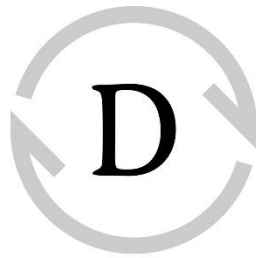


Global AI Literacy Pulse Check 2026

Report



Daman Dev Sood

Resilience Games Designer & Developer
Resilience Culture Architect
International Resilience Trainer & Consultant

daman@damandevsood.com | +91 9958091880 | www.damandevsood.com

The Global AI Literacy Pulse Check 2026 indicates that a majority of respondents demonstrate Strategic to Resilient AI Literacy, suggesting that professionals actively engaged in AI discussions already possess a strong awareness of AI risks, limitations, and governance responsibilities.

I initiated this global study as Global AI Literacy Pulse Check in January 2026 with the backdrop of India AI Summit happening at that time.

First of all, I defined AI Literacy as:

"An AI literate person is one who understands – not merely knows - what AI is, how it works, how to use it ethically and responsibly, where its limits lie, and the risks it carries."

The survey was kept open to all across the globe. The questions were designed differently – all responses would not carry equal weightage. There were 9 scoring questions each carrying a weightage of 1-5 (based on the response) hence one could score 45 maximum. Questions were also designed as 'cases' or 'scenarios', hence one would need to think before responding.

1 The CEO/ Head of the Organisation says, "We must embed AI across all functions this year."

Before supporting this, what is your first priority?

2 An AI system gives a highly confident but incorrect answer.

What best explains this?

3 The company prepared its regulatory report using AI. About 80% was done by AI.

Before submitting, what would you do?

4 HR's main challenge was Attrition in the company. HR and IT discussed a proactive action i.e. using AI to analyse employee emails to predict attrition. IT team monitors the employee mails anyway.

What will you do?

5 The consultant made a presentation to the board, "AI will eliminate human error in decision-making."

What will be your response?

6 HR started using an AI tool in hiring. It was realized that the tool favours similar educational backgrounds.

What is the most likely root cause?

7 You are heading a new program on AI Implementation. During initial days you find that the employees increasingly depend on AI for writing and analysis.

What is the Primary long-term risk?

8 Finance department used AI-generated recommendation for certain investments, which resulted in financial loss.

Whom does Primary accountability rest with?

9 The company faces a Crisis. The Crisis Management Team uses AI for decision making. AI suggests three response strategies.

What should the CMT do?

10 Self-Assessment

Rate your AI literacy from 1 to 5. (5 being best)

Then identify one action you will take in next 30 days with respect to AI. (No scoring — qualitative insight.)

It was decided to keep it fully confidential so even demographics (name, age, gender, email id, organization, designation, country/ city) were not captured.

I then designed the following scale:

