Ethical Case Study Analysis: Artificial Intelligence

Charlee Anne Rodriguez

University of South Florida

Dr. Alicia K. Long

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Introduction

Artificial intelligence is one of the fastest developing technologies in the modern era that has been integrated to multiple sectors such as education, business, healthcare, and entertainment etc. AI has its many benefits such as increasing efficiency, data processing, and problem-solving but it also introduces ethical implications. Ethical implications such as bias, discrimination, economic influence, misinformation, and data privacy are central to global debates about AI.

In the workplace, AI automates repetitive tasks, streamlines production, and assists with hiring or academic grading (Research Trends, 2023). According to Research Trends (2023), AI powered technologies are expected to "replace approximately 85 million jobs in 2025," particularly in automation and manufacturing industries. Customer service will also be reshaped through "AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants" which increasingly takes over human communication roles. In education, AI also supports teachers and students with learning tools, feedback systems, writing assistants, and grading which enhances both teaching and academic engagement (Furze, 2023).

Overall, our current understanding of AI shows that the development outpaces regulation. Biased datasets challenge accountability and fairness. As Furze (2023) argues, ethical education fosters responsible AI use, while frameworks like the AIAS help integrate AI ethically into society and institutions (Perkins et al., 2024). AI's growth demands attention to its ethical, social, and policy implications.

Ethical Implications

Bias and discrimination remain the most critical concerns when it comes to AI. AI are most likely trained on skewed or incomplete datasets which reinforce societal inequities. For example, the 2018 Amazon recruitment system showed against female applicants which

highlights the risk of replicating discrimination in automated decision-making (Research Trends, 2023). Additionally, there also exists AI-driven misinformation in the forms of deepfakes, false AI generated news, and AI generated photos and videos poses a threat to the truth and public trust. Social platforms such as Meta or X are aware of this issue, but they face a conflict between maintaining a large user base that drives engagement on their platforms and addressing the spread of harmful content. This implication is more emphasized at the fact that the concentration of AI power is only in the hands of a few large tech companies which raises concerns about accountability and equitable access to these technologies.

AI also reshapes technological systems. AI has increased efficiency and enabled new innovations but it has introduced risks to privacy, security, and transparency. For example, facial recognition systems perform better on lighter-skinned and male individuals which highlights how technology can reproduce social biases (Research Trends, 2023). Economically, AI also enhances productivity which may worsen inequality through job displacement. Addressing these impacts require both technological safeguards and societal literacy education to ensure responsible AI adoption.

Policy Implications

Policy regulation is also critical to ensure that AI benefits society while mitigating the harms it causes. Governments should oversee the use of AI in private sectors, investigating how companies collect, process, and utilize individual data. If transparent reporting and accountability standards were mandated to companies, it can prevent misuse and promote ethical practices. Structure frameworks, like the AIAS developed by Perkins et al. (2024) also provide guidance for ethically integrating AI into professional and academic environments.

Critiques and Recommendations

To address AI's ethical challenges there are several steps that I think are essential. Developers and companies should undergo and develop certified ethics training to minimize bias and security risks. The training should focus on making sure that companies develop their technologies for the better of society, holding themselves accountable, and being transparent to all their user base. Fact-checking AI outputs should also become standard practice to reduce the spread of misinformation. This also helps companies uphold the concept of accountability. Government and officials should actively write up bills that regulate AI use, particularly regarding data privacy, corporate practices, and ethical deployment to ensure public interests are protected. These strategies, combined with ethical education can provide a good foundation for responsible AI integration.

Reflection

In this essay, I applied critical thinking by putting together the perspectives of multiple experts and evaluating both the benefits of risks of AI along with my own personal and academic accounts with AI. I used evidence from Research Trends (2023) to identify the real-world ethical issues such as bias, job loss, and privacy concerns. I relied on Furze's (2023) insights to understand how ethical education can foster responsible use of AI in schools and workplaces. With Perkins et al. (2024), I was able to use the structured model that can be related to how policy frameworks can regulate AI use. My recommendations and critiques draw from my academic sources and personal experiences with AI tools, reflecting how education, policy and individual awareness must work together to ensure responsible AI development.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence has redefined the current landscape of modern technology. Industries are adapting to AI everyday through automation and data-driven decision-making.

However, its rapid growth has introduced significant ethical and societal risks which include bias, job loss, misinformation, and privacy violations. The research presented by Research Trends (2023), Furze (2023), and Perkins et al. (2024) emphasizes that ethical literacy, policy regulation, and transparency are essential for balancing innovation with responsibility. The future of AI depends on how it will be ethically guided in the industries that it exists in. Ensuring that AI benefits society rather than harms it requires collaboration among companies, developers, educators, policymakers, and users.

References

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