



Ethical Imperatives in AI and Data Governance: An African Perspective on Nigeria

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Abstract

AI and data governance have emerged as critical issues in contemporary African societies, with Nigeria being a prominent case study due to its diverse socio-economic landscape. The analysis is based on a review of literature, legal documents, and policy statements related to AI and data governance in Nigeria. A qualitative approach was employed to analyse case studies and expert interviews. Findings indicate that while there are some regulatory frameworks in place, their implementation often falls short due to lack of enforcement mechanisms and awareness among stakeholders. There is a notable gap in the integration of ethical considerations into AI development strategies. The existing legal and policy structures need reinforcement with stronger enforcement measures and greater emphasis on ethical guidelines. Stakeholder engagement and public education are crucial for achieving meaningful progress towards more ethical AI applications and data governance in Nigeria. - Strengthen regulatory frameworks by enhancing enforcement mechanisms. - Promote public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights and responsibilities regarding AI and data use. - Encourage the development of ethical guidelines for AI application developers and policymakers.

Keywords: *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Data Ethics, Governance, Accountability, Privacy, Empowerment*

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