Generating Indian Facial Images from Textual Descriptions Using Diffusion Models - ALiterature Review

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Abstract:

This literature review surveys methods for generating facial images from natural-language descriptions with an emphasis on Indian faces and the recent rise of diffusion-based models. We trace the evolution from early GAN-based text-to-image and text-to-face systems to modern latent diffusion approaches, compare their strengths and weaknesses, summarize available Indian-face resources, and identify open problems and ethical considerations. The review ends with recommended experimental setups and a proposed benchmark for evaluating text-to-face systems in the Indian context.

Introduction:

The synthesis of human facial images from textual descriptions has rapidly progressed over the past decade, driven by advances in **Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs)** [24], **VariationalAutoencoders (VAEs)**, and more recently, **diffusion-based models** [21]. While models such as **Stable Diffusion** and **Imagen** have achieved remarkable performance in general domains [9][10], their effectiveness in representing ethnically diverse populations, particularly Indian faces, remains underexplored. This gap is significant because biased generative systems risk producing inaccurate or stereotyped outputs, especially when trained primarily on Western-centric datasets [12][13][14][15][16][18]. The objective of this review is to evaluate prior work on generative facial synthesis, identify methodological innovations, highlight dataset limitations, and propose future directions for building culturally relevant benchmarks for Indian faces.

Related Work

Early approaches to text-to-image synthesis were dominated by **GANs**. Works such as **VQGAN-CLIP** enabled fine-grained generation by linking textual prompts with visual embeddings [3]. For forensic applications, GAN-based frameworks were used to reconstruct human faces from witness descriptions [2]. More recent extensions incorporated **attention mechanisms** and multimodal conditioning to enhance control and alignment with textual descriptions [6].

The emergence of **diffusion models** marked a paradigm shift. **Latent Diffusion Models (LDMs)** [21] and **Imagen** [10] achieved state-of-the-art realism and semantic alignment, while methods like **DreamBooth** [6] enabled subject-specific customization. Hybrid approaches such as **GANDiffFace** further bridged GAN identity generation with diffusion-based variation, offering robustness across identity categories, including Indian faces [7].

Literature Review:

Sr. No	Title Of the Paper	Names of Authors	Publications	Findings
1	StackGAN: Text to photo-realistic image synthesis with stacked generative adversarial networks	Zhang, H., Xu, T., Li, H., Zhang, S., Wang, X., Huang, X., & Metaxas, D. N.	Proceedings of the IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV), 2017	Introduced a stacked GAN approach to generate high-resolution, photo-realistic images from text descriptions.
2	StackGAN++: Realistic image synthesis with stacked generative adversarial networks	Zhang, H., Xu, T., Li, H., Zhang, S., Wang, X., Huang, X., & Metaxas, D. N.	IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, 2019	Improved upon StackGAN with a more stable architecture and advanced training for better realism.
3	VQGAN-CLIP: Open domain image generation and editing with natural language guidance	Crowson, K., Mostaque, E., & Robinson, D.	arXiv, 2022	Combined VQGAN and CLIP to enable flexible open-domain image generation and editing from text prompts.
4	TediGAN: Text-guided diverse image generation and manipulation	Xia, W., Yang, Y., Xue, J.-H., & Wu, B.	Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2021	Enabled fine-grained and diverse image generation and editing guided by text descriptions.
5	StyleGAN2	NVIDIA	Wikipedia, 2020	Second version of StyleGAN, improved quality and reduced artifacts in generative image synthesis.
6	clip2latent: Text driven sampling of a pre-trained StyleGAN using denoising diffusion and CLIP	Pinkney, J., & Adler, D.	GitHub, 2022	Integrated CLIP and diffusion with StyleGAN for controlled sampling from textual descriptions.

7	DiffusionCLIP: Text-guided diffusion models for robust image manipulation	Kim, G., Nam, S., & Chun, S.	Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2022	Introduced text-conditioned diffusion for image editing with robustness and quality improvements.
8	DATID-3D: Diversity-preserved domain adaptation using text-to-image diffusion for 3D generative model	Kim, G., & Chun, S.	Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2023	Presented diffusion-based methods for diversity-preserving 3D model generation with text guidance.
9	Artificial-intelligence-generated content with diffusion models: A literature review	MDPI	MDPI, 2024	Surveyed literature on AI-generated content using diffusion models with emphasis on applications.
10	Diffusion models: A comprehensive survey of methods and applications	ACM	ACM Digital Library, 2023	Comprehensive survey of diffusion models covering methodologies and practical applications.
11	Fair Diffusion: Bias mitigation in Stable Diffusion	Naik, S., &Nushi, B.	Springer Professional, 2023	Addressed bias mitigation strategies in diffusion models to promote fairness.
12	Interpretations, representations, and stereotypes of caste within text-to-image generators	Ghosh, S.	arXiv, 2024	Analyzed caste-related stereotypes embedded in generative text-to-image systems.
13	Do generative AI models output harm while representing non-Western cultures: Evidence from a community-centered approach	Ghosh, S., Roy, P., & Sharma, R.	arXiv, 2024	Studied cultural harms and misrepresentation of non-Western contexts in generative AI.

