Task 'An Introduction to Security and Risk Management' Unit 1

Collaborative Learning Discussion 1 – Peer Response 1

Thank you for this thoughtful post. Your analysis effectively highlights the contradictions between the promise of digital transparency and the risks posed by poorly contextualized technologies in maritime human rights investigations and that technological tools, when developed without local input, can entrench inequality rather than protect communities. Such detachment from on-the-ground realities often leads to biased detection outcomes, overlooking the nuanced social and ethical dimensions of abuse cases.

(Hancock, 2024)

Recent publications supports your point that digital systems can unintentionally amplify harm when used without participatory frameworks. Technologies designed for humanitarian purposes can reproduce existing power asymmetries if the affected communities are excluded from the decision-making process. Similarly, algorithmic investigations have been conducted. These were conducted in relation to human rights activists. Such investigations revealed that co-design, for instance through workshops, is required to overcome sociotechnical challenges, and some frameworks have been developed and validated to ensure the reliability of AI data with the goal of protecting human rights. These frameworks also aim to maintain legitimacy and fairness.

(Dinh, O'Leary, 2025; Munarini, 2025)

You brought a very good example, engaging local communities in early design stages is crucial. Building digital literacy and feedback mechanisms at the community level would enhance both accountability and trust. The comparison with India's Aadhaar system is particularly apt it demonstrates that well-intended technologies can exclude the very groups they aim to help when safeguards are weak.

(Khera, 2017)

Overall, your post effectively demonstrates that responsible technological integration must be prioritized using human agency and ethical governance, ensuring that innovation genuinely serves justice rather than undermining it.

References

Hancock, J., Lee, S. and Martín, P. (2024) 'Trouble at Sea: Data and digital technology challenges for maritime human rights concerns', Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency, pp. 988–1001.

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