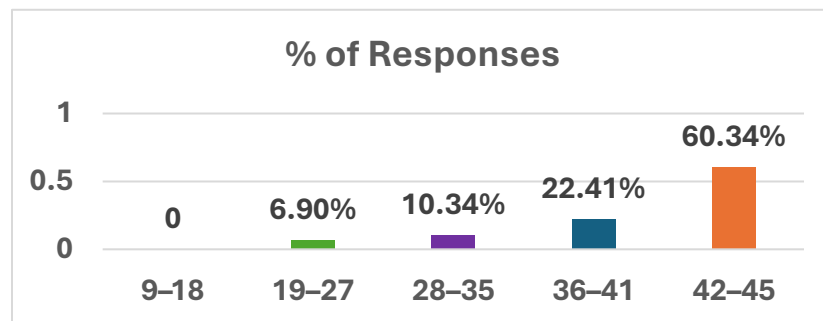
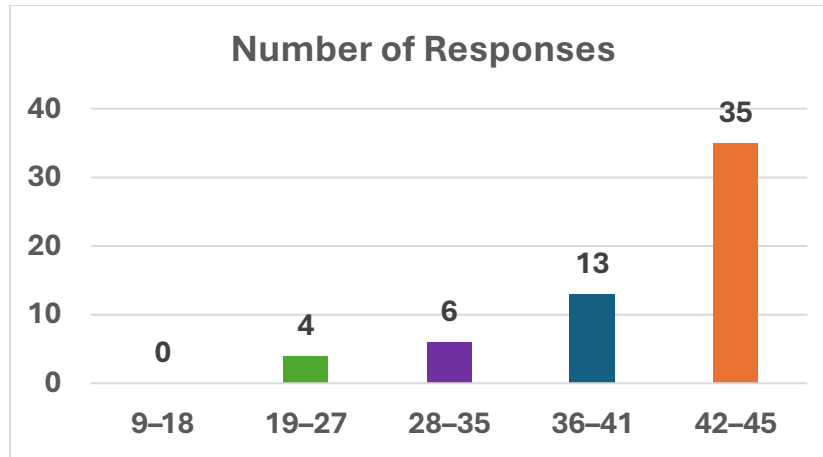
Score Range	AI Literacy Level	What It Indicates
9–18	Foundational AI Awareness	Understands AI as a tool, but limited grasp of limits, risk and governance.
19–27	Functional AI Literacy	Can use AI effectively, with emerging awareness of risks and validation needs.
28–35	Applied AI Literacy	Demonstrates responsible use, recognises limitations, and integrates human judgement.
36–41	Strategic AI Literacy	Understands organisational risk, accountability, and ethical implications.
42–45	Resilient AI Literacy	Integrates AI understanding with governance, critical thinking, and decision accountability.

Detailed analysis

Overall Participation

- **Total Responses:** 58 professionals
- **Average Score:** 40.33 / 45

This is **very high**. It means the responding group is **not a general population sample**, but likely people already interested in AI governance, risk, or responsible use.



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No one fell into **Foundational AI Literacy**.

Nearly **82%** of respondents fall into **Strategic or Resilient AI Literacy**.

That is unusually strong.

What This Likely Means

This survey has likely reached:

- Risk professionals
- Governance professionals
- BCM / resilience professionals
- AI-aware leadership audience
- Summit participants already thinking critically about AI

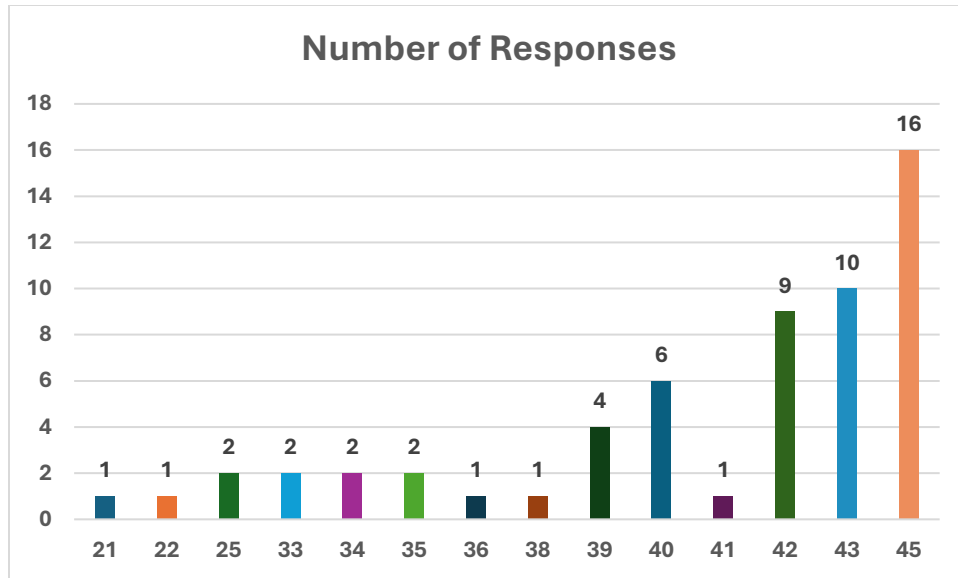
In other words, **I measured AI literacy inside an already literate audience.**

This is actually valuable. It tells what **the leading edge of AI thinking looks like today.**

Most professionals who actively engage in AI governance conversations demonstrate high levels of AI literacy.

