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74/Mitigating Socio-Demographic Disparities And Amplifying Justice: The Role Of Artificial Intelligence In Addressing Technology Facilitated Gender-Based Violence In The South Asia

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ABSTRACT

Technology-induced gender-based violence (TFGBV) has risen significantly in the Global South, where socioeconomic disparities make women and other underprivileged groups vulnerable to it. Cases such as deepfake pornography, cyberstalking, doxing, online abuse, and AI-assisted abuse exacerbate previously existing disparities and sometimes fall outside the jurisdiction of South Asia's current legal systems. This article investigates AI technology as a fresh approach to reducing inequality in South Asia. There is a wide range of techniques that can be employed by AI to counteract TFGBV. Predictive analytics and machine learning can predict the early signs in the dynamics of social media behavior, helping to conduct preemptive content monitoring and risk assessments in South Asian languages like Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali. In addition, the use of AI-powered chatbots, especially those that have been piloted in resource-scarce environments, guarantees round-the-clock anonymous counseling and safety planning and also provides contact information on nearby services, thus eliminating barriers associated with cultural stigma and distance from urban centers in countries like India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Furthermore, AI has the potential to democratize access to justice by addressing socioeconomic disparities. Voice-driven technology would benefit low-literate rural women, but bias-free systems promote intersectional inclusivity. Nonetheless, there remains the issue of algorithmic biases that may reinforce the disadvantages of disadvantaged groups based on caste and gender, as well as data privacy in a surveillance-dominated society. Overall, artificial intelligence has the potential to alter power relationships and promote a survivor-centric approach to justice. However, in order to accomplish so, it must be consistent with feminist ideology and legal procedures developed by South Asians themselves.

Keywords: Gender-based violence, Artificial intelligence, South-Asia, Intersectionality, Survivor-centered justice.

1. Introduction

The issue of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) is increasingly taking a prominent place in the digital world of South Asian countries. This is because advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs), mobile phone penetration, social media usage have made it possible for various manifestations of TFGBV, such as cyberstalking, image sharing without consent, creation of deepfake pornographic material, doxxing, online

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bullying and harassment, etc., to arise and spread at an alarming rate.[1] These instances of violence are distinct from their physical world counterparts because ICTs allow for increased scalability, speed, and anonymity that amplifies their impact on victims. It must be said that TFGBV issues in South Asia are further aggravated by prevailing socio-demographic inequalities. [2] Gender inequities, discriminatory practices against disadvantaged castes, economic deprivation, digital illiteracy are some of the factors that make certain communities more vulnerable to TFGBV. For example, rural women who have very little or no access to digital infrastructures and have social mores discouraging reports of violence and harassment find themselves more at risk of TFGBV.[3]

The same can be said about members of the LGBTQ community who suffer from identity-based abuse. In light of this, AI has been considered as a powerful tool capable of revolutionizing the way we approach TFGBV challenges by developing novel solutions. Predictive analytics, natural language processing, and automated moderation are examples of AI systems that help detect abusive material and abusive behavior patterns, as well as provide real-time aid to domestic violence victims.[4] For example, predictive analytics might help spot warning indications during online encounters ahead of time, allowing for preventive steps. Furthermore, AI chatbots might benefit victims by providing rapid, discrete, and accessible assistance. This is especially true in cases where formal channels fail to achieve the necessary criteria.[5] More crucially, AI can create disaggregated data, which aids in the development of policy guidelines.

Nevertheless, the application of AI for addressing TFGBV is not without its own set of challenges, which require critical evaluation. Algorithmic bias continues to pose a threat, in that algorithms developed using datasets not representative of society could end up reproducing and reinforcing socio-cultural biases, such as caste and gender discrimination.[6] Furthermore, questions of data protection, privacy, and consent become even more problematic when considering jurisdictions where regulatory frameworks pertaining to digital technologies are poorly developed or not enforced.[7] Moreover, the issue of the digital divide also stands out as a major impediment, particularly within contexts where certain communities do not have adequate access to technology due to their geographic location and low socioeconomic standing. Given this context, the present study undertakes a qualitative synthesis of scientific studies to determine how artificial intelligence might be used to successfully combat TFGBV against women, LGBTQ+ populations, and rural residents in South Asia. The study specifically examines the types of AI-enabled treatments employed, their effectiveness in treating TFGBV for various socio-demographic groups, and the hurdles to successfully implementing such interventions. Furthermore, this study will explore sociolegal and ethical problems related to the use of AI in the context of TFGBV in South

