


Chapter 1


Navigating Ethics, Society, and Governance in the Digital Age: Human Rights and Digital Futures

N. Vinodh

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-8662-2646>


Saveetha School of Management, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, India

A. K. Subramani

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0783-7113>

Saveetha School of Management, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, India

R. Vettriselvan

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-1097-0806>

Academy of Maritime Education and Training, India

ABSTRACT

With the rapid growth of digital technologies, many key human rights have been called into question. The chapter looks at how new digital tools such as artificial intelligence, surveillance systems, and algorithms raise issues related to privacy, equality, and freedom. Although digitalization leads to more opportunities for people, it also worsens inequality and causes new difficulties in regulating activities, mainly in weak regions. Drawing on both ethical values and research methods, the chapter analyzes the effects of digital technology on both people's rights and the accountability of organizations. It also looks into different rules for global governance, the

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-8510-5.ch001

obligations of companies, and laws that try to protect civil rights in the present day. The chapter suggests ethical ways for societies to use digital technologies, and it looks at the future with a focus on human rights.

INTRODUCTION

Both technological development and the digital revolution transformed not only the daily life and work processes, as well as the principles of communication, but the standards according to which the human rights are conceptualised, defended, and challenged (UNESCO, 2021; OECD, 2022). The rapid proliferation of digital technology into the healthcare, educational, governance, commerce, and security sectors has made the nexus of digital innovation and human rights an urgent and more complex issue than has existed in any historical period (UNESCO, 2021; OECD, 2022). On the one hand, the promises that digital technologies offer include inclusivity, efficiency, and transparency, as they are able to free up new avenues of access, participation, and empowerment. However, conversely, they introduce additional threats and dangers, such as pervasive surveillance, algorithm discrimination, abuse of individual data, and intensification of socioeconomic disparities (Zuboff, 2019; Foucault, 1991). This two-sided nature of the digital age as both empowering and limiting is a paradox to societies of the present times. The internet and digital platforms increase what citizens can access online and open up access to democracy, but at the same time, they threaten the fundamental principles of democracy with data monopoly, online privacy violations, and influence of algorithmic rankings. The concentration of power among the world technology giants is further diminishing the role of government and the population in defending the rights that were initially developed in a significantly different political and technological environment (De Hert and Papakonstantinou, 2021). The establishment of the human-rights systems, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR, 1948) and the human-rights treaties that came later, were shaped during the post-war and decolonisation period. These tools were reacting to transgressions that were mostly physical, observable and territorial. Conversely, the digital age has created violations that are not tangible, not geographical, and frequently invisible, like the harvesting of personal information, predictive profiling, and foreign surveillance activities (Hyliaka, 2021; Ahmed and Shaheen, 2024). Current legal frameworks are also not sufficient to address these challenges because digital sovereignty undermines the jurisdictional capacity of nation-states and puts the power in the hands

24 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/navigating-ethics-society-and-governance-in-the-digital-age/397479

Related Content

Human-AI Decision Architectures in Green Procurement and Planning

Tusharand Pooja Jaiswal (2026). *The Role of AI in Sustainable Supply Chain Management* (pp. 251-278).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/human-ai-decision-architectures-in-green-procurement-and-planning/404468

Global Perspective on EMR and eHealth: Sentiment Analysis of Twitter Data Incorporating a Socio-Technical Framework

Rangarajan Parthasarathy, Anuradha Rangarajan, Monica Garfieldand Prasad Bingi (2024). *International Journal of Intelligent Information Technologies* (pp. 1-29).

www.irma-international.org/article/global-perspective-on-emr-and-ehealth/343046

The Conceptual and Architectural Design of an Intelligent Intrusion Detection System

Mradul Dhakarand Akhilesh Tiwari (2016). *Improving Information Security Practices through Computational Intelligence* (pp. 100-125).

www.irma-international.org/chapter/the-conceptual-and-architectural-design-of-an-intelligent-intrusion-detection-system/136486

Using Ontology and Modelling Concepts to Develop Smart Applications: Example Dutch Railway

Bas Bach, Mark von Rosingand Henrik von Scheel (2017). *International Journal of Conceptual Structures and Smart Applications* (pp. 48-69).

www.irma-international.org/article/using-ontology-and-modelling-concepts-to-develop-smart-applications/188739

Recognizing Driving Behavior and Road Anomaly using Smartphone Sensors

Aya Hamdy Ali, Ayman Atiaand 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