14	Inspecting the geographical representativeness of images from text-to-image models	Basu, A., Das, M., & Roy, S.	arXiv, 2023	Evaluated the geographic balance and inclusivity of datasets in T2I generative models.
15	AI's regimes of representation: A community-centered study of text-to-image models in South Asia	Anonymous	ResearchGate/ar5iv, 2023	Explored representational politics and biases of AI models within South Asian contexts.
16	Digital Orientalism in machine vision: A cross-platform analysis of AI-generated representations of Indian culture	Qadri, A., & Ali, S.	Cyber Lenika, 2023	Highlighted orientalist biases in AI visual representation of Indian culture across platforms.

Methodological Background

Generative methods for text-to-face synthesis can be grouped into three paradigms:

1. **GAN-based approaches:** Learn adversarial mappings between noise and image distributions [24]. They provide effective attribute-level control but struggle with semantic fidelity.
2. **VAE-based approaches:** Model latent distributions and enable interpolation, but often at the cost of image sharpness.
3. **Diffusion-based approaches:** Model data distributions through iterative denoising steps, yielding high-quality, semantically rich outputs [21]. Their scalability (e.g., **Stable Diffusion, Imagen**) has made them the dominant methodology since 2021 [10].

Diffusion's integration with **CLIP embeddings** [22] and **cross-attention** allows nuanced conditioning on natural language descriptions, a critical factor for descriptive synthesis of Indian faces.

Datasets

High-quality datasets remain a bottleneck in ensuring fair representation.

- **IIITM Face Dataset:** Captures Indian subjects across varied poses and emotions [25].
- **Indian Masked Faces in the Wild (IMFW):** Documents Indian cultural masking practices (e.g., gamcha, stoles) [25].
- **FairFace:** Includes Indian identities but in limited representation, used in hybrid frameworks like **GANDiffFace**[7].
- **Mukh-Oboyob:** A Bangla text-to-face dataset leveraging Stable Diffusion and BanglaBERT [20].

While these datasets improve cultural inclusivity, none provide **text–image paired descriptions**, a crucial gap for training text-to-face synthesis models [19][26].

Comparative Analysis

Model	Strengths	Limitations in Indian Context
GANs (e.g., VQGAN-CLIP) [3]	Fine-grained text-to-image control	Struggles with realism; bias in Indian face representation
Multi-GAN with attention [6]	Stronger attribute alignment	Relies on general datasets (FFHQ, CelebA), lacking Indian faces
Latent Diffusion / Imagen [10][21]	High photorealism, strong text alignment	Dataset bias leads to underrepresentation of Indian features
DreamBooth [6]	Personalized face generation with few-shot learning	Requires curated reference images for Indian subjects
GANDiffFace [7]	Combines GAN identity control + diffusion variation	Includes Indian category via FairFace but not text-driven

Experimental Design & Proposed Benchmark

To address representation gaps, we propose a **benchmark pipeline**:

1. **Dataset Curation:** Construct an **Indian text-to-face dataset** with descriptive captions reflecting skin tones, attire, and cultural attributes [12][13][14][15][16].
2. **Baseline Comparison:** Train and evaluate GANs [1][2][3], VAEs, and diffusion-based models (Stable Diffusion, Imagen, DreamBooth) [6][9][10].
3. **Evaluation Metrics:**
    - **FID/IS** for realism [9].
    - **CLIP-Score** for text-image alignment [22].

- Fairness Metrics: Recognition accuracy across Indian subgroups [12][18].

4. **Benchmark Standardization:** Release as an open benchmark to facilitate reproducibility and comparative evaluation in Indian facial synthesis [19][20].

Ethical Considerations

Generative models for facial synthesis raise significant ethical challenges:

- **Bias and Fairness:** Current systems risk perpetuating stereotypes if Indian facial diversity is not adequately represented [12][13][14][16][17][18].
- **Privacy:** Training on Indian datasets must ensure consent and anonymization to prevent misuse [25].
- **Misuse in Deepfakes:** Systems could be weaponized for misinformation or identity manipulation [17]. A framework for responsible use, including watermarking and generative provenance, is essential.
- **Community Involvement:** A participatory approach involving Indian communities in dataset curation ensures cultural sensitivity [15][16].

Conclusion

This review shows that while **GAN-based models** [1][2][3] provided foundational insights, the state-of-the-art in **diffusion-based synthesis** [9][10][21] enables unprecedented realism and semantic fidelity. However, Indian faces remain underrepresented both in datasets [25] and benchmarks [19][20]. Addressing this gap requires curating Indian text–image paired datasets, adapting diffusion frameworks, and designing fairness-driven benchmarks [12][13][14]. Such efforts will ensure that generative AI not only advances technically but also inclusively represents India's diverse population.

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