[1] OECD, *Bridging the Digital Gender Divide* (2018)
[2] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020)
[3] Human Rights Watch, "All This Terror Because of a Photo": Digital Targeting and Its Impact on LGBT People (2023)
[4] European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Cyber Violence against Women and Girls (2017)
[5] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (2021)
[6] Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (NYU Press, 2018).
[7] ITU, Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit Report (2019)

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Asia, highlighting the importance of a more participative approach to this problem.[8] This work contributes to the expanding corpus of research on the use of new technologies to tackle structural difficulties in the Global South by integrating AI technology within the overlapping contexts of gender equality, digital rights, and socio-demographic equality. This study contends that, while AI has significant advantages in the prevention of TFGBV and better access to justice, its effect is dependent on the development of an appropriate governance structure.[9]

2. Literature Review

Scholarship on technology-enabled gender-based violence (TFGBV) has revealed an increasing consensus among scholars regarding the importance of virtual spaces in the production of gendered violence. The seminal works in the field underscore the fact that online violence such as cyberstalking, non-consensual image distribution, and coordinated harassment has roots in the offline socio-cultural milieu and is shaped by patriarchy and gender hierarchy norms.[10] In relation to South Asia, the above issue becomes even more complex due to the intersection of other forms of social stratification that include caste, class, and digital infrastructure access.[11] Scholarly contributions to this topic have consistently noted the dual nature of digital media in enabling communication and exposing the vulnerable population groups to various forms of violence. An important stream of research considers TFGBV through an intersectional lens, emphasizing that TFGBV experiences are not monolithic but vary depending on intersecting factors like gender, sexuality, caste, and geography.[12] Studies on South Asia show that women in rural areas and those belonging to lower income classes have increased vulnerability to TFGBV because of their limited knowledge of using technology safely and access to safer reporting systems. Moreover, members of the LGBTQ+ community also suffer from TFGBV in which their online identity and societal biases work together.[13] This highlights the need to view TFGBV in relation to other socioeconomic challenges rather than as a standalone problem of technology. In this context, the literature on how AI can be employed to curb online TFGBV has received considerable attention. Several examples include the research done by Bansal et al. (2023), Shachar et al. (2020), and Sivaraman et al. (2023). The authors outline several applications of AI such as chatbots, machine learning, and NLP techniques that are employed to tackle TFGBV cases.[14] This means that AI tools are employed to scan and analyse large amounts of online content to determine whether any abusive content is present, making the process of identifying TFGBV more effective. For instance, the employment of NLP algorithms makes it possible to detect TFGBV cases regardless of the languages used.[15] Based on empirical findings derived from the above-mentioned studies, AI-driven interventions seem to be

[8] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021)
[9] World Bank, World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (2021)
[10] European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Cyber Violence against Women and Girls (2017).
[11] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020).
[12] Kimberlé Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color, 43 Stan. L. Rev. 1241 (1991).
[13] Human Rights Watch, Digital Targeting and Its Impact on LGBT People (2023).
[14] Bansal et al., AI Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention (2023); Shachar et al., Technology and Online Abuse (2020); Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023).
[15] Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023).

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effective to various extents depending on socio-demographic factors. For example, urban women are likely to respond better to AI interventions owing to high levels of digital literacy and better availability of technological infrastructure.[16] On the other hand, rural dwellers may find themselves disadvantaged in accessing the benefits of AI-driven interventions because of low levels of internet accessibility, poor availability of hardware, and lack of trust in technology.[17] As far as the LGBTQ+ population is concerned, AI effectiveness will depend on the degree to which such systems have been designed to accommodate this vulnerable population group.

Meanwhile, the literature discusses serious ethical and social issues surrounding the use of AI in tackling TFGBV. Among them, algorithmic biases continue to be a major problem since AI technologies using limited or biased datasets can result in the inability to detect abuse cases among minority languages and cultures, thus exacerbating inequality.[18] Data privacy and surveillance issues are another concern raised by academics who highlight the potential dangers in the lack of appropriate legislation governing data protection.[19] Since the analysis of personal data is an essential part of the work that AI performs, any lack of sufficient precautions can make victims of domestic violence even more vulnerable.

