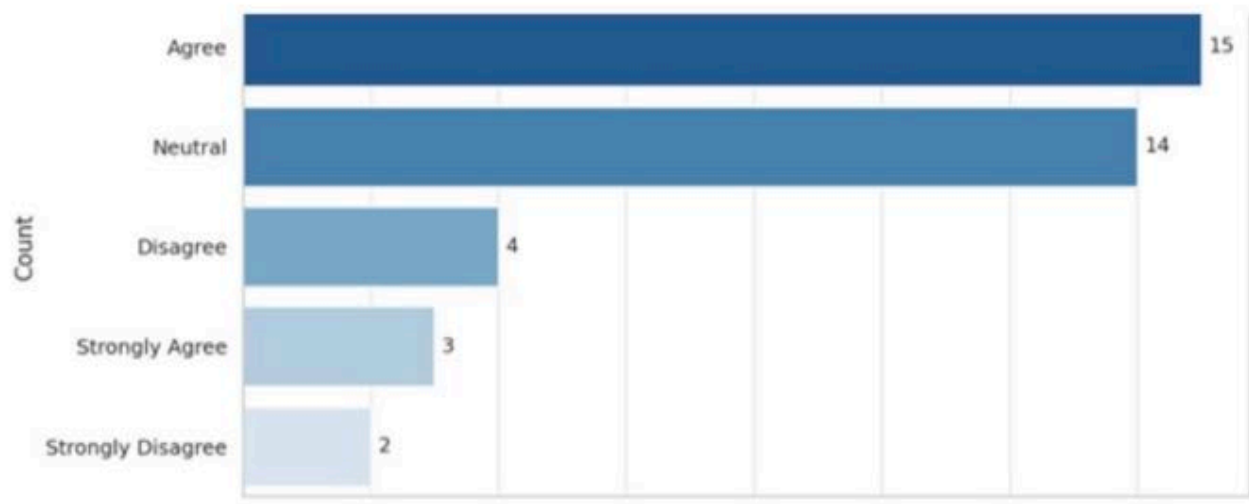
### Detailed Question-wise Analysis

#### Q1. Do you feel hopeful about the future of our planet?



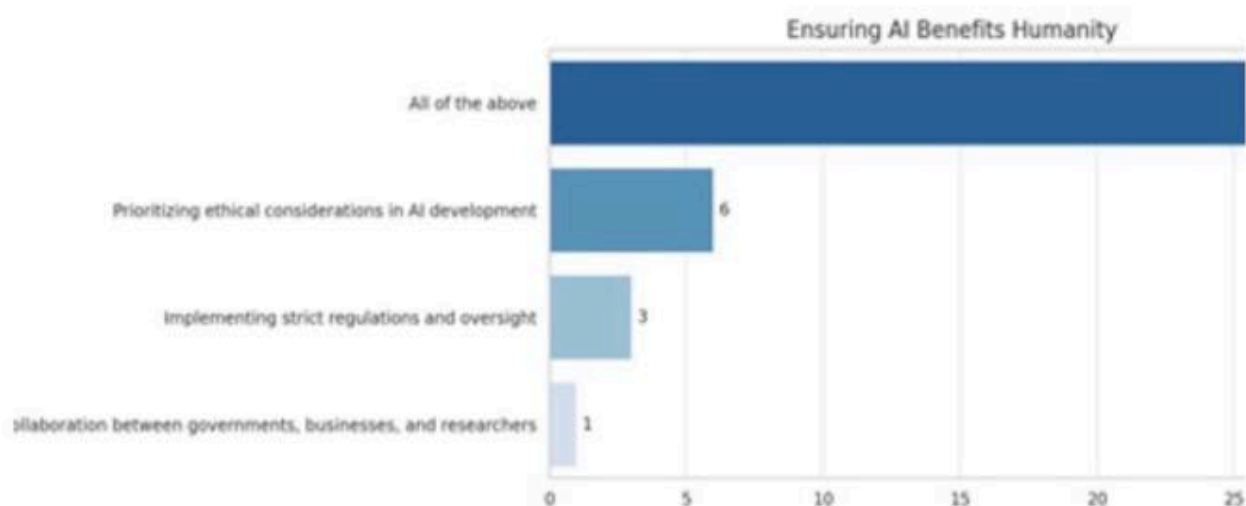
Responses to this question were mixed, indicating a divided outlook on the future of Earth. Some participants expressed optimism, while others were neutral or pessimistic. The split in perspectives suggests that while there is hope for environmental recovery and sustainability, concerns about climate change, resource depletion, and inadequate policy actions remain significant. The neutral responses may reflect uncertainty rather than outright pessimism, indicating that people's outlook depends on ongoing environmental and policy changes.

