ISSLP
Interdisciplinary Studies in Society, Law and Politics

Modern Technologies and Human Rights: Challenges and Solutions

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the sentence, "New technologies, from the internet and social media to artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain, have created numerous challenges for human rights alongside their opportunities," would benefit from a brief explanation or example of how blockchain specifically challenges human rights, as this is not addressed later in the article.

In the section "Challenges of Modern Technologies to Privacy," the authors mention, "Increased surveillance and access to personal information by governments and companies, especially without adequate oversight, can lead to abuses of power." It would strengthen the argument to include an example of a recent surveillance scandal beyond Snowden and Cambridge Analytica, as those are well-known and somewhat dated examples.

In the discussion of biometric technologies, the authors assert, "Facial recognition technology, in particular, has garnered attention and concern due to its seamless and inconspicuous surveillance capabilities." The article could benefit from addressing the latest legal challenges or bans on facial recognition technology in specific countries or cities.

In the same section, the authors highlight, "Filtering and censorship in the digital space by governments are often justified on grounds such as national security." This would be more impactful with specific examples from countries currently employing these tactics and any international reactions to such censorship.

Under "Challenges of Modern Technologies to Access to Information and Knowledge," the authors mention, "The digital divide between urban and rural areas, the rich and the poor, and the young and the elderly significantly impacts individuals' access to information." Including quantitative data on internet access disparities across different demographics would add depth and credibility.

The article mentions, "Copyright laws can restrict access to textbooks, scientific articles, and other educational resources," but it would be beneficial to provide recent examples of movements like Open Access initiatives or specific legal battles related to academic access.

The discussion of international cooperation mentions, "Collaboration among international organizations, governments, technology companies, and civil society," but would benefit from concrete examples of successful collaborations or existing frameworks like the UN's work on digital governance.

The introduction presents the hypothesis, "Issues such as privacy protection, cybersecurity, and the environmental impacts of new technologies require careful attention," but the article does not adequately address environmental impacts. Adding a section on environmental challenges posed by modern technologies would provide a more comprehensive analysis.

In the section on access to information, the authors cite the 2019 International Telecommunication Union report. Updating this with more recent data would enhance the article's relevance and accuracy.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2.   Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The solutions section under "Challenges of Modern Technologies to Privacy" discusses GDPR and COPPA, but it would be helpful to include a comparison or critique of how effective these laws have been in practice, supported by recent studies or reports.

In the section "Challenges of Modern Technologies to Freedom of Expression," the authors state, "Digital platforms enable individuals to widely share their ideas, information, and opinions." It would be useful to mention specific case studies or examples where digital platforms have notably promoted freedom of expression, such as during political uprisings or protests.

In the discussion of AI discrimination, the authors write, "AI algorithms used for facial recognition, employee recruitment, or criminal data analysis may exhibit racial and ethnic biases." Including a more recent case study than the 2018 Amazon example would make this section more current and relevant.

The authors state, "In 2018, it was also revealed that Amazon's AI system for reviewing resumes and selecting top candidates systematically discriminated against women." It would be valuable to discuss how AI systems are currently being improved to prevent such biases, as AI technology has advanced significantly since 2018.

The solutions section under AI discrimination mentions, "Increasing Diversity in Development Teams," but the article would benefit from discussing specific programs or initiatives by tech companies or universities aimed at increasing diversity in AI development.

In the conclusion, the authors state, "Managing the impact of modern technologies on human rights requires serious and coordinated international actions," but the conclusion could be strengthened by proposing specific mechanisms or organizations that could lead these coordinated efforts.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.