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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

ASSIGNMENT 2

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Expected Future Scenario of FRT in Pakistan (2035)

By 2035, Pakistan becomes a surveillance state following China's model. FRT is ubiquitous across major cities through NADRA's database containing 250 million citizens' facial data, updated via mandatory scanning at schools, hospitals, markets, transport and offices. Following internet firewall patterns from 2020s, government exercises strict control through real-time surveillance at intersections and public spaces for national security.

This creates tensions regarding women's religious freedoms. Authorities restrict face coverings, banning burqas and niqabs for "security verification," dividing society. Male operators misuse women's databases for voyeuristic purposes, stalking and harassment, tracking specific women for personal gratification—violating Islamic principles forbidding male gazing at non-mahram women.

Assumptions and Biases in Thinking Process

Technological & Implementation Assumptions:

- FRT will improve in accuracy and affordability; infrastructure developed across Pakistan by 2035
- Database integration (NADRA, law enforcement, private) will be seamless; cybersecurity protects from breaches
- Bias toward centralized control; assumption operators behave ethically; technology solves social problems

Political, Social & Cultural Assumptions:

- Government prioritizes surveillance following China's model; weak democratic oversight
- Public resistance insufficient; economic incentives overcome cultural resistance
- Women's autonomy subordinated to security; male-dominated policymaking undervalues women's concerns
- "Modernization" frames religious modesty as backward; assumes cultural adaptation to technology

Alternative Future Scenarios Based on Different Assumptions

Alternative Scenario 1: AI-Mediated Privacy-Preserving Surveillance

Modified Assumptions: AI processes all facial data (no human operators); end-to-end encryption; Islamic scholars design shariah-compliant systems; women's data processed exclusively by AI with female oversight in emergencies; parallel systems accommodate diversity.

Scenario: Pakistan develops "ethical surveillance" by 2035. AI systems process facial recognition without human viewing, using homomorphic encryption on encrypted data. Female officers handle alerts for women. Religious authorities endorse this as Islamic principals address human gazing, not algorithms. Citizens choose comprehensive FRT or alternatives (CNIC, fingerprint, iris). Women observing purdah use non-facial options. Infrastructure provides separate lanes and female-staffed booths, reducing conflict and positioning Pakistan as leader in privacy-preserving surveillance.

Alternative Scenario 2: Decentralized Resistance and System Fragmentation

Modified Assumptions: Public demands data sovereignty; religious movements advocate protections; democratic oversight strengthens; provincial autonomy increases; economic constraints limit implementation; breaches erode trust.

Scenario: Civil society resistance prevents centralized expansion. By 2035, Pakistan adopts decentralized identity with blockchain wallets. FRT is opt-in; spaces use CNIC verification and encrypted credentials. Women's advocacy achieves constitutional protections. Implementation fragments—KP and Balochistan reject surveillance while Punjab and Sindh face protests. 2032 breach leaking women's images triggers crisis, halting expansion. Religious parties demand dismantling. Pakistan exists in limbo with no coherent policy, creating security gaps. This preserves freedoms but requires institutional trust and creates coordination challenges.