### Q2. Do you believe AI can be used safely to benefit humanity?



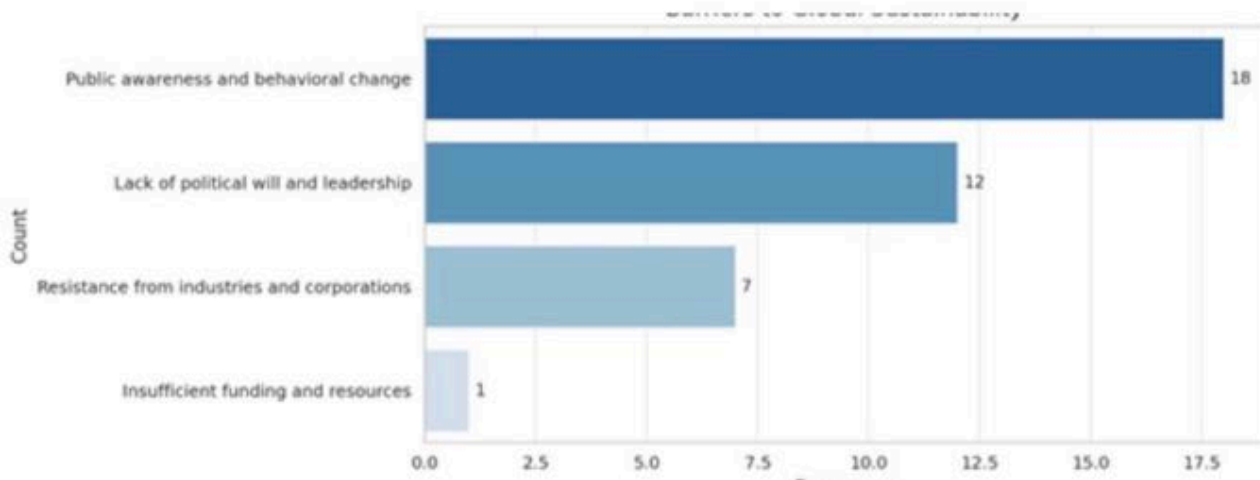
A majority of respondents believe that AI has the potential to benefit humanity, but there is still a noticeable portion of skepticism. Concerns revolve around ethical considerations, misuse of AI, and potential biases in technology. Those who disagreed or remained neutral likely fear that without proper regulations, AI could be exploited, leading to job losses, surveillance issues, and ethical dilemmas. This indicates a need for a balanced approach—embracing AI's advantages while ensuring that it is developed and deployed responsibly.

### Q3. What is the most effective way to ensure AI benefits humanity?



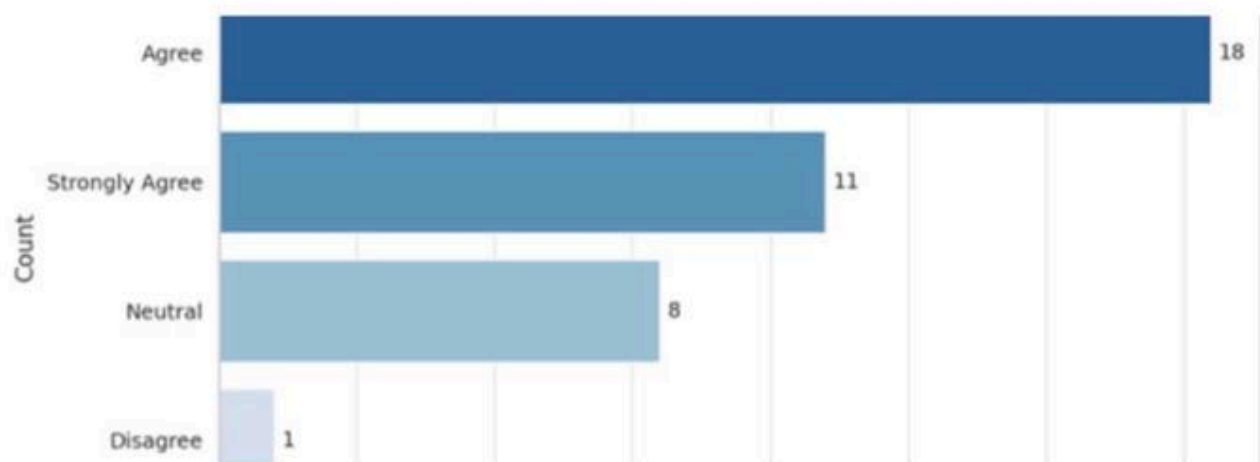
The most popular response was prioritizing ethical considerations and strong regulatory frameworks, followed by a combination of approaches including transparency, accountability, and public involvement. Many respondents emphasized that AI should be developed with clear ethical guidelines to prevent bias, misinformation, and harm. The preference for regulation highlights the public's awareness of AI's risks and the need for responsible development practices to maximize benefits while minimizing threats.

