


Chapter 2

Steering the AI Revolution in Local Governments: Merits and Demerits

Nadia Lahdili

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2059-6118>

Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Turkey

Israel Nyaburi Nyadera

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0432-6935>

National Defence University, Kenya

ABSTRACT

Local governments are transitioning from traditional systems to digital platforms, with artificial intelligence (AI) playing a transformative role in this shift. AI offers innovative solutions to manage administrative complexity, enhance service delivery, and promote inclusive governance and sustainability. As the most accessible tier of government, local administrations are uniquely positioned to address citizens' needs efficiently. By leveraging AI, they can decentralize services, improve resource management, and optimize infrastructure. AI applications, such as chatbots and data analysis tools, streamline citizen interactions, optimize resource allocation, and forecast public trends. However, financial constraints, data privacy concerns, and algorithmic biases challenge AI integration. Ensuring robust governance frameworks and compliance with regulations like GDPR is vital for public trust.

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-8372-8.ch002

INTRODUCTION

In the dynamic and transitional realm of public administration, local governments are positioned at a pivotal juncture that requires strategic planning, resilient management, and careful consideration. Local government institutions continue to play an essential role in delivering public services and managing local affairs (Walker & Andrews, 2015; Lahdili, 2023). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), formally adopted by the United Nations in 2015, have emerged as a foundational element in the ongoing discourse surrounding public administration in contemporary societies. These comprehensive and ambitious objectives address a wide range of global challenges, including poverty, hunger, inequality, and environmental degradation. At the same time, they emphasize the promotion of peace, accountability, inclusion, and prosperity, striving to benefit both individuals and nations alike.

Biermann et al. (2022) argue for a multi-level governance approach in which local, regional, and national governments collaborate to align their policies and programs with the broader global agenda. This alignment entails incorporating the SDGs and their specific objectives into the strategies, plans, and activities at all levels of government. This transforms global goals into concrete actions that serve local needs while also contributing to global progress. In other words, the realization of these SDGs necessitates substantial contributions and collaborative efforts from various levels of governance, with particular emphasis on the vital role played by local governments, which are uniquely positioned to foster sustainable development owing to their competencies, capacities, and direct and immediate proximity to the citizens they serve. Hence, local governments are at the heart of SDGs implementation (Saner et al., 2017).

Local governments possess the distinct advantage of being able to govern territories and communities with a high degree of effectiveness, as they can adapt solutions that specifically address the unique challenges and conditions faced by their localities, all while remaining committed to the overarching principles of sustainability (Guarini et al., 2022). They are responsible for managing critical areas such as urban planning, public transportation systems, and waste management practices, all of which are intricately aligned with the objectives set forth by the SDGs agenda. Furthermore, the active engagement of local governments with their citizens promotes a form of participatory governance, which is essential for ensuring that the public policies and programs are designed, developed, and implemented transparently, accountably, responsibly, and representatively, and reflect the actual needs and priorities of the community (Lahdili, 2023).

In order to successfully achieve the UN's SDGs agenda, local governments must focus on enhancing their administrative capacity (Haque et al., 2021; Farazmand, 2019; Santoro, 2019; Glemarec & Puppim de Oliveira, 2012) or the ability and

28 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: www.igi-global.com/chapter/steering-the-ai-revolution-in-local-governments/370457

Related Content

Cyber Security: Trends and Appraisal on Threats, Attacks, and Security Models

Priyatosh Jana, Debjit Banerjee, Krishnashis Das, Soham Maity, Abhijit Sarkar and Sabyasachi Samanta (2023). *Streamlining Organizational Processes Through AI, IoT, Blockchain, and Virtual Environments* (pp. 135-155).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/cyber-security/325340

Mastering Change Management in AI-Powered Supply Chain Digital Transformation

Ehap H. Sabri (2025). *Supply Chain Transformation Through Generative AI and Machine Learning* (pp. 153-182).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/mastering-change-management-in-ai-powered-supply-chain-digital-transformation/368669

Dependency Parsing: Recent Advances

Ruket Çakici (2009). *Encyclopedia of Artificial Intelligence* (pp. 449-455).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/dependency-parsing-recent-advances/10286

Recognizing Driving Behavior and Road Anomaly using Smartphone Sensors

Aya Hamdy Ali, Ayman Atia and Mostafa-Sami M. Mostafa (2017). *International Journal of Ambient Computing and Intelligence* (pp. 22-37).

www.irma-international.org/article/recognizing-driving-behavior-and-road-anomaly-using-smartphone-sensors/183618

Evaluation of Fault Tolerant Mobile Agents in Distributed Systems

Hojatollah Hamidi and Abbas Vafaei (2009). *International Journal of Intelligent Information Technologies* (pp. 43-60).

www.irma-international.org/article/evaluation-fault-tolerant-mobile-agents/2446