



Ethics and Governance in Ethiopian AI: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Ethiopia is a significant player in African development, and its governance structures have increasingly embraced digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, the ethical implications of AI-driven governance are not well understood, particularly in contexts where traditional values intersect with modern technological advancements. The study employs a mixed-method approach involving secondary data analysis from government reports, academic literature, and interviews with key stakeholders including policymakers, technologists, and civil society representatives. Quantitative measures are supplemented by qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive understanding of the situation. There is a notable trend in Ethiopia towards incorporating AI into public services, particularly in health and education sectors. However, data privacy concerns remain prominent, with approximately 60% of respondents expressing worry about their personal information being mishandled by AI systems. The integration of AI into governance presents both opportunities and challenges for ethical compliance and regulatory frameworks in Ethiopia. A more robust dialogue between technologists, policymakers, and civil society is essential to address these issues effectively. This study recommends the development of a comprehensive data protection policy that aligns with international standards and incorporates traditional values. Additionally, ongoing engagement with all relevant stakeholders will be crucial for effective implementation.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Governance, Digital Ethics, Data Protection, AI Ethics, Techno-Social Studies, Critical Theory*

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