#### Q4. What is the most significant barrier to achieving global sustainability?



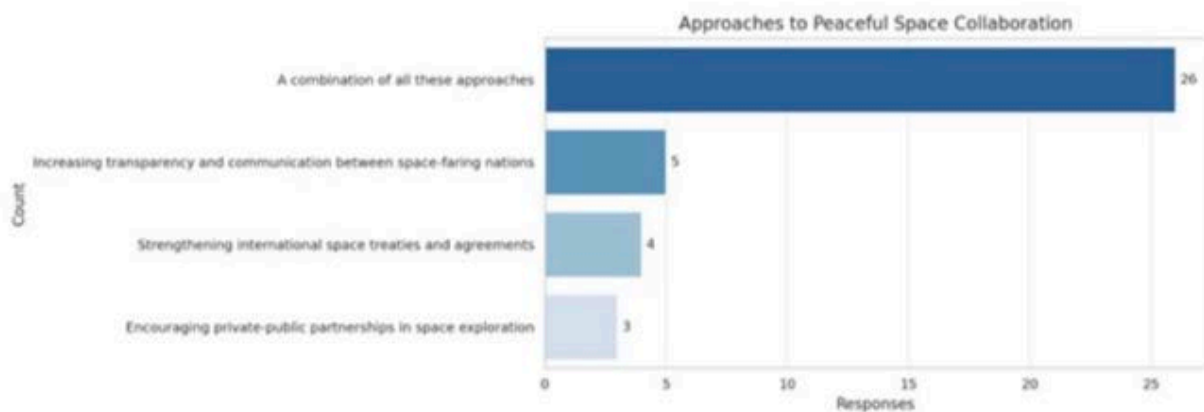
Among the most cited barriers were lack of political will, corporate resistance, and public awareness challenges. Many participants believe that despite the availability of technology and solutions, progress is hindered by government inaction and corporate interests that prioritize profit over sustainability. This response suggests that while technological and scientific advancements are crucial, real change requires strong leadership, policy reforms, and global cooperation to overcome systemic resistance.

#### Q5. Should citizens play a larger role in shaping AI and climate policies?



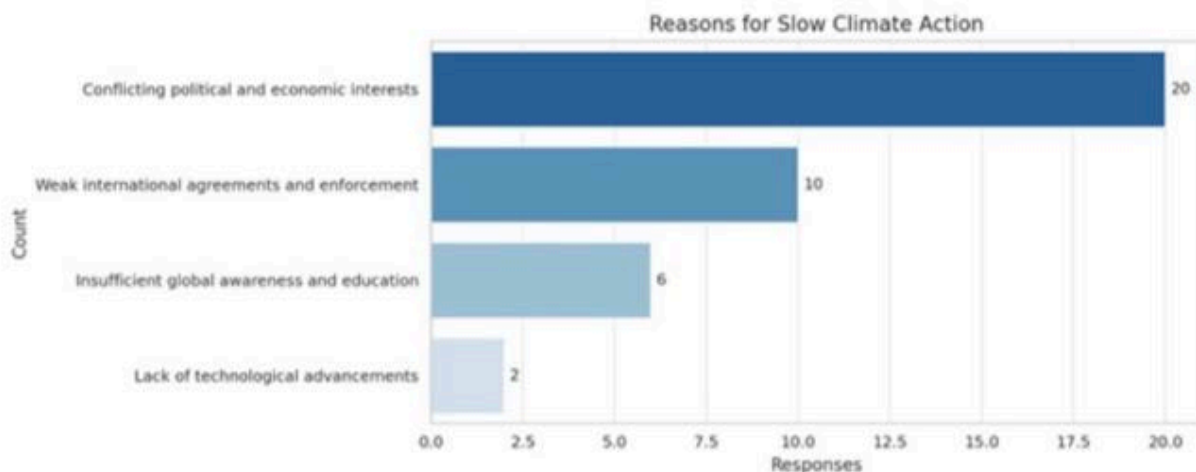
The majority of respondents agreed that citizens should have a greater influence in shaping policies related to AI and climate change. This reflects a growing demand for participatory governance, where individuals want a say in critical decisions affecting their future. The responses indicate that public engagement, awareness campaigns, and citizen-led initiatives can help drive more accountable and inclusive policymaking, ensuring that technological and environmental decisions align with societal needs.