One other notable theme derived from the literature is the importance of engaging the communities and designing processes in an interactive manner to increase the effectiveness and credibility of interventions based on the application of AI. Scholars assert that including survivors, grassroot organizations, and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of technologies can increase their pertinence and credibility in addressing TFGBV.[20] Another factor emphasized by researchers as critical for improving the response to TFGBV is ensuring multi-stakeholder involvement of governments, civil societies, and technology firms.[21] Nonetheless, the existing literature still has many areas to improve on. First, there is insufficient information on the effect of AI interventions in addressing GBV among marginalized communities in South Asia.[22] Secondly, scholars emphasize the lack of information about sustainability problems in the application of AI to counteract gender-based violence. Other areas that require more research include enforcement and regulation mechanisms for using the technologies.[23]

From the selected literature, it is evident that AI is critical in mitigating TFGBV via the use of applications such as chatbots, machine learning systems, and natural language processing programs among others.[24] However, effectiveness may vary depending on socio-demographic factors with urban women being better placed compared to their rural counterparts due to the presence of infrastructure and enhanced digital skills.[25] On the other hand, for LGBTQ+

[16] Bansal et al., AI Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention (2023).
[17] Shachar et al., Technology and Online Abuse (2020)
[18] Bansal et al. (2023); Sivaraman et al. (2023).
[19] Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression (NYU Press, 2018).
[20] ITU, Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit Report (2019)
[21] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).
[22] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).
[23] APC, Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence Research Programme (2021).
[24] Bansal et al., AI Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention (2023); Shachar et al., Technology and Online Abuse (2020); Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023).
[25] Bansal et al. (2023); Shachar et al. (2020)

persons, effectiveness of mitigation measures will depend on inclusion of their interests when designing systems.[26] Literature also reveals difficulties in terms of biased algorithms, privacy issues, and lack of regulation.[27]

3. Methodology

This paper uses qualitative and doctrinal research approaches to explore the use of AI in the prevention of TFGBV in South Asia. Secondary data are collected through a review of peer-reviewed academic papers, institutional and policy reports about AI, gender justice, and digital governance.[28] Purposive sampling is employed to select ten studies that have explicitly examined AI-interventions like chatbots, machine learning, and NLP in the context of TFGBV.[29] The identified literature is subjected to thematic analysis to draw out the themes of AI technologies used, effectiveness of such technologies with respect to different socio-demographic groups, and barriers to implementing them, which include infrastructural issues, socio-cultural factors, and ethical problems.[30] Comparative analysis will be conducted to compare their impact on urban and rural areas and for women and the LGBTQ+ community. Moreover, the study employs socio-legal theory as a means of analyzing questions of algorithmic bias, data privacy, and regulation sufficiency, placing technological solutions into a wider context of laws and ethics.[31] Despite the fact that the research is based solely on secondary sources, the review of current literature contributes to creating contextual knowledge on TFGBV and the use of AI technology.

4. Intervention Strategies Used by AI to Combat TFGBV: Data Synthesis and Findings

Based on data synthesis from the selected literature, AI has been identified as a multilateral way of combating TFGBV. AI may be used to prevent and identify TFGBV, as well as to report TFGBV to the appropriate authorities and provide assistance to survivors. The employment of AI-powered chatbots is one of the most popular types of intervention identified in the examined sources.[32] Chatbots are important because of their ability to aid victims while remaining discreet and anonymous. Machine learning algorithms and natural language processing (NLP) have been employed to recognize abusive material and patterns of harassment in cyberspace. Machine learning algorithms can identify offending material, coordinated attacks, and potential threats through the application of huge volumes of data from social media networks.[33] According to research, machine learning algorithms enhance

[26] Sivaraman et al. (2023)
[27] O'Connor & Liu, Algorithmic Bias and Digital Inequality (2023)
[28] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020).
[29] Bansal et al., Artificial Intelligence Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention in South Asia (2023); Shachar et al., Technology-Facilitated Abuse and Digital Responses (2020); Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023).
[30] Bansal et al., Artificial Intelligence Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention in South Asia (2023); Shachar et al., Technology-Facilitated Abuse and Digital Responses (2020); Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023).
[31] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).
[32] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (2021).
[33] Sivaraman et al., Machine Learning Approaches to Detect Online Harassment (2023)

content moderation's ability and help detect hate speech and gender-based harassment on digital platforms.[34] Nonetheless, their performance is deeply rooted in the type and contextual relevance of data used in training them. Another vital aspect of intervention lies in the deployment of virtual counseling services and AI-driven educational programs. Such solutions provide psychological aid, educational material, and referrals that cater to the specific needs of different users.[35] They can prove helpful by bridging the existing gaps in both mental health services and legal knowledge, particularly for individuals living in remote areas or from marginalized communities. Nevertheless, the implementation of such programs is not equal; there is still an issue with infrastructure limitations and low digital literacy rates.

