**Reflective Activity 1 – Ethics in Computing in the age of Generative AI**

As stated by many authors, the rise of computer related articles is again on the spot. The last few years of technological advancements have brought immense interest of general public as well. This inevitably rises the questions of ethics related to the usage of Artificial intelligence (AI) and the impacts that AI has on our everyday lives. The surge of AI related technologies is at its peak, hence the computer professionals are required to address, establish, and apply appropriate values and guidelines related to the ethical usage of AI. It is worldwide phenomena of the sudden increase of AI technologies that has caused the field to become unregulated, as stated by the Correa et. Al (2023) ''One of the central questions surrounding this boom is the determination of what ethical premises should guide the development of AI technologies.''.

Ethical principles are even more important when we have to deal with a technology that directly influences our everyday lives. It is about principles and values that should guide technological advancements, and this will ensure us to design and use the technology in a way that is fair, transparent and accountable (Deckard, 2023). As stated by Deckard, defining AI ethics is not an easy task and one has to have multidisciplinary skill set. Until now, many guidelines have been proposed to address the AI ethical issues, yet they lack of consensus and appear divergent among various stakeholders. For example, as questioned by the Correa et al. (2023), there are different companies around the world, yet the question whether they follow the common practices, and how these comply with diverse cultural and social global norms remains open. Additionally, the author highlights the importance of establishing consensus of global regulations which is also contemporary paramount discussion in the field of AI.

Most recent studies done by various authors are therefore huge benefit when we have to discuss ethics regarding the use of AI in our everyday lives. These studies capture fairly similar findings, yet many of them suffer from small sample sizes. Nevertheless, the study done by Correa et al. (2023) included higher number of documents from five different languages, consequently making the study pivotal for understanding and examining the ethical principles across the globe. Comparing to other studies, this one included 200 analysed documents with few enhancements that allowed to overcome previous shortcomings, such as too broad selection of documents, poorly presented results and inability to reproduce and extend the present datasets.

The most common ethical principles across the analysed documents are transparency, justice/equity, privacy, freedom of autonomy, trust etc. These values are highly related with the principles such as Children and Adolescence rights, Dignity/human rights, Diversity/inclusion/pluralism/accessibility, freedom/autonomy/democratic values, Human formation/education, human-centeredness/alignment, intellectual property, justice/equity/fairness/non-discrimination and others. All these principles can be perceived differently among various cultures and societies. For example, as stated by the authors of the Chinese AI white paper, AI can serve to obtain more information from the population, even beyond the data that has been consented (Correa et al., 2023). On the other hand Indian National Strategy for AI argues that it’s population has to be aware of information gathering, so that they can consent to it.

As we can see, there are different understandings of how AI can be ethically justified for information gathering. When we come to the values such as human rights, privacy, dignity, justice, etc., the bias of ethics get even stronger as not every society has the same perception of these values. The suitable course of actions to deal with different understandings of AI ethics should include various professionals across globe to work toward common goals. This however, is not possible in a short period of time, yet with the technological advancements and additional researches throughout the time, the field of AI Ethics should become easier to regulate. Additionally, the nature of the normative strength of analysed documents is mostly non-binding which can be another indicator that the regulations are loosely managed, consequently creating the space for malicious exploitations. That being said, the present regulations might still be undefined due to fast AI advancements, however, over the time, the computer professionals will be able to mitigate divergences in AI Ethics. As stated by Decker (2023) The field of AI is rapidly evolving and staying up to date is crucial for understanding the ethical implications of new technologies.

At the moment, extensive guidelines provided by general data protection regulation (GDPR) fairly well capture the main ethical issues. In addition, some of the guidelines are very similar to the ones provided by Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). For example, data privacy is one of the main concerns across multiple code of conducts and legislations, yet as we could see in the article by Correa, different nationalities have different understanding of privacy and data gathering. This, however, will remain country specific, as not every nation has the same views regarding the use of AI. Thus, it will be very difficult to regulate the use of AI worldwide. Despite of that, computer professionals should strive to address emerging difficulties in order to prevent long term breaches.

The AI Ethics will continue to be important topic in the future, as it has important social and legal implications. The job of Computer professionals will therefore remain crucial in the future, since their pool of multidisciplinary skills is indispensable in addressing and overseeing future and current concerns and breaches.

**References:**

Correa, K., N. et al. (2023) Worldwide AI ethics: A review of 200 guidelines and recommendations for AI governance. *ScienceDirect* 4(10): 1-14. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666389923002416> [Accessed 25 March 2024]

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