### Q6. What is the best approach to ensuring peaceful collaboration in space?



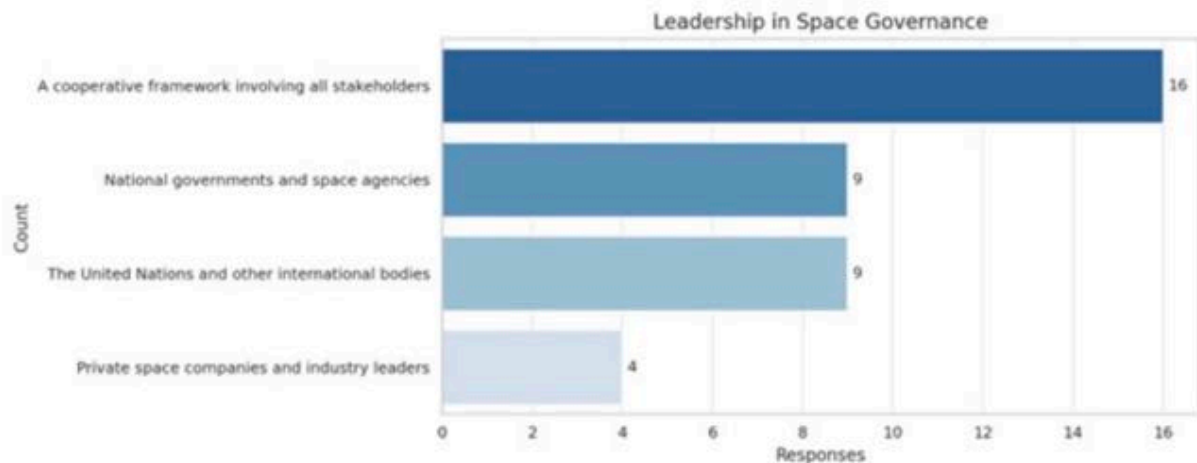
Responses favored increased transparency, strengthening international treaties, and a combination of diplomatic efforts. Many participants recognize that space governance requires global cooperation, as nationalistic competition could lead to conflicts and resource disputes. The emphasis on treaties and transparency highlights concerns about militarization, private sector dominance, and uneven access to space resources. Respondents seem to support a framework that ensures equitable and peaceful exploration beyond Earth.