There is also evidence of variance in efficacy among different socio-demographic groups. The level of engagement with artificial intelligence technology among urban women is higher due to greater exposure to information technology infrastructure and increased familiarity with online media.[36] Rural areas still experience difficulties, including poor internet connectivity, low literacy rates, and socio-cultural factors that hinder participation in the use of digital tools for reporting.[37] The experiences of LGBTQ+ people are vastly different, and the efficacy of AI treatment will depend on how inclusive the system is designed.[38] Technology that does not include diverse language identifiers and markers risks marginalizing and misrepresenting the group. It is important to highlight the presence of various technical and ethical obstacles that prevent an adequate utilization of AI technology in the fight against TFGBV. The former obstacles include infrastructure issues, limited data, and problems with the adaptation of algorithms to local languages and situations.[39] In turn, the latter obstacles consist of the stigmatization associated with domestic violence cases, lack of trust in digital technology, and the fear of surveillance.[40] Additionally, ethical considerations associated with issues of bias, privacy, and lack of consent play a major role in the literature critique.[41] This is due to the fact that these factors could contribute to the creation of new forms of discrimination and risks for individuals.

In order to operationalize the aforementioned interventions within an effective legal framework, academics argue for the alignment of AI applications with existing socio-legal structures in South Asia, for example, the Information Technology Act, 2000[42] (amended in 2021), which requires the application of proactive interventions to prevent cyberbullying and sharing of non-consensual intimate images as per section 67 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.[43] Other statutes like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012[44] and the Scheduled Castes and

[34] Tarleton Gillespie, Custodians of the Internet: Platforms, Content Moderation, and the Hidden Decisions that Shape Social Media (Yale University Press, 2018)
[35] World Bank, World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (2021)
[36] Bansal et al., Artificial Intelligence Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention in South Asia (2023).
[37] Shachar et al., Technology-Facilitated Abuse and Digital Responses (2020)
[38] Human Rights Watch, Digital Targeting and Its Impact on LGBT People (2023)
[39] OECD, Artificial Intelligence in Society (2019).
[40] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020).
[41] Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (NYU Press, 2018).
[42] Information Technology Act, 2000, No. 21 of 2000.
[43] Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, Gazette of India, Noti. No. G.S.R. 139 (E), 25 February 2021
[44] Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, No. 32 of 2012.

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Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989[45] emphasize the requirement of detecting CSAMs and caste-related cyber harassment using AI tools, yet their implementation is difficult owing to the lack of guidelines by organizations like the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. In adjacent regions, the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016[46] in Pakistan and the Cyber Security Act, 2023[47] (superseding the Digital Security Act, 2018) in Bangladesh emphasize regulatory gaps in enforcing algorithmic accountability of TFGBV, which calls for doctrinal revisions to incorporate AI ethics within criminal liability provisions under sections 20–22 of the former. These frameworks, although necessary, require modifications to ensure data localisation, bias checks, and victim-centric reporting under uniform regional standards, such as those recommended in the UN's Recommended Principles on TFGBV. The results reveal that even though AI has the potential to play a major role in combating TFGBV and closing socio-demographic disparities, there is a need for fairness and accountability regarding their use in such matters.[48] Efficiency in the application of AI to treat TFGBV differs greatly among users. The disparity highlights the need to take action to rectify these structural inequalities through technological advancement and sociocultural reforms.

