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### **“Beyond Boundaries: Exploring AI'S Impact on Human Rights.”**

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#### **Abstract:**

*This article aims to focus the intricate relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights, exploring both the potential contributions of AI in safeguarding human rights and the inherent risks that may lead to violations. The study will delve into various AI applications across different sectors, such as healthcare, law enforcement, and social media, to evaluate their impact on fundamental human rights, including privacy, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination.*

**Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Human Rights, privacy, violation, discrimination.**

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**Introduction:** It will not be an exaggeration that in the last two and the half decade the world around us seems to be turned into machine. In front of our eyes the revolution has happened in the world of technology, information, connections and ideas. Along with the practical applications in industry, commerce and research, creative fields are now also controlled by AI, that is novels are written, pictures are drawn, music are created, voice are imitated today with the help of generative AI. Thus, the question arise, are the creators eventually overwhelmed with the creation? So, the cloud of fear is slowly gathering. Machines have become so advanced that there is no way to tell which is human and which is artificial intelligence. Therefore, the conflict and the question arise whether human rights, human existence, human equality, fundamental rights and ethics can be interfered by the artificial intelligence? Or will it be proved as a boon to the progress of human civilization? In this article I will search for this question.

**What is Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems or programs that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, language understanding, and speech recognition, among others. AI aims to create machines that can simulate and replicate human cognitive abilities to enhance efficiency, automation, and decision-making in various fields such as healthcare, finance, education, and more of intelligent systems. About seven decades ago, American computer and cognitive scientist John McCarthy was the first to propose the term artificial intelligence, which he defined as

'the science and engineering of making intelligent machines'.<sup>1</sup>

**What are Human Rights:** Human Rights are fundamental, universal, inherent, and inalienable, meaning they apply to all individuals regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion or any other characteristic. It provides a foundation for dignity, equality, and justice, and they are protected by international law which are applicable to all people, without discrimination and by the virtue of being human. It cannot be taken away or surrendered under any circumstances. Organizations like the United Nations play a crucial role in promoting and safeguarding human rights globally. Right to life, Freedom of expression, right to education, right to work, right to equality all these are Some examples of fundamental human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, is a foundational document outlining these rights and has served as a basis for subsequent international human rights treaties and conventions. It is said in the first article of UDHR precisely that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood”<sup>2</sup>

**Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Human Rights:** The impact of artificial intelligence on human right cannot be described as black and white because at the same time it could be both accurate and unfair. While the blessings of AI through technologies can enhance the enjoyment of some section of people on the other hand it may highlight the risks for others. AI have it both positive and negative impact on human rights. Certain AI implementation can positively impact the enjoyment of human right by some while adversely impacting it for others. Through the perspective of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) the impact of artificial intelligence on human rights will be discussed over here.

**Rights to privacy and data protection:** *“No one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”*<sup>3</sup>

Privacy is a fundamental right that is essential to human dignity. The collection of data and the analysis of data using AI systems may reveal private information about individuals, and the information that qualifies as protected information should be treated as sensitive even if derived from big data sets fed from publicly available information. From facial recognition technologies to predictive analytics, individuals face the risk of being subjected to constant surveillance, infringing upon their right to privacy.

AI can accurately estimate a person’s age, gender, occupation, and marital status just

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<sup>1</sup> McCarthy, John. 2018. “What Is AI? / Basic Questions “Jmc.Stanford. Edu. Accessed June 15 2018.

<sup>2</sup> UDHR, Article- 1

<sup>3</sup> Article 17 of the ICCPR

from their cell phone location data. They were also able to predict a person’s future location from past history and the location data of friends. In order to protect human rights, this information must be treated the same as any other personal data.

Another example of the thin line between public and private data is the increased use of government social media monitoring programs, wherein law enforcement agencies collect troves of social media information and feed it to AI-powered programs to detect alleged threats which inherently violate human rights.

AI is enabling more invasive surveillance tools than ever. For example, installing more CCTV cameras in public places and centralizing its facial recognition systems can threaten people from exercising other rights, such as the freedom of association. The negative impact of AI- powered surveillance would be felt most acutely by the marginalized populations who are disproportionately targeted by security forces. Additionally, because 24/7 monitoring of the general population is neither necessary nor proportionate to the goal of public safety or crime prevention, it would almost certainly violate the fundamental right to privacy.

**Right to freedom (of movement, expression, thought, religion, assembly and association):** *“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice.”<sup>4</sup>*

AI can provide a detailed picture of individuals’ movements as well as predict future location. It could therefore easily be used by governments to facilitate more precise restriction of the freedom of movement, at both the individual and group level.

In countries where freedom of religion is under threat, AI could assist government officials in monitoring and targeting members of persecuted religious groups, resulting physical consequences, from violence to arrest to death. Finally, AI-enabled censorship can be used to restrict the freedom of association by removing groups, pages, and content that facilitate organization of in-person gatherings and collaboration. Given the important role of social media in organizing protest movements globally, use of AI could have the widespread effect of hindering assembly worldwide.