### Q7. What is the primary reason for slow progress in combating climate change?



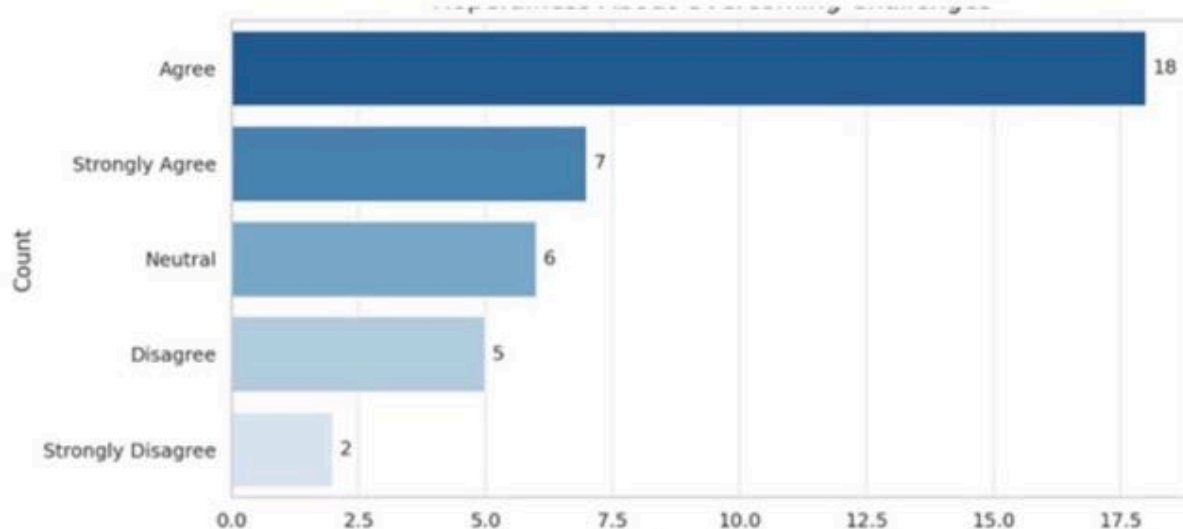
Conflicting political and economic interests were among the most cited reasons, followed by weak international agreements and a lack of technological advancements. Many respondents believe that climate change action is often delayed due to political unwillingness and resistance from industries that benefit from the status quo. This suggests that policy changes, stricter enforcement mechanisms, and economic incentives for sustainability could accelerate progress in addressing climate issues.

### Q8. Who should take the lead in setting global policies for space governance?



The responses were split between national governments, international bodies like the United Nations, and a cooperative framework involving multiple stakeholders. Many participants favored global cooperation rather than unilateral control by a single country or agency. The mixed responses indicate that while people recognize the expertise of space agencies, they also see the value in inclusive, international decision-making to ensure fair and responsible space exploration.

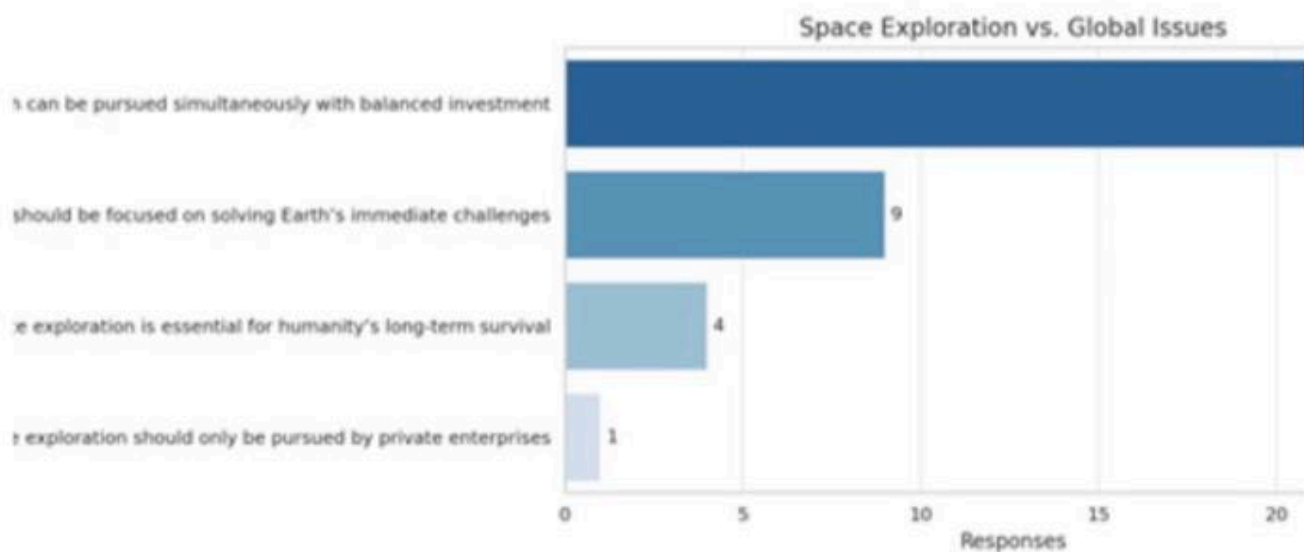
### Q9. Do you feel hopeful about humanity's ability to overcome global