5. Analytical Framework and Critical Analysis

5.1 Evaluation of the Role of AI Tools in Countering TFGBV

As noted above, the chosen analysis framework places AI technologies in a social-technological as well as rights-based context, whereby their performance is evaluated not solely on the basis of their efficiency but on how effectively they meet the criteria of accessibility, inclusiveness, and legality. AI-powered chatbots can be considered a major breakthrough for survivors of gender-based violence in terms of discreetness and immediacy of interaction. The value of such tools is that they allow lowering the reporting threshold, making survivors' engagement possible even in the absence of trust in institutions.[49] However, these tools are only as effective as the languages in which they are designed and whether or not they integrate into the existing legal and support frameworks, otherwise serving as information sources. Machine learning algorithms and NLP technologies, in turn, offer detection and prevention capabilities. Such systems enable the identification of patterns of abusive language and the moderation of harmful content at scale.[50] Yet, despite computational efficiency, there have been serious doubts as to the transparency of the decision-making process of ML and NLP technologies and concerns about over-relying on automation to moderate socio-cultural interactions online.[51] In multilingual and culturally varied locations like South Asia, NLP models' shortcomings in effectively comprehending vernacular languages and context-specific subtleties impede their use.[52] As a result, while AI

[45] Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, No. 33 of 1989.
[46] Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (Pakistan), Act XL of 2016.
[47] Cyber Security Act, 2023 (Bangladesh), Act No. 27 of 2023.
[48] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).
[49] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (2021).
[50] OECD, Artificial Intelligence in Society (2019)
[51] Frank Pasquale, The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms that Control Money and Information (Harvard University Press, 2015).
[52] UNESCO, Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies (2021)

technologies provide major operational benefits, their normative validity is dependent on openness, accountability, and ongoing human monitoring. These virtual platforms and AI-based education apps bring the assessment to other fields, including that of mental health support and awareness. They provide psychological guidance, emergency response measures, and referral programs to survivors who lack access to conventional methods of counselling and assistance.[53] The rights-based nature of their application comes into play through empowering people through personalized information on their legal rights under policies such as India's Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. However, the inclusivity of these technologies is dependent on overcoming the challenges posed by digital divides while incorporating multiple dimensions of identity such as caste, sexual orientation, and disability.[54] Academics point out concerns around the datafication of therapy sessions in which personal information of patients is collected, potentially compromising their confidentiality without proper precautions in place. In this regard, the ethical use of these technologies is imperative and should follow international guidelines for artificial intelligence such as the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).[55]

5.2 Socio-Demographic Inequalities and Structural Obstacles

In a detailed analysis of the literature available, one finds that there are significant differences in the outcomes of AI interventions among socio-demographic groups, owing to structural differences and inequalities. The dichotomy between urban and rural areas emerges as an important dimension where users in urban settings can benefit from superior levels of digital literacy, infrastructure, and experience with using online systems.[56] However, rural areas face numerous structural obstacles such as lack of internet connection, technological limitations, and socio-cultural restrictions on engaging in online reporting processes.[57] Gender and sexuality contribute significantly to the success of these efforts. Although women are the target users of most of the applications involving AI, their experience is shaped by other intersecting aspects like caste and class.[58] People who identify themselves as LGBTQ+ are faced with unique challenges since current AI technology does not offer inclusivity enough to identify their identity and experiences of violence.[59] The lack of a diverse dataset and an inclusive approach in designing algorithms results in misclassification or exclusion of these victims.

Overcoming such imbalances requires a multifaceted strategy that goes beyond depending just on technology. Promoting equity and inclusion requires addressing structural restrictions such

[53] "AI Systems in Text-Based Online Counselling," arXiv, 2026, available at arXiv:2601.08878; and "Artificial Intelligence for Mental Health: A Narrative Review of Chatbot Development for Therapy Support," Public Health Reviews, 2025, PMC12623648
[54] Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, No. 43 of 2005, Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 1
[55] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (adopted 23 November 2021), UNESCO Doc. 41 C/17, available at https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4062376.
[56] Bansal et al., Artificial Intelligence Interventions in Gender-Based Violence Prevention in South Asia (2023).
[57] Shachar et al., Technology-Facilitated Abuse and Digital Responses (2020)
[58] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020).
[59] Human Rights Watch, Digital Targeting and Its Impact on LGBT People (2023)

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infrastructural shortages, digital literacy gaps, weak legislation, and cultural stigmas.[60] Low-bandwidth apps, multi-language interfaces, and algorithmic bias prevention are becoming increasingly important in encouraging inclusion.[61] In addition, legal and legislative measures must prioritize data privacy, accountability, and protection against digital dangers.[62] Engaging communities and implementing participatory design concepts are critical for capturing local knowledge and maintaining user confidence.[63] Conclusively, the critical analysis has revealed that, even though AI technology has enormous capabilities to help in tackling TFGBV, its efficacy is bound to be influenced by the socio-demographic and structural setting in which it operates. It calls for a comprehensive approach whereby technology is complemented by good governance and law.