The challenge may not be literacy among engaged professionals — but extending this literacy to the broader workforce.

AI literacy among decision-makers appears significantly stronger than commonly assumed.



It is noted that the least score was 21 (single respondent) while 16 respondents scored maximum (i.e. 45).

Participants' response to 'One action you will take in next 30 days with respect to AI':

- I will spread more awareness about AI.
- Conduct a deep dive into AI bias and ethics frameworks and create a checklist to apply when evaluating AI tools in my team. Or, pilot one AI tool for analysis or reporting, while documenting limitations, accuracy checks, and human review points.
- Currently working with claude code, github, vercel and hostinger to develop and maintain tools for resilience program development.
- Learn more...
- Learning more about AI
- I will explore AI use cases specific to Business Continuity and Resilience and propose one actionable implementation plan.
- Will learn some tools in details.
- Learn how AI can be used in best way to benefit my organization
- Learning from coursera.
- I will reduce my dependency on AI.
- Understand AI's risks better.
- I am only using AI for basics right now. This will continue in the next 30 days. It helps me draft emails, data code for my studies and proof read / check references for my thesis.
- Continue learning.
- Learn how LLMs can be trained better.

- In the next 30 days, I will continue to monitor the trends in AI.
- No action as there is no spare capacity right now.
- I keep using AI to increase efficiency for practice and learning fast, it's illegal to run fast in course but why wait when AI gives answer in less than time you try to open books.
- In next 30 days, I would like to spend more time around risks around financial decisions by AI. AI being used very often for financial decisions, it is important to understand risks and create a framework to control negative impacts.
- Learn AI skills and tools based on monitoring every day.
- I will use AI tools more responsibly and verify outputs before relying on them.
- Use AI for research and generation of a daily report on Geo Political situation and security situation globally.
- More use of AI tools in my office work.
- Read More Books to Strengthen my knowledge & Awareness on AI Literacy/competency.

This is good to see that almost all respondents commit to continue learning.

The participants, on an average, rated themselves 3.1 on a scale of 5 with respect to AI Literacy. This on my scale could be equal to 'Applied AI Literacy' i.e. Demonstrates responsible use, recognises limitations, and integrates human judgement.

Conclusion

The Global AI Literacy Pulse Check 2026 offers an important and somewhat reassuring insight: among professionals already engaged in AI, risk, and governance conversations, AI literacy is not superficial — it is maturing. A significant majority of respondents demonstrated Strategic to Resilient AI Literacy, indicating a clear understanding of not just what AI can do, but where it can fail, how it must be governed, and why human judgement remains central.

However, this should not lead to complacency. The results also highlight a critical gap — this level of literacy is concentrated within a self-selecting, aware audience. The real organisational and societal risk lies beyond this group, where AI adoption may be accelerating faster than understanding. As AI continues to embed itself into decision-making, operations, and strategy, the challenge is no longer adoption, but responsible adoption at scale.

AI Literacy, therefore, must evolve from an individual capability to an organisational priority. It is not enough for a few to understand — many must. Because in the end, AI will not fail where it is misunderstood by experts; it will fail where it is trusted without understanding.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that factors such as demographics, level of awareness and maturity, geography, industry sector, and the number of participants can significantly influence the results. This study does not claim to represent a universal baseline of AI literacy despite being a global study.

However, the objective of this initiative was not only to measure current maturity, but also to provoke reflection. Even for those who may not have participated, the scenarios themselves are intended to help readers assess their own understanding of AI — its capabilities, limits, and risks.

Above all, relentless learning must continue as the AI models also keep learning and evolving!

If this report prompts even a moment of pause or rethinking, it has served its purpose. I would therefore encourage you to share this with your colleagues, peers, and networks — across roles, industries, and age groups — so that AI literacy becomes not a niche capability, but a widely understood responsibility.

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Daman Dev Sood

Resilience Specialist| Mentor| Author| Speaker



Director

DBD Training & Consultancy (OPC) Private Limited
daman@damandevsood.com| www.damandevsood.com| +91 9958091880