**Rights to political participation and self-determination:** *“Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity [...] to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; to have access, on general terms*

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<sup>4</sup> *Article 18 of ICCPR and Article 18 of UDHR*

*of equality, to public service in his country.”*<sup>5</sup>

The most interesting thing is, Artificial intelligence is taking over every pulse of our life and living and elections are its inevitable area. For example, we all more or less know that A video of Arvind Kejriwal went viral before the 2020 Delhi Assembly elections. MIT's technicians tested and reported that it was a 'deepfake' created with the help of artificial intelligence. Another instance is, September 30, 2023 Slovakia's election, an important milestone in the history of artificial influenced voting. Just two days before the election, an audio clip of the top leader of the liberal Progressive Slovakia Party and a prominent journalist went viral on Facebook. ‘Topic was: How elections can be rigged’. It was claimed that the audio clip was fake. and was also proved in the test. The Progressive Slovakia Party lost in a close vote. The lies in politics are nothing new. Today, when the line between truth and falsehood is getting greyer and wider in the world of deepfake, influencing voters with fake videos, pictures or audio has become much easier than previous methods.

Nina Schick, a leading expert in the world of artificial intelligence, wrote a book Deepfakes: Schick said the 'deepfake' could be the cause of the biggest information and communication disaster in the history of the world. Soon it will be impossible to tell the real from the fake. For instance, a few months ago, we noticed that how the actress Rashmika Mandana`s 'deepfake' video got viral.

**Right to work:** *“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.”*<sup>6</sup>

The first threat of AI upon all of us is the employment. The welfare of software like Chat-GPT has now put the livelihood of many lakhs of call center workers in doubt. When any one call a customer care with a problem, it is not clear whether it is answered by a human or a machine. And the livelihoods of billions more like call center workers are in a threat as a result. The types of endangered livelihoods are numerous, and the number of people associated with them is huge. These include legal consulting, journalism, article writing, stock market and business analysis, software writing, coding, teaching and many more. Even if the work of a radiologist is the same, where will these job-losing people go, what will they do? Optimists say, other jobs will be created for them. But would it be as easy as pronouncing it effortlessly? Are not the Jobs are definitely going to go away? therefore, it has its social and economic impact too.

**Right to health care:** *“The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for: (a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child; (b)*

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<sup>5</sup> Article 25 of the ICCPR

<sup>6</sup> Article 11 of the ICESCR

*The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene; (c) The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases; (d) The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.”<sup>7</sup>*

AI has its most impactful and promising application in healthcare from diagnosis of disease, individualized treatment to helping doctors with various advice and accessibility. On the other hand, however AI could prove dangerous too with the negative feedback, medical insurance status, false diagnosis etc. Whatever revolution AI could generate in the upcoming days, there will always have a question that can the artificial intelligence be more reliable and responsible than human doctors?

**Right to education:** *“Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit”<sup>8</sup>*

To live a meaningful life a meaningful education is needed. With the help of artificial intelligence students have easy access to information and material regarding study. But simultaneously replacement of teachers with robots could violate equal access and constitute violation among students. Students are well aware that the last one year has brought a huge change in the field of education. Teachers know too, because grading homework these days has become difficult. Students don't search Google anymore; they all take direct help of chat-gpt. In recent times, several such incidents have occurred in various countries of the world. Essays are written in such a way that copy-paste plagiarism detection software is also not available.

**Conclusion:** The scientists are divided with the fact that whether there will be a pause on the further experiment on AI or not? In late March,2023, thousands of famous people signed an 'open letter' titled 'Pause Giant AI Experiment'. Among the signatories are Elon Musk, Scientist Gary Marcus, great author Yuval Noah Harari, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. In this letter they appealed for a freeze for six months on research until they fully understand the potential dangers to humanity from artificial intelligence and find solutions. Elon Musk has long argued that artificial intelligence is more dangerous than nuclear weapons and needs to be controlled. Another billionaire, Warren Buffet, said the same thing. But this 'open letter' to many is like an 'April Fools' joke, which came just a few days before 1<sup>st</sup> April. One of them is University of Washington professor Pedro Domingo, who thinks artificial intelligence is still crawling. So, the 'open letter' apprehension is completely out of line with the actual situation. On the other hand, Ian Lacan thinks that artificial intelligence can bring a 'Renaissance'. In 2019, Lacan wrote an article in Scientific American titled 'Don't Fear the Terminator'. Yes, the Terminator will come up again and again in

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<sup>7</sup> Article 12 of the ICESCR

<sup>8</sup> UDHR Article-26

discussions of artificial intelligence. Because that fear is hidden somewhere in the corner of human mind.

Whatever it is, it cannot be denied that AI raises many pressing questions for Human Rights. From science to education and even in politics too. There will surely be more arguments regarding this in the upcoming days. Though many have suggested that this research should be pending, it seems unlikely that the rush of technologists will be held back by this way. There is no such instance in the history of science. Rather, we should look at the fact that this invention of technology does not push the civilization towards damnation. And that should be done without delay.

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