6. Discussion: Social and Legal Implications of AI in Combating TFGBV

The results generated by this study bear serious implications for the emerging interaction between AI, law, and gender justice in South Asia. In an elementary sense, the increased use of AI for dealing with TFGBV suggests that we move beyond reactive and complaints-oriented legal mechanisms towards more predictive and data-based governance paradigms.[64] While there is scope for more effective preventive measures in such a system, there is also the possibility that this could lead to important issues of due process and accountability being overlooked. Thus, the inclusion of AI in methods for combating TFGBV requires a reconsideration of our legal paradigm in light of this technological development. The first aspect worth taking into account is the requirement for an effective and suitable regulatory framework that deals with the application of AI technology.[65] There are no data protection laws or appropriate algorithms to enforce accountability, even if the current prohibitions on online violence in many South Asian nations tend to be very disjointed and frequently consist of a few sections connected to IT law or even conventional criminal legislation.[66] The increasing requirement to guarantee that consumers are sufficiently safeguarded from both excessive and insufficient regulation complicates the issue of inadequate regulation. With such systems based on a considerable amount of data collection and processing, the necessity principle, proportionality, and informed consent become crucial.

Another significant implication relates to how the integration of AI technology interacts with structures of social inequity. Although it is common practice to position AI technologies as impartial and unbiased, research has clearly shown that this is not the case, and AI technology reproduces systemic biases in societies when poorly designed.[67] In the South Asian context, where deep-rooted inequities exist regarding gender, caste, socioeconomic status, and geographical location, the likelihood increases that AI systems unintentionally serve to

[60] World Bank, World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (2021)
[61] Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression (NYU Press, 2018)
[62] ITU, Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit Report (2019)
[63] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021)
[64] OECD, Artificial Intelligence in Society (2019)
[65] UN Women, Online and ICT-facilitated Violence against Women and Girls during COVID-19 (2020).
[66] World Bank, World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (2021).
[67] European Union, Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI (2019).

perpetuate these exclusionary dynamics.[68] For instance, datasets that are heavily skewed towards urban or dominant-language speakers may lead to the misclassification of specific instances of abuse. This, of course, has major implications for access to justice. Artificial intelligence-based mechanisms have great possibilities in reducing barriers to disclosure, providing immediate assistance, and connecting individuals with the necessary legal support.[69] Nevertheless, their success will heavily depend on their use as a part of the formal justice system, as well as their role as an enhancement to traditional instruments of control. There exists a threat that the over-reliance on such technological innovations may lead to the marginalization of other, more human-oriented procedures, such as legal counseling, judicial oversight, etc.[70]

The ethics of governance become yet another critical issue. The use of AI technologies in the sensitive field of TFGBV implies the handling of very private and possibly damaging information, thereby posing ethical questions related to privacy, consent, and security of data.[71] In an environment characterized by extensive surveillance activities or the lack of regulatory mechanisms, the threat becomes even more acute.[72] Accordingly, any set of ethical guidelines must be committed to ensuring transparency in the workings of algorithms, establishing a process for redress in instances of damage, and maintaining the agency of users regarding their data. This topic also highlights the significance of multi-stakeholder governance in combating TFGBV using AI technology. The participation of governments, tech firms, CSOs, and intergovernmental bodies is crucial in determining how AI tools will be developed and implemented.[73] Collaboration would help ensure the efficient distribution of resources, setting of standards, and expansion of successful interventions, all while guaranteeing that different perspectives are accounted for during decision-making processes.[74] Grassroots organizations and victims' communities need to be involved in these processes for the success of technological solutions to be achieved.