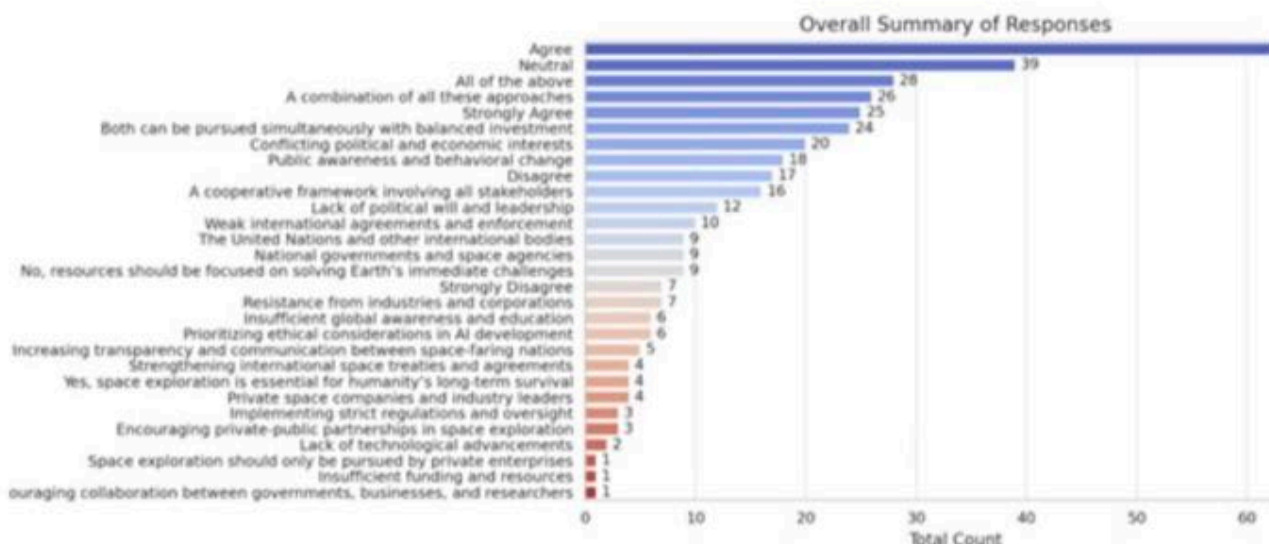
## challenges?

Similar to the earlier question about the planet's future, responses were divided, with some agreeing, others neutral, and a few disagreeing. While some participants are optimistic about human resilience and technological advancements, others remain skeptical due to ongoing conflicts, economic instability, and environmental crises. The neutral responses suggest that many people feel uncertain about the future, likely depending on how governments and global organizations respond to pressing challenges.

## Q10. Should space exploration be a priority over solving global issues on Earth?



The majority of respondents believed that both space exploration and addressing Earth's challenges should be pursued simultaneously. While some argued that Earth's problems must take precedence, others recognized the potential benefits of space exploration, such as technological advancements and resource discoveries.



The general consensus suggests that while space exploration is important, it should not come at the expense of urgent global issues like climate change, poverty, and economic inequality.

## Overall Results

Now, we shift our focus to the final bar graph, which presents an overall analysis of the responses. This chart provides a comprehensive view of student opinions across the college campus, offering insight into collective perspectives on these pressing global issues.

From the data, we observe recurring themes: a mix of optimism and concern regarding climate change and AI, with a strong emphasis on the need for ethical governance and policy reforms. Many students believe that political and corporate inertia hinder sustainability efforts, while citizen involvement in shaping AI and climate policies is seen as crucial. Additionally, while space exploration is valued, most respondents prioritize solving Earth's pressing challenges first.

This broader snapshot highlights the importance of awareness, proactive governance, and international collaboration to address these global concerns effectively.

## Way Forward:

1. Enhanced Youth Participation – Encouraging active involvement of young individuals in policy discussions and decision-making processes related to AI, climate change, and sustainability.
2. Increased Awareness and Action – Strengthening educational initiatives and public engagement to bridge the gap between knowledge and real-world impact.
3. Stronger Global Collaboration – Promoting international cooperation among governments, organizations, and institutions to tackle pressing global challenges collectively.
4. Balanced Approach to Innovation and Sustainability – Ensuring that technological advancements, including AI and space exploration, are pursued responsibly without compromising urgent environmental and social issues on Earth.

## Conclusion: A Generation Poised for Change

The survey results highlight a student body that is aware, opinionated, and engaged with issues surrounding climate change, AI, and space governance. While there is hope for technological advancements and sustainability efforts, there is also a strong demand for accountability and action from governments, corporations, and citizens alike.

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*Data Analysis and Chart plotting- Pia Chopra*