In conclusion, the implications of AI in addressing TFGBV are both promising and complex. While AI has the capacity to transform prevention and response mechanisms, its success depends on the development of inclusive legal frameworks, ethical safeguards, and participatory governance models. Without such measures, there is a risk that technological interventions may replicate existing disparities rather than effectively mitigating them.[75] A holistic and context-sensitive approach is therefore essential to harness the full potential of AI in advancing gender justice in South Asia. Indeed, one can justify the positive impact of artificial intelligence on TFGBV, although it is quite complicated. While artificial intelligence can be utilized to manipulate the methods of violence prevention and response, it cannot be effective without performing the necessary processes. Therefore, if the aim is to regulate the application of technological solutions, it becomes imperative to develop a legislation model

[68] Safiya Umoja Noble, Algorithms of Oppression: How Search Engines Reinforce Racism (NYU Press, 2018).
[69] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).
[70] UNESCO, Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies (2021)
[71] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (2021).
[72] Tarleton Gillespie, Custodians of the Internet (Yale University Press, 2018).
[73] Privacy International, Challenging Surveillance in South Asia (2020).
[74] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021)
[75] World Economic Forum, Global Future Council on AI Governance Report (2020).

that considers ethics. Otherwise, any technological remedy will only perpetuate existing inequalities.

7. Policy Implications and Recommendations

This analysis indicates that TFGBV mitigation using AI is not only about innovations in technology but also involves developing a holistic policy framework that entails legal reforms, ethical governance, and demographic inclusiveness. In view of the intricacies of the South Asian landscape, which includes disparities in digital literacy, legal lacunae, and socio-cultural limitations, it is essential for policymakers to adopt a holistic approach and look into the future. Below are some of the recommendations made for the proper implementation of AI and its contribution to justice access.

- Develop a Comprehensive Legal Framework That Is Sufficiently Contextualized to AI: It is crucial to develop a well-integrated legal framework to adequately regulate the use of AI in combating TFGBV cases in South Asia. In many instances, the existing law is fragmented across various statutes on cybercrime, crimes, and information technology. The development of a comprehensive framework should have provisions on liability, due diligence of the platform used, as well as automated harms.[76] It should also adhere to relevant international regulations on digital and gender rights.

- Develop Data Protection Regimes That Are Gender-Sensitive: A significant aspect of AI is the collection of large amounts of data and processing of such data. It is vital to ensure that there is an implementation of strong data protection regulations that include informed consent, data minimisation, and purpose limitation. This should be coupled with the establishment of gender-specific data governance frameworks.[77]

- Ensure Mandatory Transparency and Audits: To counter the issues of opacity and bias in AI, mandatory transparency measures like algorithmic explainability and audits by independent regulatory agencies should be made for AI-driven content moderation and harm detection. This will ensure the adherence to principles of algorithmic fairness and non-discrimination.[78]

- Ensuring Linguistic and Cultural Inclusiveness in AI Design: As South Asia is characterized by linguistic diversity, the use of regional languages is crucial in the design of these AI systems for content moderation and harm detection, otherwise many individuals in the region may get excluded from the benefits of this technology.[79]

- Addressing the Digital Divide through Focused Infrastructure Improvements: One of the biggest problems is the inequality in the presence of digital infrastructure, which continues to hinder AI initiatives. This requires a focus on connectivity in rural areas,

[76] OECD, *Artificial Intelligence in Society* (2019)
[77] European Union, *Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI* (2019).
[78] UNESCO, *Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies* (2021)
[79] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).

affordable access to the Internet, and easy availability of digital gadgets. Additionally, the need for digital literacy training, especially targeting women and other marginalized communities, becomes necessary.[80]

- Incorporation of AI Methods into Existing Legal and Institutional Structures: It is crucial for AI tools to operate under an existing legal system and not operate independently. Creating links between digital reporting mechanisms and institutions such as law enforcement and judiciary is critical to ensuring accountability.[81]

- Implement Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Governance Frameworks: Responding to TFGBV using AI necessitates collaboration among various stakeholders, from governments to private tech firms, NGOs, and international bodies. Such collaborative approaches can facilitate information-sharing, standardization, and dissemination of best practices while accommodating varied stakeholder perspectives in policy-making.[82]

- Incorporate Ethics in AI Implementation: AI applications in sensitive areas like TFGBV necessitate ethical considerations during implementation processes. Policy measures should ensure that AI is used ethically, with clear mandates for principles of fairness, accountability, transparency, and nondiscrimination, among others, backed up by enforcement measures. Special consideration needs to be given to addressing algorithmic biases that may perpetuate social disparities.[83]

- Promote Community-Based and Participatory Interventions: Community participation in the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating AI solutions can help ensure their relevance and legitimacy. Using participatory approaches would allow identifying challenges faced by each specific community; in addition, they would enable the creation of trust with their users.[84]

- Support Continued Research, Monitoring, and Assessment of the Effects: As digital violence and its solutions are continuously evolving, additional research is required. A study focused on the effects of AI technology on individuals and regional differences could deliver important information.[85]

8. Conclusion

The emergence of digital ecosystems throughout South Asia has resulted in a transformation in terms of how GBV takes place, and thus a need for innovations in how it can be addressed. In that respect, the current study explores the potential of AI as an innovation in combating TFGBV. While AI is an effective technological tool in relation to GBV, there is more to it than just the ability to handle vast amounts of data. Instead, AI represents a socio-legal tool, whose significance is dependent on several factors. The main implication of such findings is

[80] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence
[81] World Economic Forum, AI Governance: A Holistic Approach (2020).
[82] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).
[83] Privacy International, Challenging Surveillance in South Asia (2020)
[84] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).
[85] APC, Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence Research Programme (2021).

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that the use of AI brings about a paradigm change in law enforcement from reactive to preemptive regulation.[86] The former tends to be slow and cumbersome and usually depends on complaints, making it difficult to reach marginalized groups. With AI, however, the ability to spot a harmful pattern and take preventive action is greatly enhanced.[87] Though the shift to a more proactive model seems promising, it brings about several important issues that need to be considered, particularly those of procedural fairness and the danger of taking preventive action when there is only a probability of something happening. The structure of digital inequality that influences the outcomes of AI applications is also identified in the article. The implementation of artificial intelligence technology is impacted by technical, educational, and other types of inequality in the South Asian environment.[88] Consequently, the disparities underscore the necessity of designing and using AI technology in an inclusive manner. To get good results, it becomes essential to provide region-specific datasets, enhance vernacular language processing, and guarantee usability for those with low literacy rates. If not, there would be no advantages to using AI as the wealthy would profit the most. Another important issue to take into consideration is that of the changing nature of accountability in light of the use of artificial intelligence in governance. In light of the growing dependence on automation, traditional views of accountability need to be redefined, especially in cases where decisions are made in an opaque way or by different people at once.[89] Thus, law systems should change accordingly to meet this new challenge and answer questions of accountability in situations where any damage has been caused by algorithms. The ethical implications associated with the use of AI to address TFGBV are similarly profound. The processing of potentially sensitive personal information, which is integral to the operation of many AI applications, brings forth questions about privacy, consent, and possible abuses of information.[90] In an environment characterized by increasing surveillance technology, these dangers are even more pronounced, especially concerning marginalized groups. Hence, ethical management should focus on establishing measures to guarantee user freedom and protection against data breaches, as well as addressing any inherent biases within the algorithms.[91] Moreover, the research underscores the critical role played by institutional and social trust in establishing whether the implementation of AI would prove successful or not. It is highly improbable that any form of technological solution, however advanced it may be, can succeed without earning the trust of users. This would involve being open about how the system works and being transparent about how data will be used. Ultimately, the way forward for AI in combating TFGBV would involve how AI would be used in terms of collaboration and participation. Due to the complex nature of digital violence, an approach should be one that brings together experts in law, technologists, policymakers, and community stakeholders.[92] Especially when it comes to the use of AI in tackling TFGBV, the participation of survivors and other relevant community members is vital in ensuring that technologies employed reflect reality and remain effective. AI has the potential to act as an effective measure in addressing TFGBV in South

[86] OECD, Artificial Intelligence in Society (2019)
[87] UNFPA, Making All Spaces Safe: Technology-facilitated Gender-Based Violence (2021).
[88] UNDP, Gender Equality and Digital Transformation (2022).
[89] Frank Pasquale, The Black Box Society: The Secret Algorithms that Control Money and Information (Harvard University Press, 2015).
[90] World Bank, World Development Report: Data for Better Lives (2021).
[91] Privacy International, Challenging Surveillance in South Asia (2020)
[92] UNESCO, Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021).

Asia. However, the success of such measures would be hinged upon the ability to develop appropriate legal frameworks, ethical guidelines, and design processes for AI. This would be critical in ensuring that the benefits of technological innovation translate into more equal societies and access to justice for all.

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